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Subject: Agenda Item #29, Board File 221210: Resolution Urging Reappointment of Incumbent Director of Elections (John Arntz)
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December 6, 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Shamann Walton, Board President
The Honorable Connie Chan, Supervisor, District 1
The Honorable Catherine Stefani, Supervisor, District 2
The Honorable Aaron Peskin, Supervisor, District 3
The Honorable Gordon Mar, Supervisor, District 4
The Honorable Dean Preston, Supervisor, District 5
The Honorable Matt Dorsey, Supervisor, District 6
The Honorable Myrna Melgar, Supervisor, District 7
The Honorable Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor, District 8
The Honorable Hillary Ronen, Supervisor, District 9
The Honorable Ahsha Safai, Supervisor, District 11

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Agenda Item #29, Board File 221210: Resolution Urging Reappointment of Incumbent Director of Elections (John Arntz)

Dear President Walton and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I fully support the Resolution urging the Elections Commission to re-appoint John Arntz as the Director of Elections.

Across the years, I have frequently e-mailed Mr. Arntz with questions involving various issues regarding multiple elections. He has always responded promptly and professionally. I have long believed that Mr. Arntz is one of the City's most approachable and most responsive Department Heads, and that he has done a commendable job running the Department of Elections. He is clearly the type of City employees we should be trying to retain!

I recommend that the Board of Supervisors ignore the November 29, 2022 letter from the National Voting Rights Task Force in the 11/29/2022 public correspondence file, which letter mentioned the San Francisco-based nonprofit VotingWorks. Of note, the Voting Rights Task Force did ***not*** mention that VotingWorks does not offer a system that can tabulate ranked-choice voting, nor has VotingWorks even developed a working prototype of a system that can handle ranked-choice voting.

By report, on November 16 a handful of individuals attended the Elections Commission's meeting and identified themselves as affiliated with advocacy groups for open-source voting, a topic Commission President Chris Jerdonek has championed for years. The individuals reportedly made bizarre and conspiracy-minded statements about the security and integrity of San Francisco elections and claimed that the results of previous elections had been influenced by compromised voting systems (apparently referring to Dominion Voting Systems, the same company that has filed defamation lawsuits against Fox News and Mike "MyPillow" Lindell, and is likely to win). The six members of the Elections Commission later entered a closed session, where they discussed holding a vote to select a new director to replace Mr. Arntz. The public comment about the closed session was also dominated by individuals from open-source advocacy groups or companies that criticized Director Arntz's hesitancy to adopt an open-source voting system.

The six members of the Elections Commission do not represent or speak for the 800,000 citizens of San Francisco, many of whom believe Mr. Arntz is doing a terrific job as Director of the Elections Department. Instead, members of the Elections Commission seem to listen only to lobbyists for open voting systems.

I urge the Board to pass this Resolution unanimously, and continue to advocate that Mr. Arntz be kept as Director of the Elections Department. And when it comes time for re-appointments to the Elections Commission, serious consideration should be given to whether the current Commissioners should be re-appointed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Monette-Shaw

Columnist,

Westside Observer Newspaper

cc: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board