Questions submitted to the Department of Elections after the tour

1. During the tour we learned that every page of each Roster of Voters is scanned after Election Day. Does this mean that each whole page is captured as a single digital picture, or does it just mean that the bar codes were scanned for voters that signed in?

2. Are the completed Posted Ballot Statements for each precinct also scanned?

3. Are the completed Custody Transfer Forms scanned?

4. Are the completed Security Seal Sheets scanned?

5. Do you use special software or a database for storing these various scanned images? How do you currently keep track of them and keep them organized, etc?

6. If a San Francisco voter sends a voter registration card to the Secretary of State, is it also sent to San Francisco? Also, does San Francisco process it, or does the Secretary of State's Office process it?

7. Are the four central scanners that San Francisco uses the same scanners that it purchased 10 years ago, or have any of them been replaced since then?

8. When a ballot is “remade,” is there anything done to connect or "link" the remade card with the original card (e.g. marking a unique identifier on either ballot)? Also, is the original card kept physically alongside the remade card, or is it stored separately? If it's not alongside, how is it found and retrieved if it needs to be retrieved?

9. How many individual ballot cards were remade this past election? Can you categorize the reasons for remaking a ballot? What are the top few reasons for remaking a ballot, in order? (Just a rough idea is okay.)

10. How long has San Francisco been using the OPEX extractors to open vote-by-mail envelopes? How many extractors does San Francisco currently have and use?

11. Does our current voting system have the ability to export cast vote records (CVR's) in a machine-readable format for all contests, or just RCV contests?

12. What is the scanning rate of the central scanners (e.g. cards per second or cards per minute), assuming a stack of cards has already been readied for insertion?

13. Over the course of a busier day of scanning VBM ballots, if central scanners are being used, approximately what fraction of the time is a scanner actually scanning ballots versus waiting for ballots to be prepared and fed into it? In other words, how much of the time is a scanner in an "idle" mode?

14. Is the overall rate of scanning (e.g. per day) limited more by the speed of the central scanners, or more by the various preparatory steps needed before ballots are actually fed into the scanner?

15. If the preparatory steps are slower, how much slower do you think the scanning rate could be and not significantly affect the overall scanning rate?

16. Approximately how many ballots can be prepared in a single "stack" for feeding into the machine at a single time, without having to reload? How long does it take to move such a stack into place and remove the old one?

17. What changes are expected for the new VBM scanners that will be deployed in 2019? For example, how many will there be, how many will be used at a time, how does the size / required amount of floor space compare, and how does the speed compare? Are there are any other significant differences expected in how they will perform and be used?

18. Is there any software used for processing ballots aside from EIMS and the voting system? For these other software components, did you have to purchase them or were they written in-house?

19. Does the Department use any software for "batch management" of ballots (e.g. what batches have been scanned and when, what ballots are in a batch, etc)? Is it a home-grown system, or is it part of EIMS or the voting system?