
REBECCA SPENCER
Registrar of Voters



ART TINOCO
Assistant Registrar of Voters

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)
Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2021 | 10:00 a.m.

Members:

Julie Caban, Chair
Larry Smith, Vice Chair
John Kopp, Committee Member
Gabriel Taylor, Committee Member
Janet Bernabe, Committee Member

Guests:

Andrea Hayles
Melissa Abair
Luz Reyes
Tisa Rodriguez
Pilar Cole

Registrar of Voters Staff:

Rebecca Spencer, Registrar of Voters
Art Tinoco, Assistant Registrar of Voters
Paul Bugarino, Chief Deputy, Registrar of Voters
Alma Del Carmen, Elections Technician II, Registrar of Voters

Meeting Commenced at 10:00 a.m.

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I. Welcome/Introductions

Introductions were made of the following staff: Registrar of Voters Rebecca Spencer, and Committee Chair Julie Caban. Following staff introductions, attendees of the meeting made introductions. Ms. Caban shared that Chuck Reutter has withdrawn from the VAAC effective immediately.

II. Approval of July 29, 2021 Minutes

Gabe Taylor made a motion to accept the minutes; there was no second motion. Minutes were accepted.

III. Recap of the 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election

Julie Caban shared information pertaining to the August 31st UDEL Mail Ballot Election. This election is unique because only landowners in districts participating in that election, and that the results are hand counted by Registrar of Voters staff members. The election was certified on September 17, 2021.

Ms. Caban shared that the September 14, 2021 California Gubernatorial Recall Election was an all-mail ballot election, based on the guidelines set by state law. Vote-by-Mail ballots were mailed out to all of the approximately 1.3 million registered voters in Riverside County. Early voting for the September 14th Election started on Friday, September 3rd and ran until Sunday, September 5th. Polling Places were opened on Saturday, September 11th through Monday, September 13th and Election Day, Tuesday, September 14, 2021. The Registrar of Voters certified the election on September 30th, 2021.

Ms. Caban shared that select areas of Riverside County have a special election on November 2, 2021. Voters in the cities of Moreno Valley, Riverside, Indio and a council district in the city of Hemet will participate in this election. This election features 34 Polling Places, including the Registrar of Voters office, and 4 Vote-by-Mail Drop-Off locations at City

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Halls during normal business hours. Ms. Spencer shared that there are 314,000 registered voters who received ballots for the November Election 35,000 returned ballots had been returned as of the October 28th meeting.

Ms. Caban shared about the December 14, 2021 Special District Mail Ballot Election for the San Gorgonio Health Care District. There will be no County Voter Information Guide mailed to voters for this election, rather an insert would be included with the ballots that will be mailed to all registered voters. Ballots will be mailed out starting November 15th and the last day residents would have to register to vote is November 29th. In addition to the Registrar of Voters office, there will be 3 Vote-by-Mail drop off locations at Beaumont, Banning and Calimesa City halls during normal business hours. Ms. Spencer shared that there are 58,000 registered voters receiving ballots for the December Election.

IV. Update on the County's Possible VCA Implementation

Rebecca Spencer shared that the Board of Supervisors requested an After Action Summary Report following the November 2020 Election. Both the Registrar of Voters office and the Executive Office recommended moving forward with transitioning to the Voter's Choice Act in the report. The Registrar of Voters will present information to the Board of Supervisors, including the projected cost to fully implement the Voter's Choice Act based on the November 2020 and the September 2021 Elections. Ms. Spencer shared that Riverside County has conducted elections as Voter's Choice Act type of elections with a few differences in that under the Voter's Choice Act, the vote centers would be required to be open ten days while in Riverside County, vote centers were open for four days. Under the Voter's Choice Act the vote centers would be required to be open for a longer time period. Ms. Spencer shared the Governor signed new legislation that requires counties mail ballots to all registered voters for all future elections beginning January 1, 2022. Ms. Spencer shared that beginning January 1, 2022 along with mailing ballots to all registered voter, under the Voter's

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Choice act there will be no polling places for all future elections. The Registrar of Voters will present to the Board of Supervisor's the option of continuing with Polling Places that would require having 600 polling places for the June 2022 Election. This would require supplying each Polling Place with laptops in order to conduct automatic check in of voter's otherwise if voters do not bring in their ballots to surrender they will have to vote using a provisional ballot.

Ms. Spencer shared printing paper rosters would not be an option if the county chose to continue using polling places for the June 2022 Election. The paper rosters would notify staff if voters were issued a Vote-by-Mail ballot and would require the voter to vote using a provisional ballot. Electronic check-in allows direct connectivity to the registration data base allowing staff to confirm if the voter has not already voted using their Vote-by-Mail ballot and issue them a replacement without the voter surrendering their ballot at the Voter Center.

Ms. Spencer shared that based on what will be presented by the Registrar of Voters and the Executive office, the department recommends that the county move forward with the Voter's Choice Act and invest in Ballot On Demand technology that will enable ballots to be printed at the vote centers.

Gabe Taylor asked when the vote for the Voter's Choice Act will take place. Ms. Spencer stated that there has been no date set at this time, but it should take place sometime in December 2021.

Tessa Rodriguez asked regarding the 600 polling place locations that would be proposed does that include the previous locations used in the last elections? There is a concern regarding one of the locations used in the September Recall Election located in Perris that Ms. Rodriguez would like to discuss. Ms. Spencer shared that the 600 polling places would only be used if the Board of Supervisors chooses to not approve the Voter's Choice Act for Riverside County. Ms. Spencer encouraged Ms. Rodriguez to provide her concerns so that the location can be evaluated.

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V. Discussion of the 2022 Election Timeline

Ms. Spencer shared that the June 2022 Election is the governor's primary election with the General Election scheduled for November 2022. In preparation for the June 2022 election, the Registrar of Voters is currently working on redistricting that comes about every 10 years based on the new US Census data. The data should be ready by the end of December 2021, with an anticipated quick turnaround for Registrar of Voters staff to update voter precincts based on changes to congressional districts, state senate and assembly boundaries, and Board of Supervisors districts. Staff must input these new voting boundaries into the Registrar of Voters system to be able to issue correct paperwork to all candidates.

Mr. Taylor suggested having a broad overview of what the Voter's Choice Act implementation includes, including timelines with all the consultation meetings and workshops for voters in the disability community. Ms. Spencer shared that the Registrar of Voters is currently working on a calendar in anticipation that the Voter's Choice Act will be approved. The three public hearings include voters with disabilities, language access and a general at large public hearing for voters to submit comments or concerns on the proposed drop off locations and the proposed vote centers. Ms. Spencer will update the VAAC as soon as that information is ready.

VI. Update on the SOS VAAC

Larry Smith shared that the State VAAC was held on September 29th. Due to a lack of a quorum, no action was taken on any items. Team members from the Riverside County Registrar of Voters presented an E-Learning Module to the State VAAC with regards to the surveying and mitigation of polling places. The presentation was well received with a few county officials inquiring about implementing the E-Learning module in their counties.

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Mr. Smith shared another topic discussed was the accessibility to petitions. There is a portion of the elections code 100.5 that allows voters needing assistance based on mobility issues to have another person assist in the completion of petitions. Mr. Smith shared that the State VAAC will recommend that legislation mandate a statement be placed on the petition stating anyone needing assistance in completing the necessary paperwork be allowed to request assistance.

VII. Public Comments

No public comments from the public.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2022.