
REBECCA SPENCER
Registrar of Voters



ART TINOCO
Assistant Registrar of Voters

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)
Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2019 | 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members:

Larry Smith, Co-Chair
Mario Janesin, Committee Member
Gabe Taylor, Committee Member
Feliciano Godoy, Committee Member
Janet Bernabe, Committee Member
Ruthee Goldkorn, Committee Member
Elizabeth Santos, Committee Member
Chuck Reutter, Committee Member
John Kopp, Committee Member

Guests:

Deborah Cole
Robin Unruh
Gerry Medina
Glyn Wild
Pilar Cole
Pete Benavidez

Registrar of Voters Staff:

Rebecca Spencer, Registrar of Voters
Art Tinoco, Assistant 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, Assistant Registrar of Voters Art Tinoco, and Committee Co-Chair Larry Smith. Following staff introductions, attendees of the meeting made introductions.

II. Approval of January 31, 2019 Minutes

Ruthee Goldkorn made a motion to accept the minutes; Mario Janesin seconded. Minutes were accepted.

III. Upcoming Elections (May 7 and June 4, 2019)

Larry Smith discussed the upcoming elections on May 7, 2019 for the Moreno Valley Unified School District, Trustee Area 5 Special Vacancy Mail Ballot Election, and the June 4, 2019 City of Riverside Mail Ballot Election for Trustee Areas 1, 3, 5 & 7 along with the Palo Verde Community College District Mail Ballot Election. Mr. Janesin asked if Accessible Voting Unit's (AVU) would be available for the June 4, 2019 election to assist blind voters. Mr. Smith shared that early voting will be available at Blindness Support Services on June 3rd & 4th. The set up will be similar to early voting with two AVU's available along with support staff from the Registrar of Voters. The Remote Accessible Vote-By-Mail system will also be available on the Registrar of Voters website for voters to utilize from home. Mr. Janesin asked how voters can access Democracy Live through the Registrar of Voter's website. Mr. Smith shared that the link for Democracy Live will be available on the website closer to Election Day. Gabe Taylor asked if there would be a list of drop off locations posted on the Registrar of Voter's website. Mr. Smith shared that the map is currently being updated to include Blindness Support Services and will be available soon. Pete Benavidez shared that in addition to the AVU's for those partially blind individuals, Blindness Support Services will also provide a Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) that enlarges print for individuals with visual

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impairments. Chuck Reutter asked if the Registrar of Voters has a policy in regards to the size of font used on their reports. Mr. Reutter shared that Community Access Center stresses the use of size 14 font. Rebecca Spencer shared that the Registrar of Voters adheres to what is specified in the California Election Codes as to the size of font used. She also clarified that size 14 font is used for the VAAC minutes. Ms. Goldkorn shared that legal requirements are size 14 font and best practice is 16 font within the business community. Feliciano Godoy asked when the Democracy Live will be available for access on the Registrar of Voters website. Ms. Spencer stated that the content will be available 29 days before the election. Mr. Benavidez asked if there will be any training for Blindness Support Services staff for the June Election. Mr. Smith stated that the Registrar of Voters will be contacting Blindness Support Services to arrange training for those individuals who will be working as Ballot Box Attendants.

IV. Update on State VAAC

John Kopp shared that the Secretary of State VAAC website does not have VAAC minutes posted for public access. Mr. Smith stated that he will request the minutes and provide them to the VAAC as soon as they become available. Mr. Smith reviewed the agenda from the most recent State VAAC meeting with the committee. Ms. Goldkorn asked if the Registrar of Voters and the VAAC would be willing to sponsor and host a public meeting to address any questions or concerns in regards to the voting system changes. Ms. Spencer stated that the Registrar of Voters would be willing to provide that for the public and will notify the VAAC when a date and time has been chosen. Ms. Spencer shared according to the California Elections Code the authority is given to the Secretary of State to certify and decertify voting systems. Mr. Smith shared that the State VAAC meeting on May 15th will provide information on the changes of the voter registration cards.

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v. Recap of the Future of California Elections (FoCE) Conference

Mr. Taylor shared that Disability Rights California organized two of the panel discussions at the FoCE conference. The panel covered best outreach practices and emergency ballot procedures. Mr. Taylor publicly thanked Ms. Spencer for her involvement in this discussion.

vi. Update on Affidavit Question to State VAAC

No update available

vii. Update on any Relevant Legislative Changes for the Disability Community

Mr. Taylor suggested that this item be an open standing agenda item to update the committee with any new developments to legislation. Mr. Smith shared that there were no updates at this time.

viii. Discussion on AB 59: Polling Places at Colleges and University Campuses

Ms. Goldkorn shared that California for Disability Rights is in opposition of AB 59 and would like to see it amended. Ms. Goldkorn notified San Jose Assemblymen Ash Kalra about her concerns and provided the office with the suggested amended language. Ms. Goldkorn will update the committee at the next meeting.

ix. Discussion on Sign Language Smartphone APP as a Possible VAAC Budget Priority

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Mr. Taylor shared that Ray Kennedy was going to share information in regards to a sign language smartphone app that can assist voters with hearing impairments. Ms. Goldkorn would like to add this item to the next agenda when Mr. Kennedy is in attendance to discuss further. Mr. Taylor shared that while attending the FoCE conference he was part of a break out group where he learned that Nevada County uses a real time American Sign Language (ASL) translation service that allows the voter to have access to a translator in real time using a computer screen. Nevada County is currently using this service at their vote centers. Ms. Spencer state that she will contact Greg Diaz from Nevada County to get more information on the service.

x. Questions/Comments

Ms. Bernabe asked what efforts the Registrar of Voters office is making to ensure that voters are aware that the Primary Elections has been moved to March. Ms. Spencer shared that the Registrar of Voters will be working closely with the California Secretary of State's office to begin outreach this summer. The State Voter Information Guide and the County Voter Information Guide will be mailed out 40 days before the election notifying voters of their polling places and political parties. The Registrar of Voters will also be posting updates on Facebook, Twitter and public notices on the website. Ms. Bernabe asked if the Registrar of Voters will be moving forward with permanent Vote-By-Mail voters. Ms. Spencer shared that the Registrar of Voters currently has a permanent Vote-By-Mail list. Those voters who wish to become permanent Vote-By-Mail can do so by contacting the Registrar of Voters or register online. Ms. Spencer shared that under the Voters Choice Act all voters would become permanent Vote-By-Mail voters. Ms. Spencer shared that the Riverside County Registrar of Voters will not be participating in the Voters Choice Act until after the 2020 elections.

Mr. Kopp asked if there is any place on the Registrar of Voters website or the California Secretary of State's website that discusses security of the

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vote. Ms. Spencer shared that the California Secretary of State's website does provide information in regards to the certification process. There is also information available on the Information Security Office through the Secretary of State's website. The Registrar of Voters has worked with the Department of Homeland Security to have assessments done of the network with the focus being Cyber Security. Ms. Spencer shared that the ballot counting network is not connected to the internet. Ms. Spencer also shared that Logic and Accuracy testing is done 40 days before each election and it is open to the public. The results are posted on the Registrar of Voters website.

xI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.