
REBECCA SPENCER
Registrar of Voters



ART TINOCO
Assistant Registrar of Voters

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)
Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2018 | 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members:

Julie Caban, Chair
Larry Smith, Co-Chair
Mario Janesin, Committee Member
Gabe Taylor, Committee Member
Ruthee Goldkorn, Committee Member
Feliciano Godoy, Committee Member
John Kopp, Committee Member
Chuck Reutter, Committee Member

Guests:

Steve Ruth
Janet Bernabe

Registrar of Voters Staff:

Rebecca Spencer, Registrar of Voters (Teleconference)
Art Tinoco, Assistant Registrar of Voters

Meeting Commenced at 10:07 a.m.

I. Welcome/Introductions

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

II. Approval of April 26, 2018 Minutes

Julie Caban asked the committee members to accept the April 26, 2018

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meeting minutes. Ruthee Goldkorn made a motion to accept the minutes; John Kopp seconded. Minutes were accepted.

Mr. Kopp asked when the State VAAC meeting minutes would be posted to the Secretary of State's (SOS) website. Ms. Caban stated that the State VAAC meeting minutes were not available yet. She also stated that Larry Smith would distribute the State VAAC meeting minutes to the VAAC members as soon as they become available.

III. Election Day Wrap-Up (Discussion of any Accessibility Concerns or Issues at the Polling Places)

Ms. Caban asked if there were any concerns with the polling places for the June 5th Election. Gabe Taylor asked what the difference was between Accessible Voting Unit (AVU) voters and audio voters. Ms. Caban stated that the AVU voters were all of the voters that used the Accessible Voting Unit; audio voters use the audio function on the AVU.

Ms. Goldkorn asked if there were any issues with the use of the audio function on the AVU. She also asked if the Registrar of Voters (ROV) received any complaints from voters that were unable to access an AVU at their polling place. Ms. Caban stated that ROV did not receive any complaints from voters regarding access to an AVU. The number of AVU and audio voters were low due to a majority of the voters choosing to use paper ballots.

Mr. Kopp stated that he was able to drive around Eastvale on Election Day and noticed that some of the resident polling places had steep driveways. He also stated that some of the homes were located on elevated pads and he asked if ROV received any complaints. Ms. Caban stated that ROV did not receive any complaints regarding any of the resident polling places. She noted that there were doorbells placed at each residence to allow voters access to curbside voting. Ms. Caban also stated ROV utilizes residences as poll locations when larger facilities (such as schools, libraries and community centers) are unavailable.

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Mario Janesin stated that there were 30 curbside voters for the June Election. Mr. Janesin asked how the number of assisted voters were calculated. Ms. Caban stated that there is a separate part of the roster to record assisted voters. A voter that requests or requires assistance with using the AVU, marking their ballot or signing their ballot is considered an assisted voter. Those voters are asked to initial a separate part of the roster and the numbers are calculated after the election. Ms. Caban also noted that this process is covered in the Election Officer training.

Feliciano Godoy stated that a few voters used the AVU at Blindness Support Services during early voting. Mr. Godoy reported a student from Blindness Support Services went to a Norco polling place and although there were a few issues setting up the AVU, she was happy with her voting experience. Ms. Caban stated that there were three voters that used the audio function on the AVU at Blindness Support Services. There were no other audio voters for the June Election. Mr. Godoy stated that Blindness Support Services is excited to host another early voting site for the November Election. He feels like there will be a better turnout considering that it will not be a holiday weekend. Ms. Caban stated that the Registrar and the Assistant Registrar are scheduled to meet with Pete Benavidez, from Blindness Support Services, in August to determine if early voting will be available for the November Election.

Chuck Reutter asked if there were poll worker staffing issues for the June Election. Ms. Caban stated that there are typically staffing issues up until the day before any election. The Registrar's Office appreciates the VAAC member's assistance with recruiting poll workers. Ms. Caban also stated that ROV recruits student poll workers from the local high schools. Students who are interested must be at least 16 years of age with a 2.5 GPA or above, along with a parents' permission. Ms. Goldkorn asked if student poll workers attend the regular poll worker training or if there is a separate training for students. Ms. Caban stated that students receive the same training as the Election Officers but do not attend the Range Inspector training. The students are typically paired up with an experienced

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Election Officer.

Ms. Goldkorn suggested that there should be more emphasis on language training for assisted voters. She stated that a majority of the assisted voters were from the Desert and poll workers should have received more training on addressing disabled voters with language barriers. Ms. Caban stated that language rovers are sent out to areas where bilingual poll workers are limited. Janet Bernabe introduced herself as the Riverside Regional Coordinator for Mi Familia Vota which is a non-profit, non-partisan organization. As a former employee of the Registrar of Voters she understands the necessity for voters to have language access. Ms. Bernabe will be teaming up with ROV to bring in more Spanish speaking poll workers and provide additional resources. Mr. Smith stated that the State Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) meeting will be held at ROV on August 16th at 2:00pm for anyone that is interested in attending.

Ms. Caban mentioned that she received a complaint from Disability Rights California regarding a poll worker who called the hotline and mentioned that the Range Inspector placed the entry signs on the wrong side of the building. ROV is currently addressing this issue and will follow up with the Range Inspector for that polling place. The training classes focus on accessibility which helps the Election Officers become more aware of accessibility needs at the polling places.

Mr. Reutter mentioned that the Government recently signed legislation to require the Registrar of Voters to provide return postage Vote-by-Mail envelopes. He asked what percentage of absentee voters made up the total voters in the June Election. Mr. Tinoco stated that Vote-by-Mail turnout was 25.9% for the June Election; total turnout for Riverside County was 35.21%.

IV. Discussion on Election Officer Training for June 2018 Election – Participation from VAAC Member Mario Janesin

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Mr. Janesin stated that he participated in the Range Inspector training class on May 30th. He shared that the training went well and the new video used for the disability sensitivity portion of the training was very informative and received a positive response. The video was able to address issues about communication and working with people with disabilities. Mr. Janesin's only concern was that he felt the training should focus more on the AVU set up. He felt poll workers were having difficulties setting up the AVU on Election Day. Mr. Taylor asked if the Range Inspector training covered steps for trouble shooting the AVU. Ms. Caban stated that there is a Technical Support number in the Range Inspector Training Handbook for troubleshooting the AVU. A majority of the issues with the AVU can be resolved over the phone using Technical Support.

Mr. Kopp asked if the card for the AVU can be changed to allow access to the audio function once it has been activated. Ms. Caban stated that as long as the voter has not placed their card in the AVU it is not a live ballot. However, if they do place the card in the AVU and then ask to use the audio function the Election Officers are trained on how to de-activate the card and issue another card with the audio ability. Ms. Goldkorn mentioned that the Election Officers do not offer the AVU to voters. She suggested that the Range Inspectors should make it a point to reinforce the use of the AVU. Mr. Janesin stated that it is not an issue with Election Officers offering the AVU to voters but rather voters are more comfortable using the paper ballots.

V. Discussion on November Consolidated General Election

Ms. Caban reported that ROV is currently in the middle of the nomination period for the November Election. The nomination period started July 16th and runs through August 10th. If the incumbent for a particular office does not file the nomination period extends to August 15th for all candidates except the incumbent.

Mr. Kopp asked for clarification on the rule for an incumbent who lives in a new city council district but was originally elected at large. He asked if the

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incumbent running for the new city council district also have the five day extension. Ms. Spencer stated that the city is their own election official and they contract with ROV to hold their election. Elections Code does not spell out what the definition of an incumbent is when they switch from at-large to a district. In the past County Counsel's ruling has been that whoever lived in the trustee area is the incumbent for the new boundaries regardless if they were elected at large.

Mr. Ruetter asked if a person needs to be registered to vote in order to run for office. Ms. Caban stated that a person does have to be a registered voter to file for candidacy.

Ms. Caban stated that the write-in period for the November Election is September 10th through October 23rd. The County Voter Information Guides will start going out September 27th. The Vote-by-Mail ballots will start going in the mail on October 8th. ROV would like to recruit all of their poll workers by October 8th because Election Officer training begins on October 9th. The close of registration for the November Election is October 22nd and ROV will begin opening Vote-by Mail ballots on October 23rd. The public Logic and Accuracy testing of the AVU machines will be on October 4th. The November Election must be certified no later than December 6th.

Mr. Ruetter asked if there will be any publication on how votes are secured to help ease the public perception of potential hacking. Ms. Spencer stated that the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) is working on a document at a state wide level to provide information about the ballot counting servers and how they are not connected to the internet. The information will be sent to the VAAC members as soon as it becomes available.

Mr. Kopp asked if the Registrar's Office works with the Sheriff's Department to educate people in jail about their right to vote while awaiting trial. Ms. Caban stated that ROV has several programs with the Sheriff's Department that provide voter registration forms for inmates that are eligible to vote. The Sheriff's Department can provide ROV with names of

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inmates and can pick up a ballot and deliver it to the inmates. Ms. Bernabe added that American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has a program in Los Angeles called Unlock the Vote. The ACLU goes to jails and registers individuals that are incarcerated but not convicted of a felony. Ms. Bernabe stated that this is a good resource for additional outreach in the Inland Empire.

VI. National Voters with Disabilities Registration Week Presentation at IEDC (July 16th-20th)

Mr. Taylor stated that he attended the Inland Empire Disability Collaborative on July 17th. Ms. Caban and Mr. Smith attended as well to provide information on the services that ROV provides for recruiting those with Disabilities to volunteer as poll workers and also getting them to register to vote.

VII. Discussion with UCR Student Disability Resource Center Representative

Ms. Caban reported that the representative from the UCR Student Disability Resource Center was unable to attend today's meeting. This item will be added to the next VAAC agenda.

VIII. Medical Emergency Ballot Request Process

Ms. Caban stated that ROV has a program set up with local hospitals to ensure patients have the ability to vote when they are in the hospital for an undetermined amount of time. A patient can complete an application to request a ballot or register to vote with the hospital staff acting as an authorized agency.

Ms. Goldkorn asked if the program with the Sheriff's Department is actually helping inmates gain access to the electoral process. Ms. Caban stated that the Sheriff's Department is required to participate in assisting inmates due to the National Voting Registration Act. Mr. Tinoco stated that the

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Registrar has been invited to the Sheriff's Department to provide a presentation on the services available to inmates.

Mr. Kopp asked if there will be same day voter registration at the polling places for the November Election. Ms. Caban stated that ROV is still working on a system to set up Conditional Voter Registration at satellite locations. Currently a voter must come to the Registrar's Office for Conditional Voter Registration and they receive a provisional ballot. ROV is working on having satellite locations in the future. Mr. Taylor asked which Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM) system ROV will be using. Ms. Caban stated that the ROV will be using Democracy Live for RAVBM. Ms. Spencer stated that the vote center model requires that Conditional Voter Registration be available at each vote center site. With a polling place election satellite locations are optional and the polling places themselves are not considered satellite locations under the vote center model. Mr. Kopp asked if the RAVBM will be available for the November Election. Ms. Spencer stated that RAVBM will be available for the November Election. She also stated RAVBM information can be included in the packets that are sent out to the local hospitals.

IX. Possible Collaboration with San Bernardino VAAC for National Voter Registration Day event, September 25, 2018

Ms. Caban and Mr. Smith reported that they attended an outreach event at the Orange Show Citrus Fair in an effort to provide access to voter registration and recruit poll workers for the November Election. Ms. Caban stated that a majority of the voter registrations were for San Bernardino County. Ms. Goldkorn asked the status of the ROV and San Bernardino County Registrar's Office VAAC collaborating as a region. Mario stated that the topic is on the agenda for the next San Bernardino VAAC meeting scheduled for July 31.

X. Questions/Comments

Mr. Godoy asked if the Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail System will be

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implemented at early voting locations for the November Election. Ms. Caban responded that ROV is currently in the process of determining early voting locations. Once the early voting locations are confirmed the Registrar will determine if RAVBM will be available for early voting.

Mr. Taylor asked if the Medical Emergency Ballot Request application can be sent out electronically so that it can be forwarded to others. Ms. Caban stated that she will send the application to the VAAC members.

The committee agreed that the next VAAC meeting will be held on September 27th at 10:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.