
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 29, 2021 | 10:00 a.m.

Members:

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

Guests:

Ronak Patel
Pilar Cole
Ray Kennedy
Terry Toles
Gail Paulsen
Mayra Rodriguez
Candice Alvarez
Glyn Wild
Judy Haughney
Monika Radeva
Caroline Patton
Sarah Groves
Suzette Arrington

Registrar of Voters Staff:

Rebecca Spencer, Registrar of Voters
Paul Bugarino, Chief Deputy, Registrar of Voters
Alma Del Carmen, Elections Technician II, Registrar of Voters
Candice Gordon, Executive Assistant, Registrar of Voters

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Meeting Commenced at 10:00 a.m.

I. Welcome/Introductions

Introductions were made of the following staff: Registrar of Voters Rebecca Spencer, and Committee Vice- Chair Larry Smith. Following staff introductions, attendees of the meeting made introductions.

II. Approval of January 28, 2021 Minutes

John Kopp made a motion to accept the minutes; Gabe Taylor seconded. Minutes were accepted.

III. California Citizens Redistricting Commission Discussion with Ray Kennedy

Ray Kennedy provided a presentation on California Redistricting Basics with the committee. Mr. Kennedy shared that he could not take comments or suggestions on redistricting during or after the presentation but could answer questions and explain general processes regarding redistricting.

Rebecca Spencer asked if the Commission is aware how the delays on redistricting will affect the June 2022 Election. Mr. Kennedy stated that the Commission is aware, and they are actively debating this item.

IV. Past Elections Recap

Larry Smith shared that the last election was held on March 2, 2021 for the City of Eastvale and the City of Cathedral City. Both were polling place elections with one ballot type for each city. Mr. Smith shared that the turnout was 15 percent for the City of Eastvale and 25 percent for the City of Cathedral City. Mr. Smith shared a story regarding a voter who expressed their deep appreciation of the curbside voting process that she was able to utilize for this election. Mr. Taylor asked for a summary of the

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voter's experience to use when talking about the importance of curbside voting with other counties. Mr. Smith agreed to provide the narrative for the group.

v. Discussion of Upcoming 2021 Elections

Mr. Smith shared the next election is scheduled for June 8th, for the City of Riverside, Wards 2, 4 & 6 for City Council seats. This will be an all Mail Ballot Election with ballots going out May 10th. Mr. Smith shared that there will be 10 ballot drop off sites available throughout the county on Monday, June 7th and Election Day, Tuesday, June 8th. Early voting will take place at the Registrar of Voters office starting May 10th through Election Day. In-person voting assistance will be available at Blindness Support Center on election day only.

Ms. Spencer shared for the June 8th election there will be no Voter Information Guides since this is an all mail ballot election. Ms. Spencer explained that since the City of Riverside is a charter city, they chose to have their City Council elections conducted with an all-mail ballot election. Voter Information Guides are mailed out for polling place elections only. All information that is mandated to be in the Voter Information Guide will be inserted with the ballot packet.

vi. Update on Recall Election

Ms. Spencer shared that today, April 29th, is the deadline for all counties to submit their final signature verification numbers to the Secretary of State's office for a possible recall of Governor Gavin Newsom. Proponents of the recall have already submitted enough signatures to qualify for an election. The next step after submitting the numbers to the Secretary of State's office is for a 30-business day signature withdrawal period. Ms. Spencer shared any voter that wishes to withdraw their signature from the petition can submit their request to their county elections official. At the end of the 30-business days there is a 60-day financial review period where the state will conduct a fiscal analysis of how much the election will cost. The Lt.

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Governor can call the special election if there are enough signatures following the withdrawal period. A special statewide recall election would be held at the end of November or beginning of December.

Mr. Kopp asked about the start date for the 30-day withdrawal period. Ms. Spencer shared that she believes it will start April 30th but will confirm with the Secretary of State's office. Mr. Kopp asked if its possible to purchase a list of voters who signed the petition. Ms. Spencer shared that those signatures are protected so they are not available for purchase.

Mr. Taylor asked if there will be any education or outreach efforts made to share with voters about the voting options and the timeline for the recall? Ms. Spencer shared that the law states that all registered voters must receive a Vote-by-Mail ballot for the recall. The decision as to the recall election using Vote Centers or Polling Place has yet to be decided. Currently, the way the law is written Riverside is a polling place county. Ms. Spencer shared that she spoke with the Secretary of State's office requesting authority for Riverside County to conduct the election similar to the November 2020 Election. Those discussions are ongoing, and Ms. Spencer will have more information towards the end of May.

vii. Update State VAAC

Mr. Smith shared that the State VAAC meeting was held on March 17th. The Secretary of State's office provided updates on regulations for signature verification for petition signatures. The committee discussed curbside voting; Mr. Smith will share the information as well as pictures that were provided for curbside voting with this VAAC committee. The next state VAAC meeting is scheduled for May 19th.

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VIII. Update on the County's Possible Voter's Choice Act Implementation

Ms. Spencer shared the Registrar of Voters is waiting for the Executive Office to come out with their report about the November 2020 and March 2021 election. The report will then be presented at a future Board of Supervisors meeting. Meetings will then be scheduled with the Executive Office and the Elections Ad-Hoc committee to discuss the Voters Choice Act and timelines. Ms. Spencer anticipates a more in-depth update at the next VAAC meeting.

Mr. Kopp asked if the Lt. Governor has the authority to issue an executive order about the election that she will be calling. Ms. Spencer shared that she is working with the SOS on exploring different options for the recall. There is also an assembly bill that would make some adjustments to consolidations

IX. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

X. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 29, 2021.