
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 26, 2017 | 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members:

Julie Caban, Chair
Mario Janesin, Committee Member, Teleconference
Gabe Taylor, Committee Member
Diane Gamache, Committee Member
Ruthee Goldkorn, Committee Member
Chuck Reutter, Committee Member
Feliciano Godoy, Committee Member

Guests:

Ray Kennedy, Teleconference
Ronak Patel

Registrar of Voters Staff:

Rebecca Spencer, Registrar of Voters
Art Tinoco, Assistant Registrar of Voters
Chris Neubauer, Chief Deputy Registrar of EO & Polls Division

Meeting Commenced at 10:08 a.m.

I. Welcome/Introductions

Introductions were made of the following staff: Registrar of Voters Rebecca Spencer, Assistant Registrar of Voters Art Tinoco, Chief Deputy of the EO & Polls Division Chris Neubauer and Committee Chair Julie Caban. Following staff introductions, attendees of the meeting made introductions.

II. Approval of August 31, 2017 Minutes

Chris Neubauer asked for a motion to approve the August 31, 2017 VAAC meeting minutes. Ruthee Goldkorn made a motion to approve; Gabe Taylor seconded. Ms. Goldkorn referenced the August 31st minutes and asked if Mr. Janesin was sent a contact list of the VAAC members as he requested at the last meeting. Ms. Caban and Mr. Janesin confirmed that the contact list for the VAAC members was sent out. Ms. Goldkorn asked if all of the VAAC members could also have a copy of the contact list.

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Ms. Caban stated that she will send the contact list to all of the VAAC members. Ms. Goldkorn asked if Grand Jury members will be present at the polls for the November 7th Election. Mr. Neubauer stated that the Grand Jury has not informed the Registrar of Voters (ROV) Office that they will be onsite at the polls. He stated that they usually do attend as observers but he has not received any communication from them stating that they will for this election. Ms. Goldkorn stated that there is a typo on page three of the minutes; wheelchair is one word. Ms. Goldkorn stated that also on page three, procedures for troubleshooting an Accessible Voting Unit (AVU) would be helpful. She asked if that will be included in the accessibility training along with the use of wheelchairs and low vision goggles. Mr. Neubauer stated that there wasn't enough time to implement for the November 7th Election but it is certainly something that will be looked at for the June 2018 Election. He stated that ROV would like to discuss these items with the VAAC intensively through January and February 2018 so these items can be added to the accessibility training for the June 2018 Election. Ms. Goldkorn referenced the August 31st minutes and asked if the High School Voter Education Week information was sent out to the VAAC members because she didn't receive anything. Mr. Neubauer confirmed that the information was sent out to the VAAC members. Ms. Goldkorn asked for clarification if the VAAC would be included in the development of the presentation for the accessibility of the new concept of polling stations and Vote-by-Mail. Mr. Neubauer stated that the VAAC will be very involved in the implementation of SB450. Currently ROV is working on getting data for potential site locations so that it can be laid out for possible choices. ROV will have recommendations but we will need external support from the VAAC and Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) to make sure accessible locations are chosen. A lot more work will be done in 2018 to have the presentation ready for the Board of Supervisors to review in 2019. Chuck Reutter stated that all the issues being discussed are going to go away because everyone will be doing Vote-by-Mail. He stated that the biggest problem coming down the pipe is how to get our visually impaired voters to be able to vote with the Vote-by-Mail ballot only. Mr. Neubauer stated that there will be some remote accessible Vote-by-Mail systems available. There are currently two systems approved by the Secretary of State's Office and they are both Jaws Screen Reader compatible. This is an option for voters with disabilities that would like to vote at home or with SB450 they could also go to a vote center and vote there with assistance or an AVU. There will be more than one way for voters to cast a ballot. Gabe Taylor stated that with the implementation of SB450 the Board of Supervisors is required to have public meetings for disability service organizations. Mr. Neubauer stated that ROV's hope is that the VAAC will have been engaged enough in the planning that by the time they reach the public meetings that all concerns and issues will have already been covered. Ms. Goldkorn asked for clarification on whether they will be public meetings or public hearings. Mr. Neubauer stated that the law defines them as public hearings but ROV will be holding multiple meetings to discuss implementation prior to the public hearings. The committee

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approved the August 31st minutes with the amendment to wheelchair.

III. Discussion on Establishing a New Election Official Training Method for Access & Functional Needs

Mr. Neubauer stated that this is a discussion on what the accessibility training should look like in 2018. In 2018 ROV will still be conducting a polling place model election so nothing will change for the County of Riverside. There are four counties going to the vote center model in 2018 all in Northern California. The law will not allow Riverside County to go to the vote center model until 2020. This is a great time for ROV to focus on the accessibility portion before it pivots to changing everything else over to the vote center model. Mr. Reutter stated that he worked the polls last year and it was difficult for him to work the long hours. He asked if the ROV could get college or high school students to serve on Election Day. Mr. Neubauer stated that ROV has a student poll worker program. For the November 2016 Election there were approximately 600 student poll workers that worked at the polls. There are also college students that work at the polls although there is no formal program. Mr. Reutter asked where he could get information regarding the student poll worker program. Mr. Neubauer stated that the information is available on the ROV website and that same information is sent to the high schools during High School Voter Education Weeks. Mr. Taylor stated that at another training he participated in they had assistive technology. He asked if ROV could talk with Community Access Center's Assistive Technology Coordinator regarding the same items for ROV to use for demonstrations. Mr. Neubauer stated that ROV can work on getting enough items for the training classes and incorporating the information into the training without adding more time to the class. Ms. Goldkorn stated that it might be beneficial to have someone from the Pacific ADA Center to discuss access and functional needs and what it means for voters with disabilities.

- A. VAAC Production of Updated Accessibility PSA & Training Video – Mr. Neubauer discussed replacing the “Through Our Eyes” training video with a shorter and more up to date video. If the training video was shorter, the saved time could be used to incorporate the access and functional needs information. He stated that ROV would like to move forward with replacing it with something that is more time sensitive and to the point. There are several videos that already exist that could potentially be used or the allocated funds for the VAAC could be used to make a new video. Mr. Taylor stated that having county residents or VAAC members participate in a new video might help resonate with voters. Mr. Neubauer asked if the VAAC wanted to make a new training etiquette video or make a PSA video about voting in Riverside County. Ms. Goldkorn stated the “Through Our Eyes” video needs to be replaced because the definition of disability is not accurate and the issue of

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service animals has changed with the law. Her other suggestion is utilizing KBCR (the local PBS radio station at Valley College) services and facilities and other local colleges to get the message out. She stated that bringing in those resources at no additional cost. Ms. Goldkorn stated a PSA is a very good idea and it should include veterans. She suggested creating a committee to determine the efficiency and ethnicity for the development of the PSA. Mr. Reutter stated that using social media and YouTube to get information out to voters. Mr. Neubauer stated that ROV would consider adding any future training videos to YouTube. Mr. Taylor suggested also putting it on the ROV website. Mr. Neubauer showed the VAAC two different training video options. Mr. Neubauer asked the VAAC how they would like to proceed. Ms. Goldkorn stated the topics of the training video and PSA should be separated because they are two different issues. She also stated the Disability Rights California video isn't adequate for a poll worker training. She stated they could create a new video that should include accessibility training and bring down the level of uncomfortableness. She stated a PSA should be developed through all the resources available with the local colleges to help make it look very professional. She stated there needs to be two separate committees working on the video and PSA to ensure they hit the really important points and bring up the level of comfort to poll workers. Mr. Neubauer stated that if a training video is going to be developed it is time critical so that it can be ready for the June 2018 Primary Election. He stated that the training should focus on more of the etiquette of poll workers instead of specific procedures because those will change if SB450 is adopted. Mr. Reutter asked Mario Janesin (on teleconference) if Community Access Center has an Assistive Technology Coordinator. Mr. Janesin stated that Community Access Center has two individuals that work on assistive technology. Mr. Reutter asked if multiple videos will be released. Mr. Neubauer stated that only one training video will be produced and released. Mr. Taylor stated LA County also created a 30 second video and a 60 second video that were broadcast on the County network. He suggested making a video that is 60 seconds or less and he asked if Riverside County has a media person. Ms. Spencer stated that the County does have a Public Information Officer and the County Economic Development Agency (EDA) has a marketing team and film equipment that is available to ROV. Ms. Spencer proposed scheduling a separate meeting where all the appropriate resources can meet to discuss how to move forward with the training video. Mr. Neubauer confirmed the plan for ROV to set up a meeting and anyone interested in this project is welcome to attend. Ms. Goldkorn made a motion for the Registrar of Voters, in collaboration with the VAAC, to move forward with creating a new accessibility training DVD for the poll workers; Mr. Taylor seconded. The motion was approved.

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IV. Discussion on Early Voting Opportunities for Voters Who are Visually Impaired

Feliciano Godoy brought an idea up at a train the trainer meeting and suggested having early voting at Blindness Support Services to encourage voters with disabilities to vote at a location they are familiar with. Ms. Spencer stated that ROV met with Pete Benevidez and decided to choose a Saturday prior to the June 2018 Election for an early voting opportunity at Blindness Support Services that is catered to the Disability Community. She stated it will probably be the 2nd Saturday before the election from 10am to 4pm and ROV would like the VAAC to help get the word out to the community prior to the event. Mr. Reutter stated that he has concerns about the powers that be being able to single out and see how the disabled voters that attend the event are voting. Ms. Spencer stated that the event would be open to all voters not just those with disabilities. Mr. Neubauer clarified that the votes from that event would not be identifiable. The results would be tallied in with all of the early voting results so there isn't a way for someone to determine how the Disability Community voted on any particular contest. Mr. Godoy stated that he brought this idea up because many people that are visually impaired aren't using the AVUs. He stated visually impaired individuals are not always comfortable traveling to other places they aren't familiar with. By bringing early voting to Blindness Support Services he feels it will encourage more voting from the Disability Community. Mr. Taylor stated that the other part of this event would show the accessibility of using the AVU with ROV there to provide support if it is needed. Ms. Goldkorn stated that this topic goes back to the comfort level of poll workers and helps to immerse them in the community. She also suggested doing an event at the California School for the Deaf. Diane Gamache stated that she does agree with the idea to have an event at the California School for the Deaf but the school is currently being remodeled so it would be best to wait until that is complete. Mr. Neubauer stated that ROV will follow up with CODIE after the construction is complete to see if something can be set up. Mr. Reutter asked how to reach the schools to get information out the high school students. Mr. Neubauer stated that ROV does send pamphlet information on the student poll worker program to the Principals, Sociology teachers and Spanish teachers throughout the County every April and September. The student poll workers attend the same poll worker training as the adults because they are doing the same job. For the November 2016 Election there was about 600 student poll workers; 20% of the election officers were student poll workers.

V. Discussion of Tracking the Disability Vote

Mr. Neubauer stated this topic keeps coming up as a requested topic on the agenda but he is unclear what the VAAC would like to discuss. He confirmed that the request has been made to the State VAAC that "Do you require accommodations at the polls?"

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question be added to the registration card. Ultimately, it is the State's decision whether or not to add it because they control that form. ROV is legally bound from doing tracking like this. Ms. Goldkorn stated that she is setting up a meeting regarding three legislative items that she would like Senator Henry Stern to carry for the Disability Community. He serves on the Constitution Committee on the Senate and this issue is on the agenda to talk to Senator Stern about it. She also stated that she spoke with Secretary Padilla personally about this issue and it does not get any traction. Ms. Goldkorn stated that no one knows about voting in the disability community and that's why it's important to track this information. She is hoping the State VAAC gets some traction on it and they will bring it to Senator Stern as well. Mr. Reutter stated that he is uncomfortable with the tracking on the vote. Mr. Neubauer clarified that the tracking would not be done on how a person voted. It would only show who needed an accommodation at the polls. Ms. Goldkorn stated that the question would be asked on the registration affidavit and not at the polls. Mr. Neubauer stated that ultimately this is a State level question.

VI. Voter Integrity Project Report Discussion

Mr. Neubauer stated that in 2016 the Election Integrity Project sent out observers to the polls and they did compile a report. The Press Enterprise provided a link to the Voter Integrity Project report because it is still not available on the Election Integrity Project website. In reviewing the report there is some information regarding processes not being followed correctly by the poll workers. It is an aggregated report of the state and it is pretty vague. The general issues brought up in the report was privacy of voting which the VAAC has already brought to the ROV's attention. The ROV is working on getting table top voting booths to provide privacy for voters that want to vote at tables. They will be sent to the polls starting with the June 2018 Election. Mr. Taylor asked if there is a specific number being sent to each polling place. Mr. Neubauer stated that approximately 5 will be sent to each polling place. He also stated that most polling places do not have tables for voters to use but it's easier to send them to all of the polling places instead of just specific locations. Mr. Taylor suggested adding this item to the poll worker training as well. Ms. Goldkorn stated that the Methodist Church on Heacock Street in Moreno Valley is not an adequate polling place and they had voters voting at tables with no privacy. She asked if the logistics has been worked out yet for how the table top voting booths will be set up. Mr. Neubauer stated that as of now the logistics are if a polling place has available tables they will set up the table top voting booths at the beginning of the day. If there aren't any tables then the poll worker won't set any table top booths. It is location specific so the poll workers and range inspectors will have to determine if the item is appropriate or not. Ms. Goldkorn stated that at the Methodist Church there were voters not utilizing the AVUs. She also stated that the poll worker stated no one ever uses those machines. Mr. Neubauer stated that at the poll worker training they are instructed to ask every voter if they would like to use the AVU. He also stated that ROV cannot control 100% of what the poll workers do at the polls but they

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will continue to reiterate the information in training. Mr. Neubauer also discussed the new election poster display board that is prepopulated with posters that need to be posted on election morning. The poll workers will still need to post the signage outside on Election Day but all internal signage will be located on the one display board. This board will ensure compliance and make it easier on the poll workers. The translated material will still need to be posted because the languages vary by location. Mr. Kennedy stated that he has contacted Linda from the Election Integrity Project to impress upon her the importance of providing detail and specific location information on their observer reports. Mr. Taylor stated that the vague information doesn't help the ROV improve their processes. Mr. Kennedy stated that his first impression was that the group was more interested in discrediting the process instead of trying to be helpful. He stated that if the group wants to be taken seriously as observers they need be interested in helping.

VII. "Let the People Vote" Campaign/Same-Day Voter Registration Discussion

Ms. Goldkorn stated that "Let the People Vote" campaign by the ACLU covers the concept of same day registration. She stated that voters are able to do same day registration but they have to do so in person at the ROV office. She stated the availability may change with SB450 but at this point the voters in the desert areas would still have to come to ROV to do same day registration. Mr. Neubauer clarified that with SB450 same day voter registration would be available at all vote centers. Ms. Goldkorn stated that there should be a satellite location where voters in the desert areas could go to do this process. Mr. Neubauer explained that Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) is not a new law but couldn't go into effect until California had a centralized voter registration system which finally happened with VoteCal. Once VoteCal was certified as the system of record for the State of California this law went into effect. This law allows a person, after the traditional close of registration which is 14 days prior so on Election Day a voter can go to the Registrar's office and fill out a registration card and receive a CVR Provisional ballot. Once it is confirmed in VoteCal that the voter has not voted anywhere else their ballot will be processed. This does enable anyone who has missed a traditional registration deadline to still be able to cast a ballot. Information on this process is in the County Voter Information Guide that are mailed out to voters. So far there have been three CVR voters this year.

VIII. Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail Discussion

Mr. Neubauer stated in Senate Bill 450 (SB450) – The Voter's Choice Act there is a requirement to have a remote accessible Vote-by-Mail system. Currently, there are two systems certified for use by the Secretary of State. With the new system, voters would be able to submit their selections to the Registrar's office using a remote accessible site instead of on a paper ballot. ROV is planning on asking both vendors to come and do demonstrations of their certified systems so the VAAC can provide feedback about the systems. Mr. Reutter

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stated that he was part of the beta testing for this system. Mr. Taylor stated that the Secretary of State's website also has a section which shows all the voting systems and what stage of review each system is in. Mr. Neubauer stated that ROV is excited to bring in new technology to help voters have more accessible options to cast their ballots.

IX. VAAC's Participation with Future County Outreach Efforts

Mr. Neubauer stated that ROV is looking to support VAAC at different outreach events. If the County is the registrant at the event then it will need to be County staff working the event. If it is an event that ROV is invited to by a VAAC member we are available to support them. Mr. Reutter asked if the ROV would be interested in speaking to a large group of people on how the VAAC works. Mr. Neubauer stated that he feels it would be useful and asked Mr. Reutter to send him information on the event. Ms. Goldkorn asked if there is a place on the County Intranet where ROV can get information on County sponsored events so that information can be sent to the VAAC members. Mr. Neubauer stated that there are internal emails sent out regarding events but there are no consistent timeframes on when the notification is sent out. ROV is starting to compile a list of annual events so going forward they can plan to attend.

X. Discussion of Possible VAAC Projects:

- A. VAAC's Involvement with SB450 Developments in Riverside County – VAAC is a critical component on the SB450 plan. This item was covered earlier in the meeting. No one had any further comments on this topic.
- B. Future VAAC-Sponsored Candidate Forums on Disability Issues – Mr. Neubauer stated that although there is value in the idea there is concern regarding the Registrar's office sponsoring any candidate forums. Ms. Goldkorn stated that addressing the non-partisan races could help and it would strictly be regarding public policies. She stated establishing a criteria and format is important and may be helpful. Mr. Neubauer stated that he is not familiar with any other County sponsoring a candidate forum. He stated that ROV can ask County Counsel to look into it but as the non-partisan government office running the elections it doesn't seem like a viable option. Mr. Reutter agreed with Mr. Neubauer and suggested having people with disabilities go to other candidate forums to discuss issues that affect the disability communities. Mr. Taylor asked if there was a difference between doing a town hall setting meeting and a forum. Mr. Neubauer stated there is not a difference if a candidate is involved. Mr. Taylor asked if a person already in office could come speak about issues. Mr. Neubauer stated that it could not be done in a timeframe close to an election because it still counts as campaigning. Mr. Kennedy stated that Placer County holds candidate workshops. If Placer County can do that he feels this county can address issues without crossing any

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boundaries. Ms. Spencer stated that ROV has done candidate seminars about three weeks before an election and it provides specific information for that election as well as what services the Registrar's office can provide such as mailing lists or maps. The Registrar's office does not discuss any campaign tactics. She suggested opening a section regarding disability access without getting in the policy discussion of it. This would need to be discussed with County Counsel so she stated that they will do some more research and get back to the committee.

XI. Questions/Comments

Ms. Goldkorn asked why a person's driver's license number is requested on the registration card. Mr. Neubauer stated that the driver's license number is one of the match criteria in VoteCal. Prior to VoteCal it was also used as one of the match criteria in the local voter database system. Ms. Goldkorn stated that she found an article regarding the City of Riverside opening a Civil Rights Institute and Museum. She stated that the museum plans to honor 36 people and the disability communities were not included in this. She stated that disability rights are not viewed as civil rights. She also stated that she is insulted and the disability communities have done things to elevate awareness and voting. She asked that it be on the record that there will be a Civil Rights Institute in the City of Riverside that completely ignores and eliminates peoples with disabilities. She stated that she will be making a fuss for the 17 million Californians with disabilities. Mr. Reutter asked what VAAC has decided to do for visually impaired voters that want to vote by mail. Mr. Neubauer stated that there will be an early voting day at Blindness Support Services and ROV will be investigating the Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail Systems. Mr. Godoy asked if ROV has ever considered doing any social media outreach with Twitter and Facebook to put announcements out to the public. Ms. Spencer stated that ROV does have a Facebook page and she will make sure they start utilizing it for VAAC announcements. ROV normally uses Facebook and Twitter for standard press releases. Ms. Spencer also stated that ROV will start posting regarding outreach events to ensure everyone is aware of events to encourage better participation.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.