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**REBECCA SPENCER**  
Registrar of Voters



**ART TINOCO**  
Assistant Registrar of Voters

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**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

**Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 27, 2022 | 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:***

Melissa Abair  
Tisa Rodriguez  
Pilar Cole  
Terry Toles  
Gail Paulsen  
Candace Alvarez  
Ronak Patel  
Maria Keller

***Registrar of Voters Staff:***

Rebecca Spencer, Registrar of Voters  
Art Tinoco, Assistant Registrar of Voters  
Paul Burgarino, Chief Deputy, Registrar of Voters  
Valerie Reinhardt, Executive Secretary, 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. Approval of October 28, 2021 minutes.

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

***II. Implementation of the Voter's Choice Act***

Rebecca Spencer shared that the Voter's Choice Act is an elective law that each County has the choice to participate in. In December of 2021, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors gave the directive to move forward with implementing the Voter's Choice Act for the June 7, 2022 Election. Ms. Spencer shared that the Voter's Choice Act essentially changes from a Polling Place voting model to a Vote Center voting model. In June 2022, the Registrar of Voters anticipates having 145 vote centers that will be open several days before the election and election day. Voters are not required to go to an assigned Vote Center and all voters will be mailed a vote-by-mail ballot no later than 29 days before the election. Ms. Spencer shared that voters can vote using their Vote-by-Mail ballot or vote in person at a select Vote Center. This process is similar to what was used for the September and November 2021 Elections. However, under the Voter's Choice Act, there are more opportunities for voters to vote. One of those opportunities is 26 of the 145 Voter Centers will be open for 11 days before and up until the election allowing voters more time to drop off their ballots. There will also be 86 ballot drop-off locations starting 29 days before the election. The drop-off locations will be unable to provide voters with a replacement ballot as they are set up for ballot drop-off only. There will be accessible voting units with audio capability at the Vote Centers. Ms.

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Spencer shared that the Voter Information Guide (VIG) will be mailed 40 days before the election to inform voters of the Vote Center locations. The VIG will contain information on the Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM), a sample of the ballot and the candidate statements and measure material.

Ms. Spencer shared that there are a number of requirements leading up to the Voters Choice Act requiring public consultation meetings and public hearings. The Registrar of Voters will be holding a public consultation meeting for voters with disabilities. There will be invites and public notices going out this month to notify of the date and time when the public consultation meetings will take place. There will also be a separate public consultation meeting for the language accessibility community, targeted towards those who are not proficient in English. In addition, there will be two public hearings which will be held at large and will be posted on the Registrar of Voters website and social media. A copy of the Election Administration Plan will also be posted to the website and publicly noticed.

Tisa Rodriguez asked if there will be any follow up to the voters who state they received duplicate registrations during the September and November 2021 Elections. Ms. Spencer shared that there are multiple valid reasons why a voter would receive more than one ballot. Ms. Spencer explained when a ballot is issued a snapshot in time is taken of the voter registration file which is usually two months before the election. That file is sent to the vendor who prints the ballots and envelopes for the 1.3 million registered voters in Riverside County. When a voter comes in to register after the file has been run, a second ballot will be generated. Both ballots are tied to one voter registration record so as soon as one is returned the second ballot is automatically voided. Ms. Spencer shared that a DMV transaction can also automatically become a voter registration record in California.

Gabe Taylor asked what options voters will have to comment or provide input on the draft Election Administration Plan. Ms. Spencer shared that the Election Administration Plan will be posted to the Registrar of Voters website with an email address provided for voters to share their comments.

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The consultation meetings and public hearing meetings will also provide an opportunity for voters to voice their comments. The meetings will be provided via Zoom and the recording will be available on the website for voters who are unable to attend the actual meetings. Ms. Spencer shared that in addition to those meetings there will be education workshops with the Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) and the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) in April, once the Secretary of State has adopted the final plan. Further information on those meetings will be available in the next few weeks.

John Kopp asked if there will be a 24-hour drop-off box available and will the Registrar of Voters provide a picture of an actual drop-off box. Ms. Spencer shared there are two drop-off boxes at the Registrar of Voters office that are in compliance with the Secretary of State to be available 24/7. The City Clerks offices have agreed to host a ballot drop-off location that is staffed by the City Clerk. Registrar of Voters staff stop by every day to break the seal from the ballot box and collect the ballots to be processed at the Registrar of Voters office. Government facilities that are designated drop off locations are staffed by the Registrar of Voters. There is always three staff members with the ballot box and those locations are open from 10:00am to 3:00pm. The ballots are then brought back to the office for signature verification. Ms. Spencer shared that the signage for the ballot boxes us currently being redesigned to indicate they are official Riverside County ballot boxes.

Ms. Spencer shared that the Vote Centers will have same day voter registration at both the eleven and four day sites. Voters can come to a Vote Center if they are not registered and be issued a provisional ballot.

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***III. Update on the SOS VAAC***

Larry Smith shared that the Secretary of State was seeking applications for new State VAAC members for 2022. A memo from the committee went to the Secretary of State this week and the new state VAAC members should be appointed by the end of next week. Mr. Smith will provide an update at the next VAAC meeting.

***IV. Public Comments***

Ms. Spencer shared information on the upcoming elections for 2022. The next election will be held on April 12, 2022, for the City of Moreno Valley. This election will be an all-mail ballot election with polling places on election day from 7:00am to 8:00pm. The next election will be held on June 7, 2022. Congressional Districts, State Senate, Assembly, Board of Equalization, Board of Supervisors, and the County Office of Education will appear on the ballot for this election. The Registrar of Voters is working on new district lines for this election and is currently going through the redistricting process. There will be a notice in the Voter Information Guide to inform voters of those new jurisdictions. Ms. Spencer shared that there will be a similar process done in July leading up to the November 2022 Election. The November Election will include all the local cities and school districts that have trustee areas or divisions, and they will go through their own redistricting process.

Mr. Taylor asked if there were tentative dates for the consultation meeting workshops and public hearings. Ms. Spencer shared that a finalized calendar will be sent out within the next few weeks. The consultation meetings will be held towards the end of February, the public hearings towards the middle of March and the public workshops will be scheduled for April and May.

***V. Public Comments***

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No comments from the public.

***VI. Adjournment/Next Meeting***

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2022.