
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 30, 2015 | 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members:

Julie Caban, Chair
Larry Smith, Co-Chair
Diane Gamache, Committee Member
John Kopp, Committee Member
Bob Warburton, Committee Member
Ellen Jones, Committee Member
Scott Barron, Committee Member – teleconference
Richard Olquin, Committee Member - teleconference

Guests:

Ray Kennedy
Foster Tucker
Isaac Valles
Elizabeth Santos

Registrar of Voters Staff:

Art Tinoco, Assistant Registrar of Voters
Chris Neubauer, Chief Deputy Registrar of Voters EO & Polls Division
Annette Canada, Elections Coordinator

Meeting Commenced at 10:05 a.m.

I. Welcome/Introductions

Introductions were made of the following staff: Assistant Registrar Art Tinoco, new Chief Deputy of the EO & Polls Division Chris Neubauer from New Mexico, new Chief Deputy of ROV Service Department which is Rachel Rathbone (not present), Committee Chair Julie Caban, Committee Co-Chair Larry Smith, Elections Coordinator Annette Canada and two ASL Interpreters Pam and Michael with LifeSigns. Following staff introductions, attendees of the meeting made introductions including teleconference attendees.

II. Official Appointment of VAAC Members

Art Tinoco added many thanks to Ellen Jones for providing the Braille Institute in Rancho Mirage as a meeting place for the VAAC meeting. VAAC certificates and welcome letters were presented to the newly appointed VAAC Members, Ellen Jones, John W. Kopp, Pauline Gaeta (not present), and Diane Gamache. New VAAC Members appointed were congratulated by the group.

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III. Local VAAC and Registrar of Voters Accessibility Updates

Mr. Tinoco reviewed background information about the purpose of local VAAC meetings. Updates were provided regarding programs and process enhancements including 1) Accessibility Inspector for ensuring the polling places are adequately set-up following the SOS guidelines for accessibility beginning with November 3 election. VAAC members will receive a copy of the new training manual for this position to allow for comment. Committee requested information regarding documentation of site assessments. ROV can provide interested parties documentation in regard to this area. 2) Enhancing training of poll workers including showing the "Through Our Eyes" DVD to all classes. 3) Attending VAAC meetings in other counties. The Assistant Registrar Art Tinoco, Chair Julie Caban, Co-chair Larry Smith and Elections Coordinator Annette Canada attended VAAC meetings in Orange County, Los Angeles County and San Diego County. 4) "Train the Trainer" presentation from Disability Rights California presented to approximately 30 people including our staff and members of the public; with our special thanks to Fred Nisen and Scott Barron for conducting the training. Mr. Tinoco offered any other agencies that felt the Registrar of Voters could benefit from a training program to please let Chair Julie Caban or Co-chair Larry Smith know.

A discussion regarding materials and training to candidates occurred. The ROV has provided a statement in candidate handbooks regarding the VAAC. Questions regarding training candidates and political parties on accessibility were raised by members of the committee. Suggestion was made by the committee to include a sample letter in candidate handbook. Another suggestion was that ROV conduct joint meetings with political parties to explain particular issues that voters with disabilities face. The ROV will be reviewing the next appropriate steps regarding candidate education and is seeking input from the VAAC regarding this area. VAAC committee members requested more frequent communication from ROV via email in between VAAC meetings.

IV. Legislative Update

Mr. Tinoco provided members information on Senate Bill 450, which would modify the electoral process in California so that all voters would vote by mail and/or at vote centers instead of voting at polling places. Vote centers are established to help voters that need the "in person" assistance. This bill has been made a two year bill, and will not be heard further until January. Assembly Bill 1461, California New Motor Voter Act would allow every eligible citizen that renews or gets a Drivers License to automatically be registered. This Bill has passed the Senate and is in the appropriations committee. It has gained momentum and is moving forward. This is a bill we are monitoring closely because it will increase our voter rolls tremendously. It was clarified that this includes both Drivers Licenses and IDs. Clarification was also provided that only citizens would be registered, the DMV keeps information on whether the applicant is or is not a US Citizen.

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V. HAVA Grant

The ROV received a HAVA grant from the SOS for \$64,850 (the Help America Vote Act 261 funding): the ROV received \$24,304 which had to be used by July 31, 2015. Five recommendations were sent out to all VAAC members along with any feedback that VAAC members would like the money to be spent on. Due to the time constraint a decision was made to utilize this funding for 250 of our needed 600 Doorbell/Curbside Notification devices. The ROV is requesting that the VAAC consider how to allocate the remaining funds. A question was raised whether Braille would be added to the signs on the notification devices, the ROV will make inquiries in regard to this request. The five items were doorbells/curbside voter notification devices (displayed in the room), developing and providing accessible sample ballot information, polling place accessibility surveys-providing the staff resources and costs, development of accessibility materials for website, and polling place accessibility signage, more signage directing voters to the polling places. Questions regarding statistics of Curbside Voting were raised, the ROV has not kept these statistics in the past but will be keeping them starting at the November election. A discussion regarding the appropriate procedures poll workers will follow when these doorbells are deployed occurred, such as line prioritization, election officer duties, etc. Concerns over Curbside voters remaining in hot vehicles while waiting their turn were raised. The ROV is reviewing our policy and will request input from the VAAC. Scott Barron suggested utilizing funds to send a mailer to voters informing them of accessibility programs available to all persons requiring assistance with voting at the polling place. John Kopp suggested this be added to the sample ballot mailing with a prominent page. An email will be sent to VAAC members seeking further input.

VI. Status Report on the State VAAC

Mr. Smith is part of the State VAAC and there are no new meetings scheduled from the State VAAC. The new Secretary of State Alex Padilla, will continue the State VAAC. Assembly Bill 683 would change the name from "Visually Impaired Committee" to "VAAC", and it would formalize the State VAAC, it would increase membership, and it would force the State VAAC to adhere to the "Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act." This act would make State VAAC meetings adhere to public meeting guidelines. At our past VAAC meetings, a suggestion was to have vote by mail postage paid and addressed at the State VAAC meeting. This suggestion will be on their agenda when the next State VAAC convenes. Reminder to attendees that instructions are being provided to all vote by mail voters in Riverside County about amount of postage needed for their ballot and is provided on their return envelope in the postage section, with the statement reading, "Please see voting instructions for postage requirements." Inquiry given on any new news about the CACEO (California Association of Clerks and Election Officials) conference this year? Mr. Tinoco commented he did not attend the conference this year

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and he was uncertain about any accessibility bills that are being watched or supported by the CACEO. Additionally the SOS offers ADA survey training that ROV staff are required to attend and we are waiting to find out if another class will be available.

VII. 2015 Election Schedule – August 25, 2015 UDEL Election and November 3, 2015 Consolidated General Election

Ms. Caban, Chair provided information about the August 25, 2015 Election, which is a mail ballot election, with water districts and land owner districts. Three drop off locations which are Idyllwild Water District, Rancho California Water District and High Valley Water District. Approximately 61,000 ballots were sent out for the water districts and about 600 ballots for the landowner districts. Continuing with elections, we also have the November 3, 2015 Consolidated General Election which will be about 30 to 40 percent of the county. We are currently in the nomination period which will end on August 7, 2015 unless we go into an extension and the extension would be until August 12, 2015 if the incumbent doesn't file. There will possibly be 200 to 250 polling places which will be in different areas of the county but will be determined after the nomination period. We are going to implement the Accessibility Inspector position in this election. We are currently working on an Accessibility Inspector Guide and we would like to share it with all of you for your input once it is completed. A question about city elections on their nomination deadline date. It depends on the city, they have their own guidelines and regulations they need to follow.

VIII. Questions/ Comments

None noted. Mr. Tinoco thanked everyone for their assistance and noted there are several projects ROV is working on and ROV will be completing the projects in phases. We ask the attendees for their understanding, patience and input as we move forward.

IX. Polling Place Accessibility Surveyor Training Video – Section 3

Doorways, Hallways and Entrances - video was shown.

Those individuals who are joining us for the first time, packets are available. Inside the packet we have a copy of the "Accessibility Surveyor Training" video, SOS guidelines and a VAAC application. There are other handouts available, including poll worker applications, and voter registration cards. Please make sure you have signed in and give us your current email information. Next VAAC meeting will be September 24, 2015 at the Registrar of Voters' office. Thank you to the people joining us on the teleconference. No other questions noted before adjournment. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.