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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 28, 2021 | 10:00 a.m.**

***Members:***

Julie Caban, Chair  
John Kopp, Committee Member  
Gabe Taylor, Committee Member  
Chuck Reutter, Committee Member  
Janet Bernabe, Committee Member  
Deborah Cole, Committee Member  
Bob Warbuton, Committee Member

***Guests:***

Ronak Patel  
Pilar Cole  
Pavel Ilie  
Judy Rice

***Registrar of Voters Staff:***

Rebecca Spencer, Registrar of Voters  
Art Tinoco, Assistant Registrar of Voters  
Paul Bugarino, Chief Deputy, Registrar of Voters  
Malissa Kouba, Chief Deputy, Registrar of Voters  
Alma Del Carmen, Elections Technician II, Registrar of Voters  
Valerie Reinhardt, Executive Secretary, 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, Assistant Registrar of Voters Art Tinoco, and Committee Chair Julie Caban. Following staff introductions, attendees of the meeting made introductions.

***II. Approval of October 15, 2020 Minutes***

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

***III. Recap of the November 2020 General Election***

Julie Caban shared that 129 Voter Assistance Centers were opened during the November Election four days from October 31, 2020 through November 3, 2020. The sites were open from 9:00am-5:00pm the first three days and on Election Day from 7:00 am-8:00 pm. Election Officer training was provided via Zoom with a few in person classes for a small group of Election Officers.

Ms. Caban shared that each Voter Assistance Center was set up with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Stations. Voters were provided with hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, disinfecting spray, gloves, and masks upon entering the Voter Assistance Centers. In addition to the PPE social distancing was practiced at each Voter Assistance Center.

Ms. Caban provided the committee with statistics related to accessibility at the Voter Assistance Centers for the November Election. Ms. Caban reported a total of 36 curbside voters, 467 assisted voters, and zero Audio Voters. The election was certified on December 3, 2020.

Gabe Taylor asked what the total number of voters who utilized the Remote Accessible Voter-by-Mail (RAVBM) for the November Election. Ms. Caban shared that Malissa Kouba, Chief Deputy for Voter Services, confirmed that

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there was a total of 3,634 voters who requested or received RAVBM. Paul Burgarino shared that this number includes 1,600 voters who attempted to log on twice.

John Kopp asked if the Statement of Votes will be available in the original format. Rebecca Spencer stated that the Statement of Votes is currently available in PDF and Excel on the website at [www.voteinfo.net](http://www.voteinfo.net). The Statement of Votes has changed because of the new voting system. Mr. Kopp asked if there were any parking issues on election day. Ms. Caban stated that although crowds were heavy, there were no complaints to report.

Mr. Taylor asked if there was curbside voting signage for the November Election. Ms. Caban shared that the standard procedure for curbside voting is the voter contacts the Registrar of Voters Office to schedule a date and time that the voter would be at the vote center or polling place. This will allow the vote center or polling place to prepare for the voter to be processed. Ms. Spencer asked Mr. Taylor if he is aware of other counties providing signs for curbside voting. Mr. Taylor shared that Los Angeles County provides signage outside of Vote Center Locations that lists contact information for Curbside Voting that is visible from the parking lot for voters who are unable to exit their vehicles. Mr. Taylor also shared that Los Angeles County also provides that information in the Voter Information Guide to inform those who will be utilizing curbside voting. Ms. Spencer shared that curbside process information is provided in the Voter Information Guide for each election but at this time there is no curbside voting signage at each location. Ms. Spencer shared that she would contact Los Angeles County to ask for a sample for future elections.

Ms. Spencer shared that Riverside County is not currently a county that uses the Voter's Choice Act model and the Governor's Executive Orders for an all Vote-by-Mail ballot election were only for the November 2020 Election. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors has not adopted the Voter's Choice Act which means Riverside County will be reverting to polling place elections for 2021 Elections. Ms. Spencer shared that

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legislation has been introduced to extend the regulations from the November 2020 Election through 2021 allowing all voters to receive a Vote-by-Mail ballot. Ms. Spencer shared until those regulations are approved Riverside County will be reverting to polling place elections for 2021. Ms. Spencer shared some helpful insight gained from the November Election was the need for more check-in stations and Accessible Voting Units at the Voter Assistance Centers. This could mean increasing the number of check-in stations from three to five and Accessible Voting Units from six to ten to decrease long wait lines.

John Kopp asked if it was possible to provide a picture of a blue ballot box so that voters can distinguish a genuine ballot box from a fake ballot box as seen on the news and social media. Ms. Spencer shared that she would explore the possibility of posting a picture on the Registrar of Voters website and social media.

***IV. Discussion on upcoming 2021 Elections***

Ms. Caban shared the upcoming Special Municipal Measure Election is scheduled for March 2, 2021 for the Cities of Cathedral City and the City of Eastvale. There will be 23 voting precincts at seven sites for both elections. The Registrar of Voters will use a similar in-voting set up as the November Election. Ms. Caban shared the department will be sending Vote-by-Mail ballots for those who request them, and the remainder will receive a Voter Information Guide to inform them of their polling place. Ms. Caban shared that the last day to register to vote is February 16, 2021. Voters can register at the polling place after February 16, 2021, utilizing a CVR Provisional Ballot.

Ms. Caban shared that about 100 election officers will run the voting sites, including leads and assistant leads from the ROV permanent staff. Training will be the same used for November 2020 election with two in person training locations in Eastvale and Cathedral City. Ms. Caban shared Ballot drop off locations will be at the City Clerks offices in Eastvale and Cathedral City. The March Election is scheduled to be certified on March

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26, 2021.

Ms. Caban shared that there will be a June election for the City of Riverside, City Council Members for Wards 2, 4 and 6. This will be a Vote-by-Mail election with ballot drop off locations at the Riverside City Clerk's office.

***V. Discussion of Restructuring the VAAC Subcommittees***

Mr. Taylor shared with the current change of VAAC membership, would now be a good time to change the direction of the committee to include more outreach groups. Ms. Caban shared that we will discuss the topic of starting new subcommittees or outreach groups.

***VI. 2021 VAAC Goals***

Ms. Caban shared that the VAAC Committee will continue meeting via Zoom for the remainder of 2021. John Kopp asked if the VAAC Committee Meeting agenda and invite is sent to the Central Committees. Ms. Spencer shared that Press Releases that are specific for each election are sent to the chair for each Central Committee. Ms. Caban shared currently VAAC information has not been sent to the chairs for each Central Committee but will do so going forward. Mr. Taylor shared the idea of having a virtual discussion forum that would involve several VAAC members and ROV staff along with community advocates. The idea would essentially be for this forum to allow people to discuss topics on voting as well as information on future elections.

Ms. Spencer shared that the VAAC meeting will be held and recorded through Zoom and ROV staff will continue to keep minutes. Ms. Spencer shared that the goal of the VAAC meeting remains ensuring voters with disabilities have access to the voting process and to discuss Registrar of Voter's projects. Ms. Spencer shared that along with the March 2, 2021 election, there are elections scheduled for June, August, and November of

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2021. In addition to election updates, the VAAC committee will further explore the Voter's Choice Act as well as new laws that have been proposed to extend the Governor's Executive Order through 2021. Ms. Spencer shared that the committee is open to any agenda items that members would like added to the future meetings.

Mr. Kopp asked about the steps Riverside County would have to undertake to adopt the Voter's Choice Act. Ms. Spencer shared in December of 2020 the Board of Supervisors requested an after-election summary for the Executive Office to review. The Executive Office is currently working with the Registrar of Voters on the election reviewing the election summary, with a goal of presenting to the Board of Supervisors in February. Ms. Spencer shared her recommendation in that process is an extensive review of the Voter's Choice Act as there are differences between the Voter's Choice Act and how things were done during the November 2020 Election. The way the law is currently written is that Vote Centers would be open for 11 days and in November the centers were open for four days. Ms. Spencer shared that there are a lot of unknowns regarding the future of the laws surrounding the Voter's Choice Act.

Mr. Kopp asked if a copy of the Assembly Bills that were discussed could be emailed to him. Ms. Spencer shared that information will be emailed per his request.

***VII. General Discussion***

There was no general discussion from the group.

***VIII. Questions/Comments***

There were no questions or comments from the group.

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***IX. Comments from the Public***

There were no comments from the public.

***x. Adjournment/Next Meeting***

Meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2021.