

# County of Santa Clara

## Registrar of Voters

1555 Berger Drive, Bldg.

2 San Jose, CA 95112

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 611360, San Jose, CA 95161-1360

(408) 299-VOTE (8683) (866) 430-VOTE (8683) FAX: (408) 998-7314

www.sccvote.org



---

## Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

October 26, 2023 | 1:30-3:00 via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://sccgov-org.zoom.us/j/93873878576>

Meeting ID: 938 7387 8576

Phone in: (669) 219-2599

Phone in: (669) 900-6833

---

## MINUTES

**ROV Staff:** Evelyn Mendez, Virginia Bloom, Bren Lehr, Alfred Gonzales, and Liz Oviedo

**LAAC Members:** Christine Fitzgerald, Jennifer Kim, Mar Abat, Melanie Roland, Lisa Cohn, Matthew Cohn and Fred Nisen

### I. Review and Approve Minutes

**Introduction of new members** – No new members

**July 27, 2023, Minutes** – Melanie Roland made motion to approve the minutes, Fred Nisen seconded the motion to approve.

### II. Reports and Updates

#### I. 2023/2024 Elections Updates - Bren Lehr, Candidate Services Division Manager

November 7, 2023, Special Election- San Jose/Evergreen District to fill a vacancy.

Los Altos School District Measure A - Parcel Tax

ROV will certify election on November 20, 2023. There will be a 13-day canvass period for this election.

March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election - Currently in Signature in Lieu filing period from September 14, 2023, to November 8, 2023, and in County Central Committee Nominations Period (CCC) from September 29 to December 8, 2023.

**Upcoming election activities** - Declaration of Intention Period (Judicial Offices Only), and the Nominations Period (all offices including CCC and Judicial) begins November 13<sup>th</sup>, and closes by December 12<sup>th</sup>, should there be an extension period.

#### i. Language Access - Liz Oviedo, Ballot Layout Division Manager

The County produces official ballots in 9 different languages. Ballots are provided in different formats such as paper ballots, touch screen ballot marking devices, audio ballots, and remote accessible ballots. Audio ballots are recorded in every language with proofread content. Remote Accessible Vote by Mail system allows the voter to choose their language. All voters using RAVBM must download the return materials before being able to mark their ballot. RAVBM is 508 compliant and compatible with

most screen readers. County Voter Information Guides are available in all federal mandated languages. They are available in paper format, eBook and RAVBM. A voter may request translated materials on your affidavit, VARF, CVIG or contact the ROV directly. Language Access Awareness Day special gathering will be held November 2, 2023, hosted by the County, to celebrate the importance of language access for everyone.

ii. **November Special Election Ballots Report - Alfred Gonzales, Vote by Mail Division Manager**

Out of 83,810 registered voters, 85,201 ballots were issued, and 6,353 ballots have been returned so far.

iii. **National Voter Registration Day recap – Paulo Chang, Precinct Operations Division Manager**

The Registrar of Voters hosted this event at the PayPal headquarters on September 19, 2023. The event was hosted to promote and encourage voter registration, inspire first time voters and recruit volunteers. Santa Clara County Office of Education, African American Community Services Agency, LAAC and VAAC, SJSU Votes are a few from the 15 organizations that participated in the event.

iv. **March Presidential Primary Recruitment – Evelyn Mendez, Public & Legislative Affairs Division Manager**

A “Now Hiring Campaign” has begun for extra help. These are temporary positions. You can find these advertisements on flyers, social media, digital ads and at community outreach events. November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> the ROV will host an Election Job Fair from 12pm – 5pm in the auditorium. The Job Fair’s advertisement will inform applicants positions are temporary. Different divisions have different time periods of when they need people. For example, POD is looking for staff to work at Vote Centers. Vote Centers are open 10 days or 3 days before election day, so depending on where you are assigned to work, you may end up working 14 days or 7. Multiple divisions are recruiting currently. Several state petitions are being circulated at this time and once they are filed, we will need extra help staff to verify those state petitions. We need numerous bilingual extra help, people to help with the ballots and setting up the voting machines. We also have warehouse positions available and plenty of other opportunities.

A brail flyer is available with election information to share with the community. Voter Language Workshops will be provided for the remainder of this special election and this upcoming March election. “How to” videos are available on the YouTube channel in many languages including ASL. “Now Hiring” videos are also available in many languages on our YouTube channel. A tool kit is available for download to share with the community and groups. Voter Language Workshops will have its last meeting today. They will be uploaded onto our YouTube channel and are available in every language.

If a voter needs ASL assistance, the Vote Center will contact someone to assist the voter via smartphone. There is also another option of sending someone down to the vote center to assist.

v. **Evelyn Mendez, Public & Legislative Affairs Division Manager**

**Assembly Bill 545** - This bill increases the access for voters with disabilities, which our

County already provides.

**LAAC & VAAC-** Membership recruitments for the State committees is now happening. Applications are due November 10, 2023, for those who meet the requirements.

### III. Next steps

- i. Future meetings
  - a. January 2024
  - b. Future agenda items