

County of Santa Clara

Registrar of Voters

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Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting August 22, 2024 | 1:30-3:00 via Zoom

MINUTES

ROV Staff: Evelyn Mendez, Matt Moreles, Virginia Bloom, Claudia Gonzalez, Paulo Chang
Steve Goltiao

VAAC Members: Fred Nisen, Tricia Kokes, Sophie Horiuchi-Forrester

I. Introductions:

- **Sophie Horiuchi-Forrester (AARP)**

Matt Moreles, Acting Registrar of Voters, introduced himself to the group, spoke regarding the upcoming election and thanked the committee members for being a part of the ROV community.

II. Review and Approve Minutes

April 25, 2024, Minutes – Tricia Kokes moved to approve the minutes, and Fred Nisen seconded the motion.

III. Reports and Updates

i. **Candidates and Measures Update Presentation – Claudia Gonzales, Candidate Services Division Supervisor**

The nomination period was held from July 15 to August 9, 2024, and has now closed. Out of 293 candidates that pulled papers to run for office, 272 of them qualified for the ballot. A qualified list of local candidates can be found at www.vote.santaclaracounty.gov. The write-in candidacy period begins on September 9, 2024, and runs through October 22, 2024. There are a total of 31 local measures on this November's ballot. The rebuttal arguments filing deadline is today. Primary Arguments and Rebuttals are also posted on our website under "List of Local Measure".

ii. **Official Ballots and County Voter Information Guides (CVIG) – Evelyn Mendez, Public and Legislative Affairs Division Manager**

The Ballot Layout Division will produce the official ballots and County Voter Information Guides for this November's election. Ballot formats include bilingual optical scan paper ballots, touch screen marking devices, accessible audio ballots, and remote-accessible ballots.

Our County Voter Information Guides (CVIG) are available in the five federally mandated languages. These guides include candidate statements, measures, sample ballots, and other important election information. This election may consist of 4-6 double-sided ballot cards. We encourage all voters to participate in every contest and carefully review instructions. To request a ballot in your preferred language, please complete a Voter Action Request Form (VARF). You can find this form in the County Voter Information Guide, on our website, or at any vote center. Our website contains lots of resourceful information and translated Election information in 8 different languages.

Question: Fred asked if Remote Accessible Vote By Mail (RAVBM) voting is available for everyone.

Answer: Yes

iii. **Vote Center Updates – Paulo Chang, Precinct Operations Division Manager**

There are 106 Vote Centers for this November's election: 26 will be open for 11 days, and 80 will be open for 4 days. Please visit our website for updated information, as Vote Centers are subject to change. If you know of a facility that could be used as a Vote Center, please email us at Pollworker@rov.sccgov.org.

The Registrar of Voters is hiring poll workers through early October. We are looking to hire those who are fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Hindi, Korean, Japanese, Khmer, Punjabi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Napoli, Portuguese, Persian, Russian, Syria, and Thai.

October 16, 2024: Voter Accessibility Workshop from 2 PM to 4 PM.

Curbside Voting: We ask the VAAC members to reach out to their community for feedback on curbside voting. Email feedback to paulo.chang@rov.sccgov.org.

In the upcoming November election, a bell for curbside voting will be introduced. A large doorbell will be installed in front of the Vote Centers where cars enter. When the bell is rung, the staff inside the Vote Centers will be alerted that someone outside needs assistance. Additionally, a phone number for curbside assistance will be posted.

Question: Sophie asked if the curbside voting is available at all the voting sites.

Answer: Yes. It is available at each vote center, every day from October 26 through election day. Also available at the ROV office.

Question: Sophie asked if there are any areas in the county where you still need volunteers or workers.

Answer: Paulo stated that his team is looking for bilingual staff for the Eastside, North County, and South County. His team is specifically looking for bilingual staff for those areas.

iv. **Public and Legislative Affairs Update Election – Steve Goltiao, Associate Communications Officer**

The Registrar of Voters is advertising for the November Presidential Election in the following manners:

- Eastridge Mall
- Billboards: 880 SB, 101 E and McLaughlin
- VTA Buses
- Car Magnets
- Mobile Billboard Trucks
- Street Banners
- Now Hiring Videos

The Registrar of Voters is hosting a Media Day.

Media Day will be held on October 16th from 9 AM to 12 PM. During this event, Precinct Operations will set up a mock Vote Center to demonstrate the voting process. We invite LAAC and VAAC members to participate in the demonstration. If you're interested, please reach out to us.

Voter Accessibility Workshop will be held on the same date as the Media Day from 2 PM to 4 PM. Various divisions will demonstrate how to use accessibility equipment. Stay tuned to our social media channels for updates and help spread the word.

American Sign Language (ASL) services and bilingual staff will be available to assist with both events.

VAAC Outreach Opportunities:

At last year's National Voter Registration Day event that was held at PayPal headquarters, we had LAAC members inform and recruit several new members for their committee. We would like to invite any VAAC committee members interested in joining us to help with recruitment efforts for next month's National Voter Registration Day at San Jose State.

For accurate election information, follow us on social media. Stay updated by following us on YouTube, Instagram, Nextdoor, Facebook, and X @SCCVOTE.

IV. Next steps

i. **Future meetings**

- a. January 2025
- b. Future agenda items