

County of Santa Clara

Registrar of Voters

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Language Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting April 20, 2021 | 1:30-3:00 via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 940 4312 3676

<https://sccgov-org.zoom.us/j/94043123676>

Phone in: (669) 219-2599

Phone in: (669) 900-6833

ROV Staff: Evelyn Mendez, Virginia Bloom, Julia Saenz, Vanessa Hamm, Mike Fong, Alfred Gonzales, Bob Nguyen, Paulo Chang, Bren Lehr, Lillian Tsai, Janora Blow, Christina Rivas-Louie, Jose Posadas, Elenita Rudholm, Stephanie Duarte, Michael Borja, Maryann Casorla, Michelle Gutierrez, Kellie Siegel

Members: David Kim, Christopher Chin, Yeshi Tekle-Michael

Minutes

I. Review and approve minutes

i. January 19, 2021 minutes

- Motion to approve minutes by David Kim, seconded by Christopher Chin.

II. Reports and Updates

A. Special Election Update – May 4, 2021 (Alfred Gonzales, Vote by Mail Division Manager)

- a. Brief overview of the Special Mail Ballot Election for the Cupertino Union School District.
- b. There are 77,750 eligible voters for this election.
- c. 11,715 ballots have been received as of April 20, 2021.
- d. Overview of ballots received in various languages:
 - i. 10,759 English, 555 Chinese, 4 Hindi, 6 Japanese, 51 Korean, 10 Spanish, 1 Tagalog, 3 Thai, 23 Vietnamese

B. 8D2 Notification Card Design (Julia Saenz, Voter Registration Division Manager)

- a. 2225c card – Undeliverable & Out of State Mail Notice
 - i. Sent to voters whose records have been set to inactive due to returned mail. Action is required to avoid inactivation of voter's registration.

- b. 2225b card – In State Address Change Notice
 - i. Sent to voters whose address has been updated or whose address ROV updated upon notification from the post office that a voter’s address has changed. The notice is meant to confirm the address of a voter. The recipient does not need to act if the address listed is correct, but if the information is incorrect, the voter needs to fill out and return the notification card.
- c. ROV is requesting feedback from the advisory committees for redesign suggestions to improve response.
 - i. Member asked for a PDF copy to further review later. Member feels the lack in required responses may be due to voters needing to juggle many priorities in life rather than being a simple issue of looking to wordy or governmental.
 - ii. ROV to send PDF copies of cards to committee for review to provide feedback.
- d. Member asked if a voter would receive the 2225c or 2225b cards in their preferred language if they are registered in a specific 203 language?
 - i. ROV confirmed the card is available in federal languages only.
 - ii. ROV staff mentioned Elections Code does not always translate well.

C. Voters’ Rights Act (Virginia Bloom, Assistant Registrar of Voters)

- a. The Board of Supervisors (BOS) has asked ROV to develop a local version of the Voter’s Rights Act (VRA). The ROV is engaging with partners to solicit feedback on ways to enhance voter education and outreach, focusing on preregistration, re-entry community groups, language groups, and the un-housed.
- b. ROV will be presenting feedback and materials created to the BOS with a goal to have an ordinance or resolution to adopt a local VRA.

D. Potential Recall Election (Virginia Bloom, Assistant Registrar of Voters)

- a. A recall petition circulated throughout California to recall Governor Gavin Newsom. All Counties have a deadline to verify and submit the report of valid signatures to the Secretary of State (SOS) by the end of April.
- b. There will be an announcement from the SOS regarding whether the petition qualifies. If the petition qualifies, voters will have 30 days to withdraw their signatures if they choose to. The SOS will be doing outreach to inform voters of this option and ROV will also share that outreach effort with our community.
- c. If a recall election is called, the SOS will request a fiscal analysis of the cost of the special election. Since the county must pay for the recall election, the information will be publicly available.
- d. The election would be in November or early December if the recall moves forward.

E. Redistricting (Virginia Bloom, Assistant Registrar of Voters)

- a. The Census has announced a delayed release of data until 9/30/2021.

- b. The nomination period for the June Primary 2022 election begins December 16, 2021.
- c. ROV's Mapping Division will be working tirelessly to meet the redistricting deadlines for the June 2022 election.
- d. There is proposed legislation to extend the redistricting deadlines.
- e. The County Board of Supervisors has voted to create an independent advisory redistricting commission. ROV has been asked to participate. ROV will report on the progress at the next meeting.
- f. Member asked if the ROV is involved with local county redistricting only or if they are involved on a state level with the CA Citizens Redistricting Commission as well.
 - i. The ROV maintains maps of all districts within Santa Clara County. There are reporting requirements to the SOS.
- g. Member asked if it is within ROV's scope to work on outreach initiatives for collecting community engagement for the redistricting process.
 - i. Due to constricted time and ROV's current workload, advising local jurisdictions is not something ROV can provide as an additional service.

F. Language Accessibility (Paulo Chang, Precinct Operations Division Manager)

- a. Vote Centers offer language assistance in many different languages, even beyond Federal and State mandated requirements.
- b. Election Officers are needed in the following languages:
 - i. Gujarati, Japanese, Tagalog, Khmer, Korean, Nepali, Panjabi, Tamil, Telegu, Persian, Portuguese, Russian.
- c. ROV encourages LAAC members to reach out to their community members to help recruit bilingual persons who may be interested in working as an Election Officer or stipend worker in future elections. The POD team is reachable using the below information:
 - i. pollworker@rov.sccgov.org
 - ii. www.sccvote.org
 - iii. 408-299-POLL (7655)
 - iv. LAAC members can contact Paulo Chang at paulo.chang@rov.sccgov.org.

G. Go Green (Evelyn Mendez, Public and Legislative Affairs Division Manager)

- a. The Go Green campaign has been launched to encourage voters to opt-out on receiving the printed County Voter Information Guides (CVIG) and receive an electronic CVIG instead.
- b. To date 39,000 voters have opted to Go Green out of the County's 1 million registered voters. ROV has a goal to get 500,000 voters to Go Green.
- c. Outreach efforts include a press release, weekly posts on social media, and spreading the word through various partners.
- d. To Go Green is easy. The public can visit www.sccvote.org/gogreen or scan a QR code to enter their information to update their voter preference.
- e. PLA is in the process of creating a Tool Kit for partners to utilize. The Tool Kit will be shared with the LAAC for dissemination.

H. An Ethical Civic Imperative: Trust in Electoral Integrity (Guest speaker Dr. John Pelissero, Senior Scholar in Government Ethics, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University)

- a. Leading project on civic education to restore voter trust in the electoral system.
- b. Project consists of a series of short videos that aim to inform the public of the workings of the electoral process and how local and state election authorities ensure the integrity of the elections that they oversee.
- c. Contact Dr. John Pelissero if interested in contributing to the project.
 - i. jpelissero@scu.edu or 408-554-5319

I. Update to the Election Administration Plan (Vanessa Hamm, Policies and Procedures Division Manager)

- a. Elections Code requires review of the Election Administration Plan (EAP) 2 years after the implementation of Voters Choice Act (VCA) in the form of a public meeting.
- b. ROV requests members of the LAAC to be present and inquired on best days and time members would be available.
 - i. ROV noted Tuesday afternoons or evenings are best for LAAC members.

III. Next steps

- I. Future meeting key dates
 - i. **August 24, 2021**
- II. Future agenda items

Adjourned at 3:00pm.