

County of Santa Clara

Registrar of Voters

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Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

July 21, 2022, | 1:30-3:00 via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://sccgov-org.zoom.us/j/94707150689>

Meeting ID: 947 0715 0689

Phone in: (669) 219-2599

Phone in: (669) 900-6833

MINUTES

ROV Staff: Shannon Bushey, Paulo Chang, Christina Rivas-Louie, Steve Goltiao, Evelyn Mendez, Bren Lehr, Liz Oviedo, Alfred Gonzales, Tsai Fangchun, Grace Sullivan, Cathie Muego, Rocio Renteria, Aleiah Mims, Yi-Ling Chen, Vanessa Hamm, Matt Moreles, Smita Shah, Claudia Gonzales, Yael Juarez, Debbie Lam

Members: Lisa Quan, Fred Nisen

Mike Nguyen (High School Student) is in attendance, in hopes of becoming a VAAC member.

I. Review and approve minutes

A. April 21, 2022

- a. Minutes will be available during the next meeting.

II. Reports and Updates - ROV

A. Statewide Direct Primary Election Recap (Virginia Bloom, Assistant Registrar of Voters)

- i. Recap of the June 7, 2022, Statewide Direct Primary Election. Primary Election determined which candidates will appear on the November 8, 2022, General Election ballot. The only regular city scheduled was the City of San Jose. The City of San Jose is the only city out of 15 cities on the ballot.
- ii. The June election was the first-time voters would see the new redistricting information for all the districts line that has been drawn for many public offices based on the 2020 Census data that occurs every 10 years.
- iii. The June Primary Election had a 35.72% voter turnout. The top two candidates from the June Primary Election will be moved on to the November ballot. The June 7th Primary Election was certified on July 7th.

- a. Vote By Mail Stats (Alfred Gonzales, Vote by Mail Division Manager)
 - i. Alfred reporting on the June 7, 2022, Statewide Direct Primary Election Vote by Mail ballot report. Alfred informed that the VBM ballots were issued 1,010,106. Out of those issued, the return ballots were 346,969, and the ballots cast at the Vote Centers were 15,797. The total VBM challenged ballots were 4,296.
 - ii. Alfred gave a report on the Vote by Mail ballots challenged statistics. This includes no voter signatures, none-matching signatures, the ballot was not received on time, and the ballot missing from the envelope.
 - iii. Remote Accessible Vote by Mail System (RVBM) originally created for voters with disabilities, and overseas voters is now available in California to all voters. Alfred gave an additional update on ballots issued per language and ballots returned. Added that if a voter requested a language, they would automatically get a language-specific from what language they requested.
 - iv. Questions?
 - i. Fred asked: For RVBM, how many ballots were returned?
 - ii. Alfred responded: 124 voters who used RVBM.

- b. Vote Center Report (Paulo Chang, Precinct Operations Division Manager)
 - i. Re-cap provide by Paulo on Vote Centers for the June Primary Election. Informed members that in-person voter check-ins were available at 101 vote centers, there were a total of 15,801 check-ins. The biggest voting age group for this election was 45 to 64. All the English ballots counted for Vote Centers were 14,936. The top three non-English ballot language requests: are Vietnamese (396), Spanish (239), and Chinese (171). The least requested language ballot was Japanese (2).
 - ii. Paulo discussed the voting method at the Vote Centers, more than 50% of those voters selected to vote by touch screen, so over 8,616 voters opted for electronic voting. Out of those, 7,176 were asked to vote on the paper ballot. Vote Centers provided curbside voting to everyone who comes to vote in person. This gives voters the option to vote in the comfort of their vehicles. Only 3 voters asked for curbside voting. Overall, in total 15,801 check-ins at Vote Centers. Paulo informed that these numbers given are preliminary and members will be able to see the final numbers once the Election results are certified.
 - iii. Discussed the importance of hiring and certifying of election officers. The state requires that everyone who wants to work at a vote center is certified. Classes are provided with full training and are required to attend. Stipend classes are also provided for stipend workers who take on the role of greeters. There was a total of 520 monolingual staff/election officers who spoke English and 672 who spoke a variety of languages.
 - iv. For the June 7 Primary Election there were 101 Voter Centers. Paulo informed that there were two major (not Vote Center specific) security incidents where SJPD was involved, the Vote Center closed momentarily and then re-opened for voting. It did not keep voters from voting, voters were directed to nearby Vote Centers or returned later.

Paulo encourages LAAC members to reach out and help spread the word to their community to help recruit workers for the November 8, 2022, General Election. (Extra Help, Volunteer, and High School Students).

- v. POD will be hosting a variety of language workshops aimed at educating all members of the community about the upcoming November 8, General Election. The workshops will be offered in thirteen languages and members can find the information at: <https://sccvote.sccgov.org/get-involved/outreach#1849274314-4175360803>
- vi. Question?
 - a. Fred Asked: How does curbside voting work at vote centers?
 - b. Paulo Responded: For the touch screen, we have mobile carts to which the touch screen is attached.
 - c. Fred Asked: Does the voter language workshop focus on accessibility?
 - d. Paulo Responded: We do not have one that is specified in terms of accessibility. We can work together with VAAC members to do another workshop specific to accessibility.
 - e. Mike Nguyen Asked: In terms of accessibility, how are we able to provide transportation for people with disabilities?
 - f. Paulo Responded: Unfortunately, we cannot connect someone with that sort of transportation. What we can do is bring the ballots to those who cannot come to us. The Vote by Mail division provides emergency services to voters.
- vii. Input from Lisa Cohn:
 - a. Member Lisa provided information on Media Day. Informed that other disabled communities receive information and process things differently. Suggesting that the ROV and VAAC members can work together to implement other ways to reach out to different communities.
 - b. Shannon added that the ROV is open to new ideas.
 - c. Member Lisa added that the joystick provided to accessible voting machines could have been designed better. The members would like to approach Paulo with new ideas on training ideas for people who need accessibility when it comes to voting.
- c. Candidate Filing (Bren Lehr, Candidate Services Division Manager)
 - i. Bren informed members of the key dates and deadlines for candidates that wish to file for office. The nomination period started on July 18 and runs through August 12, 2022. If an incumbent does not file, then that contest will be extended for another five days through August 17.
 - ii. ROV will hold a randomized alphabet drawing to determine the order of candidates that will appear on the ballot that will occur on August 18th at 11:00 a.m.
- d. Redistricting (Bob Nguyen, GIS Mapping Division Manager)
 - ii. The new district lines may affect which candidates and contests appear on your ballot beginning with the November 8, 2022, General Election. Your ballot may not look the same - candidates may have changed as district lines have changed. The ROV has a display in the Atrium to help voters learn more about redistricting. The information is open to the public and voters. To find your new district numbers go to rovservices.sccgov.org and click on "Look up Your District".

B. Accessible Voting Resources (Voter Registration Division)

- i. The ROV has recently mailed out a voter accessibility resources letter explaining what resources the ROV makes available to voters. Voters have accessible resources options such as touch screen ballot machines, Remote Accessible Vote by Mail Ballot, County Voter Information Guide, audio County Voter Information Guide, and Curbside Voting. The letter was translated into all mandated languages.

C. November Election (Virginia Bloom, Assistant Registrar of Voters)

- i. Information on the November Election. The ROV certified the June Election on July 7th. The November election will include the top two runoff candidates from the primary election for the state offices.
- ii. Liz Ovideo added that the ROV will continue publishing the disability rights of California information page in the County Voter Information Guides.

D. Advertising and Media Day (Evelyn Mendez, Public and Legislative Affairs Division Manager)

- i. Recap on advertising for the June 7 Election. Advertising is done on shopping carts in different languages, billboards, Bus Ads, gas stations, newspaper print, digital, radio, Facebook ads, and Tv. All our ads the ROV gets translated into different languages. How To Videos: Our YouTube channel has all our how to videos in all languages and in ASL. ROV had a partnership with the San Jose Sharks. ROV has official social media accounts: Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Next door. The ROV is constantly posting content for voters to be informed about election information.
- ii. Recap on Media Day, an event held at the ROV. Open to the media and public for a demo on voting machines available for voters.
- iii. As mentioned before, the ROV is currently hiring election workers for the November 8, 2022, General Election.

III. Next steps

- I. Future meetings
 - I. **September 22, 2022**

Adjourned at 3:05 p.m.