

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 95161-360
(408) 299-VOTE (8683) (866) 430-VOTE (8683) FAX: (408) 998-7314
www.sccvote.org



Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting April 22, 2021 | 1:30-3:00 via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://sccgov-org.zoom.us/j/97299010439>

Meeting ID: 972 9901 0439

Phone in: (669) 219-2599

Phone in: (669) 900-6833

ROV Staff: Evelyn Mendez, Virginia Bloom, Alfred Gonzales, Julia Saenz, Paulo Chang, Vanessa Hamm, Liz Oviedo, Mike Fong, Bren Lehr, Bob Nguyen, Michelle Gutierrez, Jose Posadas, Fangchun Tsai, Stephanie Duarte, Christina Rivas-Louie, Janora Blow, Natalie Goolsby, April Bracamonte, Kellie Siegel, and Martin Weakley

Members: Christine Fitzgerald, Maya Bareket, Tricia Kokes, John Pelissero, Jennifer Lucas, Melanie Roland, Fred Nisen, and Christina Gianola

Minutes

I. Introduction of new members

- a. Review of rules and regulations of the committee.
 - i. Evelyn Mendez introduced new members Melanie Roland and John Pelissero.

II. Review and approve meeting minutes

- a. January 21, 2021
 - i. Motion to approve minutes by Tricia Kokes, seconded by Maya Baraket.

III. Review of May 4, 2021, Cupertino Union School District mail ballot special election (Alfred Gonzales, Vote by Mail Manager)

- a. A brief overview of the special election and the locations of droboxes. The special election has about 77,000+ voters.

IV. 8D2 Notification Card design (Julia Saenz, Voter Registration Division Manager)

- a. A presentation and brief overview of 2225b and 2225c notification cards was made. We are in process of redesigning the forms that notify the voter of a change of address received by ROV and are asking the committee for feedback on design of the cards.
- b. Feedback and questions by committee members.
 - i. If you are getting reports back from the postal service, how can you contact the voter if they are no longer at the address? Ms. Saenz responded that our office would cancel their registration if they do not notify us, but we do receive a lot of responses stating that they still live at the same address.
 - ii. Suggestion to include some visual cues, symbols, icons to different parts of the form.
 - iii. Suggestion to assess the design of the cards in case a person reading is colorblind. The addition of symbols or icons may resolve that issue.

- c. Action Items.
 - i. Email cards to committee to review and provide additional feedback.

V. Voters' Rights Act (Virginia Bloom, Assistant Registrar of Voters)

- a. Brief overview of the creation of a local Voters' Rights Act, which is a suggestion by the Board of Supervisors and focuses on community outreach for people requiring pre-registration, re-entry into communities, language groups, and the un-housed.
- b. Feedback and comments by committee members.
 - i. Members expressing interest with joining the VRA committee.
- c. Action Items.
 - i. Email information to committee members for opportunities.

VI. Potential Recall Election of Governor Gavin Newsom (Virginia Bloom, Assistant Registrar of Voters)

- a. Petitions have been submitted and there is the potential statewide recall election this year. The deadline to verify and submit the report of valid signatures to the Secretary of State (SOS) is this week. There will be an announcement from the SOS whether or not the petition qualifies and move forward. If the petition qualifies, voters will be notified of the 30-day period for voters to withdraw their signatures if they choose to and that information will also be posted on our website.
- b. There is a possible election date for late November or early December. A nomination period will also be required.
- c. More info will be disseminated on our website and social media.
- d. Questions and comments:
 - i. Does the governor have one year left?
 - Yes, the governor is up for re-election June of 2022.
 - ii. How long would the new governor have if Governor Newsome is recalled?
 - The new governor would assume the remaining portion of the term of the office.
 - iii. There is the possibility of other petitions and special elections before the end of the year as well relating to school board recalls and potential initiatives.

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

- a. The Census will not be able to release their data until late September of this year. The redistricting data will most likely be delayed and affect the nomination period for the June 2022 primary. The nomination period begins on December 16, 2021 for that election.
- b. The ROV will be joining a redistricting working group.
- c. Questions.
 - i. Is this a normal amount of recall petitions that you are receiving?
 - This has been an increase in recall petitions. We currently have 9 where usually we have 1 or 2 per year.
 - ii. What is the turnaround for completing the process?
 - It depends on the size of the jurisdiction. There needs to be at least 10 voters of the district that need to sign the Notice of Intention in order for the process to move forward. When the petition is filed, we have 30 working days to conduct the signature verification and report back. An election will have to be called within 130 days from when the petition qualifies.
 - iii. Has there been announcement of the certification of the Governor Recall Election?
 - Not at this time, but there will be a statement made by the SOS and the County ROVs.

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

- a. Brief presentation on the 14 supported languages, processes of Vote Centers, different languages for ballots, and the difficulty of hiring staff that know languages that are able to work for 11 days at our Vote Centers.
- b. The ROV is requesting assistance from the LAAC/VAAC community in recruitment.
 - i. Is there anyone you know that can work and are bi-lingual in the following languages?
 - Gujarati
 - Japanese
 - Tagalog
 - Khmer
 - Korean
 - Nepali
 - Panjabi
 - Tamil
 - Telegu
 - Persian
 - Portuguese
 - Russian
- c. ROV contact information
 - i. pollworker@rov.sccgov.org
 - ii. Paulo.chang@rov.sccgov.org.
 - iii. 408-299-POLL
- d. Questions and comments
 - i. Does the ROV offer sign language?
 - We recommend giving notice to the ROV for any request in sign language. If there are any requests, we will accommodate to provide cellphones with facetime and connect to one of our county American Sign Language vendors.
 - We also post information of what languages are offered at specific vote centers.
 - ii. If there is someone needing sign language how long does it take to get somebody to facetime?
 - The amount of time is unknown as we have not yet had to do that.
 - iii. Suggestion to provide ASL as a gold standard and should be one of the mandated languages. ASL allows for all inclusivity.
 - Committee member to provide list of vendors that can provide ASL Languages.
 - iv. Is it possible to add the language Hebrew to the list?
 - The SOS is in charge of providing a report of which languages are federally and state mandated.

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

- a. Presentation of What is the ROV Go Green Campaign?
 - i. The Go Green Campaign goal is to educate voters about the option to opt out of receiving their printed County Voter Information Guide by mail. The voter that opts out will receive and be able to access an electronic version of the County Voter Information Guide. This will aid in saving paper and decreasing the costs for the county. The paperless CVIGs are also 508 compliant.
 - ii. Go Green website, www.sccvote.org/gogreen.
 - iii. Requesting committee to share and opt out.

X. 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. Presentation about the goals and projects of the program with the effort to restore trust in our elections. They are seeking advice and comments about whether or not the project has value and how they may improve what they are proposing to do.
- b. Comments and questions
 - i. What is the timeline to get started and when will videos be released?
 - The first step is to find partners and funding for production and distribution of materials with a timeline as early as Fall of 2021.
 - ii. What does helping with the project entail?
 - They would be looking for help with the content and the way the media will be presented in terms of accessibility.
 - iii. Members of the VAAC have expressed interest in helping and promoting the project.
 - iv. How do we get involved with the videos?
 - Information and the types of assistance will be shared in the production of the videos, podcasts, and materials.

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

- a. Review of what the Election Administration Plan is. We are planning to schedule a meeting for the public to review and comment on the updated Election Administration Plan.
- b. Questions and comments.
 - i. Are there any dates for people on the committee?
 - Thursdays are recommended.
 - Suggestion to use survey monkey.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm.