

County of Santa Clara

Registrar of Voters

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Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting April 27, 2023, | 1:30-3:00 via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://sccgov-org.zoom.us/j/96782724935>

Meeting ID: 967 8272 4935

Phone in: (669) 219-2599

Phone in: (669) 900-6833

ROV Staff: Paulo Chang, Michael Borja, Steve Goltiao, Liz Oviedo, Shannon Bushey, Alfred Gonzales, Bren Lehr, Debbie Lam, Fernando Perez, Delfino Isais, Julia Saenz, Lillian Tsai, Christina Rivas-Louie, Rachel Cayabyab, Bob Nguyen, David Torres, Amy Nguyen, Jennifer Kim, Gemmalyn Hipolito, Anazay Rivera, Vikas Moudgil, Shirley Wang, Su Young Bae, April Bracamonte, Chantha Ouk

VAAC Committee Members: Lisa Quan, Chris Fitzgerald, Tricia Kokes, Melanie Roland, Matthew Cohn

Minutes

I. Review and Approve Minutes

A. Introductions

B. January 26, 2023 minutes. Tricia Kokes moves to approve. Chris Fitzgerald seconds.
Minutes are approved.

II. Reports and Updates

A. VAAC membership recruitment (Steve Goltiao – Associate Communications Officer, Public & Legislative Affairs)

a) State VAAC

State VAAC is always recruiting members. It is required by law for them to have at least 15 members. State LAAC and VAAC currently only have 9 members. They are required to have at least 3 elections officials, which they already have. State VAAC meets over videoconference. They are required to meet 4 times/year.

Website for Secretary of State VAAC:

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/vaac>

Secretary of State VAAC email: VAAC@sos.ca.gov

Chris Fitzgerald: Asked that we send this information out via email.

b) County LAAC and VAAC need new members

Let people in your organizations know we are looking for members. We will share a flyer with a QR code that links to our LAAC/VAAC webpage so you can fill out the application and join.

Shannon Bushey: we are also encouraging members with disabilities to join, which can provide insight for ongoing improvements for accessibility.

B. VAAC Committee Help Requested (Paulo Chang, Precinct Operations Manager)

- a) Active Communities Wanted** - Identify organizations who are active in their community. The more we can have the community help us out, the better it is for the county. Please inform organizations that might want to be a part of our committees.
- b) Identify communities who can host Voter Language Workshop.** We have 13 Voter Language Workshops. We do have a 14th one, which is the Voter Accessibility Workshop, in both English and Spanish. We will be planning the schedule for these workshops soon. Please help us spread the word and invite more people to join us. If you would like to invite us to speak at your meetings or host one of these Voter Language Workshops, all we ask is that you make it public to everyone, and we would need to have a feed (e.g. Zoom). If you know of any new communities, please let us know.
- c) Help us find more participants to LAAC, VEOC and VAAC meetings.** VEOC is about to get started in the next couple of months. We'd like to start planning for the summer and for the beginning for the school year. That is to get kids that are 16 and up interested in elections, pre-registered, and get 18-year-old students ready to vote for the March Primary.
- d) Bilingual volunteers** – we have volunteers in the office, at Vote Centers. We had to hire volunteers to do translations and host our Voter Language Workshops, and they ended up helping at the Vote Centers. Please help us find more volunteers.

Lisa Quan: She offered to host Voter Language Workshops at Vista Center. For Vietnamese and Spanish speaking groups, she has 2 events per year. She will email information to Paulo.

Tricia Kokes: Would like to work the November 2023 Special Election and asks if she needs to apply again.

Paulo Chang: Yes, you will need to apply again, but we will reach out to you directly to make sure you apply. That election will be on November 7. As of now, it is specific to an area in San Jose, but if it grows, we will need all of you to help us out.

Tricia Kokes: I'm also on the board of the Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, so they may be able to host the ROV.

Chris Fitzgerald: Suggested we reach out to Project Hired.

Shannon Bushey: Suggests assigning a homework assignment to all members, requesting they provide a list of potential organizations for the VAAC to partner with.

Michael Borja: Will add contact email for suggestions in the follow up email.

C. Elections in 2023 and 2024 (Bren Lehr, Candidate Services Division Manager)

a) Upcoming 2023 Elections

1. July 25, 2023 Special Landowner Election (Mail Ballot)

Called by Pacheco Pass Water District (cross-county district with lead county being San Benito). Election is for landowners, not registered voters. Nomination period is April 4 – 28.

2. August 29, 2023 Special Election (Mail Ballot)

No districts have called the election. If they were to call, they would need to submit a resolution by April 22 to ensure a full nomination period, or by June 2 to file a resolution to call a measure election.

3. November 7, 2023 Special Election (Vote Center and mail ballot election)

Has only called by San Jose-Evergreen Community College District. If any other jurisdictions decide to call an election, they have until July 5 to ensure a full nomination period for candidates and Aug. 11 to get on ballot to call a measure election. Nomination period is July 17 – Aug 11

b) 2024 Elections

1. Statewide (Presidential) Election Dates

- a. March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary (Vote Center Voting)
- b. November 5, 2024 Presidential General (Vote Center Voting)

2. Mail Ballot Election Dates

- a. April 9, 2024 Special Election
- b. May 7, 2024 Special Election
- c. August 27, 2024 Special Election
- d. We will have more information as the elections get closer.

D. Remote Access Vote by Mail (Alfred Gonzales, Vote by Mail Manager)

RAVBM is not only available to military, overseas, and voters with disabilities, it is open to everyone in Santa Clara County. We have resources online, videos, and PowerPoint presentation showing how to use RAVBM, but we would like to do more voter education and awareness. We are collaborating with Precinct Operations to help spread the word.

Tricia Kokes: Can you include a link to the volunteer application in the follow up email?

Michael Borja: I will add that link in the email.

Shannon Bushey: We will be looking at additional social media and information regarding accessibility to provide more emphasis on the topic. Our goal is to find new members with disabilities that can provide more insight to what they need before the Primary Election.

Liz Oviedo: The ROV has been busy following all legislation, that we make sure that if some legislation PASSES, we implement that. For example, last year, AB1416 passed, which requires us to add additional information to ballot measures on the ballot and the county voter information guide.

E. High School Voter Education Weeks (Evelyn Mendez, Public & Legislative Affairs Manager)

Started yesterday for the entire state. We are trying to boost our numbers in Santa Clara County. We are trying to get to 10,000 youth this year. In the last presidential election, we had over 8000 17-year-olds that aged up and were eligible to vote in that election. We have videos on our social media, we have video that shows a young person pre-registering to vote (less than 5 minutes). It is a quick process but very important. We are in the top 5 in California for pre-registration. We are #1 in Northern California for registered voters, and we need everyone's help to get to 10,000 pre-registered youth.

F. Follow us on our socials @sccvote

- a) Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, NextDoor, LinkedIn.
- b) We have a podcast – Election Connection – found on all podcast directories.

Paulo Chang: If you know of any organizations that specialize in working with youth, let us know. We can go meet them, do pre-registration, and conduct workshops.

Link to outreach page: <https://sccvote.sccgov.org/get-involved/outreach#1849274314-1128479858>

Lisa Quan: We have teachers that are visually impaired that work with students. She will chat with her boss to discuss how to work together.

Shannon Bushey: (To Matt Cohn) At the State VAAC, she brought up their discussion about recruiting members that have disabilities to give their point of view. She wanted him to be aware that she did bring up his ideas at the State VAAC.

Steve Goltiao: We will be sending the follow up email with important information, contact emails, links, and homework assignment. Please consider sharing any ideas, organizations, people who can help us get the word out about the VAAC.

III. Next Steps

A. Future meetings

- a) July 2023
- b) October 2023
- c) Future agenda items