

# Fresno County VAAC Meeting Minutes

## Wednesday, 10/17/18 11:00 AM



### Location:

Resources for Independence Central Valley Conference Room  
2940 N. Fresno St. Fresno, CA 93703

The Meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM with the following members present: Charity Tokash, Marilu Jimenez, Rosaura Barajas, Vidal Medina, James Kus, Tommie Tahami, Susan Coulter, Mark Oda, Mai Thao, Katie Moua, and Douglas Loera

After introductions were made, a review of the minutes from the previous VAAC meeting on April 26, 2018 was completed and accepted by the committee.

### Accessibility Focused Training for Precinct Officers

James spoke about how Fresno County trains their Precinct Officers for Election Day. They are required to attend a 2 hour training prior to Election Day, which James has set up and leads. There are two types of classes: one for Clerks and one for Inspectors. For the Clerks, there is approximately 80 minutes of Lecture and 40 minutes of Hands-on. The Inspector training covers approximately 50 minute lecture and 70 minutes of Hands-on, as they are more experienced.

The Lecture portion of training covers how to interact with voters and how to look for and address any potential issues regarding physical accessibility at our polling locations. Impairment Aids are to be placed on the check-in table for those that do need those materials (i.e. magnifying sheet or ballot pen with the additional grip). The need and usage of the Red Mitigation Binders is also discussed and emphasized in training.

The Hands-on parts of the class contains approximately 15-25 minutes of training that is focused primarily on Accessibility, including a mock-version of how to help voters on Election Day as a Precinct Officer and how to operate the TSX Tablets for those voter that need access to the machine.

### TSX Machines

James continued to discuss the usage of the TSX machines. 266 machines were sent to polling places in Fresno County for the June election. They are designed to allow independent voting for persons with a range of visual limitations. They can be somewhat lacking in further functionality to assist voters that need assistance beyond visual impairments. Newer machines, which we are looking in to getting for future elections, will have greater features to help with accessibility.

In the June election, there was a fairly high number of reported issues than past elections. We have taken the experiences that we have for the election and taken corrective action to avoid any potential issues.

## **Fresno County VAAC Meeting Minutes**

### **Wednesday, 10/17/18 11:00 AM**

#### **Status of Fresno County Potentially Transitioning to Vote Centers**

Next major election after November 2018 will be the March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020 Presidential Primary, as CA moved up their primary from June for Presidential Elections.

It is still undecided at the moment whether Fresno County will be switching over to the Voter's Choice Act (VCA) model by then. We will be looking at the reports out of Madera County and Sacramento County for the June 2018 and November 2018 Elections, along with the bids for the RFP that we have open for new Voting machines/systems. It will be decided by next year whether we are going to switch over or not. James stated that he may be going out to Madera or Sacramento within the week before the election to preview how their Vote Centers are set up.

#### **November 2018 election, ADA Surveys and Red Mitigation Binders**

For the November 6<sup>th</sup> election, there will be 419 physical voting precincts at a total of 268 polling places across Fresno County.

Douglas discussed the efforts by County staff to help ensure that all 268 places are accessible, and if they are not what efforts we have made to make them useable. Starting in late July, Fresno County Clerk has completed 102 ADA Surveys using the Polling Place Accessibility Checklist put out by the CA SOS. 7 of the places that we surveyed were for locations that have never before been used as a Polling Place. 2 of these locations were not accessible, and are therefore not being used. Remaining 95 ADA Surveys were to update our records for the other polling places.

Douglas discussed the Red Mitigation Binder for Biola Congregational Church. An updated ADA Survey was completed on 08-10-2018 and pictures were shown comparing the last survey completed in 03/2014 and what it looks like now. 7 cones and a Van Accessible Sign will be sent to block off the Van Accessible space, as the lines have faded with time. 2 cones to warn of the water fountain and a ramp for the door threshold will also be utilized on Election Day.

Vidal then asked if we send the information as to which locations are Accessible and which we send mitigation supplies. Douglas informed Vidal that it does state on the County Voter Information Guide which places are Accessible, meaning no mitigation supplies are sent, and Useable, meaning some mitigation supplies are sent to the location to make it Accessible for Election Day.

#### **Remote Access Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM) ballots and Accessible County VIG**

Douglas discussed the evolution of Remote Access Vote-by-Mail ballots in California. AB 2252 was passed in 2016 allowing the CA Secretary of State to review and certify Remote Access Vote by Mail systems which are a requirement for those counties that use the Vote Center Model. Fresno County currently has, through the vendor Democracy Live, in place a system for Military Overseas (UOCAVA) voters and for the Accessible County Voter Information Guide online. Douglas then completed a demonstration of the Accessible County Voter Information Guide found through the voter lookup on the Fresno County Clerk's website ([www.FresnoVote.com](http://www.FresnoVote.com)).

## **Fresno County VAAC Meeting Minutes**

### **Wednesday, 10/17/18 11:00 AM**

Douglas discussed the future of Remote Access Vote-by-Mail ballots in California. AB 1013 was signed this year by Governor Brown that require all counties, whether they are under the Vote Center Model or not, to have a Remote Access Vote-by-Mail system in place for all elections starting in 2020.

Douglas described the RAVBM model as follows: if a voter states that they have a disability and need access to an accessible ballot to our office, then they can go online and Fresno County will ensure that there is a system in place that an accessible ballot be made available to them. Once on a secure server, the voter will be provided a ballot that can be read by a screen reader or a voter can zoom in. The voter will then have to print out the ballot, fill it out, and mail it back to us. James discussed why mailing it in is needed, as faxing and email is not considered secure enough to transmit.

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 AM**