



County of Fresno

COUNTY CLERK/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
BRANDI L. ORTH

Fresno County VAAC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 07/09/2019 11:00 AM

Location

Fresno County Elections Training Facility
4525 E Hamilton Ave
Fresno, CA 93702

Attendance

The Meeting was called to order at 11:11AM with the following members present: Marilu Jimenez, Sarah Harris, Charity Tokash, Brandi Orth, Cindy Lee, Russell Chappell, Yonas Paulos, Douglas Loera, Christopher Anderson, Susan Coulter, Shannon Mulhall, Valarie Cooper, Dennis Jeppson, James Kus, Mark Oda, Krista DelaTorre, Paul Spencer, Glenna Gamel, Matthew Lambert, Patrick Ibares, Felix N-C, Laura Ornelas, Gunner McDaniel, Trinity Hunter, Caleb Gee, Raynel Bell, Taisheona Mcalister, Terra Var, and Celeste Martin.

Review of Minutes

After introductions were made, Sarah asked if all participants had a chance to review the minutes from the previous VAAC meeting on May 9th, 2019. There were no requests to read the minutes aloud. A motion was brought forward by Dennis to

accept the minutes, seconded by Glenna, and accepted by the committee without objection.

Review of Surveys by County Elections Staff

The floor was turned over to Valarie Cooper who went over the processes of what the county looks at for an ADA Survey. The checklist that is used is provided by the CA Secretary of State, an example was passed around. Valarie reviewed the different tools that are used, and emphasized that while we do take consideration of the numbers in the process of conducting the survey, we also look at real world application to see how an elderly or disabled voter would navigate the parking, path of travel, and voting on Election Day.

Overview of ADA Compliance Team on Elec. Day

The floor was then turned over to Russ Chappell who discussed the Red Mitigation Binders that are developed using the information provided by the ADA surveys to help modify the polling locations on Election Day to make the locations more accessible for all voters. The Red Mitigation Folders and recommended equipment are sent to the polling place by staff or to the Precinct Officers. Then on Election Day, Russ, as part of the ADA Team, goes out to visit as many of the polling locations to make sure that Precinct Officers adhere by the Mitigation Binders and adapt to any situations that a location might encounter.

Comments from Celeste with CVRC

After Russ had finished, Celeste Martin from the Central Valley Regional Center presented some comments from the last election. Celeste noted that it can be difficult to locate the signs at a polling location as well as to understand what the signs

mean. Education about what the signs mean to community groups would help those with cognitive impairments to better understand what to look for when they go to a location to vote. Celeste continued, explaining that the use of pictures as well as words would better help those with a cognitive impairment know where to go or what to look for, both at the polling location or say on a bus on the way to a location, etc. Brandi showed interest that the County will make better effort, and would like to work with CVRC in the development of those signs.

Vote Center Staff Training

James then discussed some the changes to training with the new Vote Center model. At the moment with the polling place model, there is limited time available to emphasis on accessibility, about 30 minutes out of a 2 hour training class. With the new model, we will have expanded training and be able to emphasize accessibility, by learning some of the tools that we have learned from other counties such as the Contra Costa APPLE Program. This program emphasizes what those voters with disabilities might experience on Election Day, and going into the why we care about accessibility and allowing all voters to vote privately and independently. We will adopt some of the program to improve our training to workers at the vote centers.

Vote Center Workshop Planning

Charity discussed the plan for the elections office to conduct workshops that is in the EAP. She then discussed the event NVRA celebration happening with RICV on July 19th, 2019, in which there will be many opportunities for voter education, voter registration, and different workshops available.

Review of latest EAP Draft

The floor was turned over to Brandi to discuss the Elections Administration Plan (EAP). The EAP is on the website, and discusses the plan for the elections office for voter education on the changes that are coming about. EAP consultation meetings will be conducted throughout the County to discuss the plan with the voters. The last meeting will be August 14th, in which we will then send the final EAP to the CA Secretary of State. The EAP includes plans to reach out to various community groups for voter education. We also have plans for materials being developed by a media consultant that we are planning to bring to the VAAC when available. On top of this, the County has worked with the three bus systems in Fresno County to provide free bus service for voters when the vote centers are open.

Review of new RAVBM system

Nysen then discussed the Remote Accessible Vote-By-Mail system that will be implemented in 2019. An application was developed by the office for voters to apply to be an RAVBM voter. At every election, the elections office will then send the link as an email. A voter will then have access to our RAVBM system by entering their name and date of birth online from the link provided. A demo was conducted on the screen. The voter can use their own screen reader to navigate through the website and vote. After the voter has voted, they will then print out the ballot created and mail it in to our office. It will then be treated the same as a regular vote by mail ballot. The application will be available on the website. Sarah suggested that the form be fillable on the computer from the Elections website.

Topics and date for next meeting

It was generally agreed that the next meeting should be held on September 12th, 2019 at 11:00 AM at the Elections Warehouse Training Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Post-meeting

After the meeting, Douglas conducted a demonstration of the new ICX Ballot Marking Device for those that wished to test it out.