



County of Fresno

COUNTY CLERK/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
BRANDI L. ORTH

Fresno County VAAC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 09/12/2019 11:00 AM

Location

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

Attendance and Introductions

The Meeting was called to order at 11:05 AM with the following members present: Glenna Gammel, Angela Delgado, Gloria Ayala, Charity Tokah, Brandi Orth, Susan Anderson, Cody Dixon, Tyler Bozsum, Sarah Harris, Yonas Paulos, Mike Bustamante, Cindy, Lee, James Kus, Vidal Medina, Russ Chappell, Valarie Cooper, and Marilu Jimenez.

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

Education and Outreach Update

The floor was turned over to Cody Dixon, a media consultant for the Elections office. Cody discussed the projects that Southwest Strategies is working on, including a Frequently-Asked-Questions (FAQ) sheet and a Public Service Announcement (PSA). The Elections office was chosen by the local media non-profit organization CMAC to produce a PSA to provide to local media to inform the public about the change to Vote Centers, with James Kus providing the voice. While it is not ready yet, it will be debuted soon.

They are also working on a Voter's Choice Act (VCA) toolkit to provide to community organizations to prepare them in how to get the word out about the changes to the elections process. Cody also presented the final logo and flyer for the VAAC, having a discussion with Sarah about the accessibility of the format.

Brandi introduced that the elections office will be doing a couple of upcoming parades, including the Kerman Harvest Parade on Saturday, and another in Caruthers in a couple of weeks. The discussion continued regarding the Social Media plan. With Cody's help, the elections office will be creating their own social media pages separate from the County of Fresno to put out election specific outreach materials, which has to go through a process due to it being for a governmental agency.

Amended Draft EAP Update

The discussion was handed to Susan who discussed the Amended Draft of the EAP, which at the time was under the 14-day public comment period. The public comment period will end on September 20th. After that, if any changes are made, then

another 14 day public comment period will commence, otherwise it will be submitted to the California Secretary of State for comment/approval. A version of the EAP was sent out by James that had any changes since the last publication highlighted in yellow.

Susan then expounded upon the EAP, specifically the Vote Center locations. The EAP states that the county will have at least 50 Vote Centers, which under our current understanding may be a couple more than 50. Susan also explained some of the methodologies of how the elections office can better serve the voters with our Vote Centers. Charity brought up a couple of potential Vote Center locations in which the elections staff showed interest to follow up with.

Comments about American Sign Language

Vidal asked about assistance in American Sign Language (ASL) at the locations. Charity and James discussed about the lack of census data and a push for coverage with the State. Vidal asked about if a request for accommodation was made to provide an ASL interpreter at a Vote Center. Brandi stated that language assistance will be provided in the languages given to Fresno County by the CA Secretary of State. There was a bit further discussion about the potential for a visual medium to provide assistance, but guidance would need to come from the CA SOS.

Vote Center Workshop Development

James then discussed how once the EAP has been completed, and approved by the CA SOS, the County Elections department will then shift its focus to Education and Outreach. The plan is to have a workshop at the Elections Warehouse Training Room, available all day long. A Vote Center model will be set up in the

room to experience what a voter would go through during the actual election. There is a need to schedule a day in the future when there are not conflicting dates with any other major events, and can hopefully get involvement from as many community groups that are available. After discussion, it was agreed that the January 14th would be ideal, right before having the January VAAC meeting on the 16th. Also, the hours of 9 am to 3:30 pm was agreed upon. Charity emphasized that the workshop being a live Vote Center and make sure that the groups can register to vote right at the workshop, by paper or electronically.

Public Transportation and Vote Centers

A copy of the map showing the current potential Vote Centers and the Fresno Area Express (FAX) and Clovis Roundup bus lines. Shown on the map, the office attempted to place as many of the Vote Centers available that are on a transit line. The data was pulled directly from the bus lines, but may not be the more up-to-date information. Vidal stated that para-transit (Handy Ride) must also be considered, which are for locations outside of $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of a bus stop, with the Vote Center locations.

Mobile Pop-up Vote Center Status

Brandi discussed how a mobile pop-up vote center will be a location where we take some of our equipment to an area that is not going to be an established Vote Center in the 11-day period. The areas can be rural areas not near a Vote Center, a senior center, a college campus, etc. The office is exploring our options, and a final decision won't be made a few more months. The mobile-pop up would provide an additional service to the public, but the details need to be figured out more in depth internally, such as staffing and costs.

Topics and date for next meeting

Sarah suggested that we continue the conversation about public transit, possibly with a representative from FAX to help address any concerns, and a continued update about the status of the workshops along with status on invites. Also, the topic of vote center worker training.

It was generally agreed that the next meeting should be held on November 21, 2019 at 11:00 AM at the Elections Warehouse Training Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 PM.