



County of Fresno

COUNTY CLERK/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
BRANDI L. ORTH

Fresno County VAAC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 11/21/2019 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 11:04 AM with the following members present: Sarah Harris, Charity Tokash, Susan Anderson, Vidal Medina, Brandi Orth, Cindy Lee, Marilu Jimenez, Silvina Elliot, James Kus, Shelley Celaya, Latoya Rodrick, Celeste Martin, Douglas Loera, Yonas Paulos, joining via telephone conference, Paul Spencer, and Josefa Vega.

Review of Minutes

After introductions were made, Sarah provided a few minutes for everyone to conduct a quick review of the minutes from the last VAAC meeting that took place on September 12th, 2019. Without any objections, a motion was brought forward by Brandi to accept the minutes, seconded by Yonas, and accepted by the committee without any nay votes or abstentions.

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Fresno County Elections

★ VoteFresnoCounty.com ★

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Discussion on Final Vote Center Locations

Brandi started off the discussion on the Vote Center Locations. For the March 2020 election, the County Elections department will be hosting 53 Vote Centers based on community input and internal deliberations. The legal requirement is 47, so the County is trying to go above and beyond. The map of all 53 locations are online, and the elections office is in the process of getting signed contracts from all locations.

From there, the discussion was oriented towards the use of public transportation to the Vote Centers. Susan pointed out that a lot of analysis was done, and over 99% of voters in the Fresno/Clovis area live within 2 miles of a Vote Center. The elections office is also working on language assistance needs for all Vote Centers.

Public Transportation to Vote Centers

Brandi then mentioned that in the 4 days that all 53 Vote Center locations will be open, there will be free transportation from the 3 major transportation authorities in Fresno County, Fresno Area Express, Clovis Stagecoach, and the Fresno County Rural Transit. This also includes the use of para-transit. The elections office is also working to get flyers and advertisements on the buses for the election, along with maps to show the bus routes compared to Vote Center Locations.

Celeste brought up whether they should advertise to their clients whether the Voter Information Guide (VIG) is needed for a free ride to a Vote Center. The elections office clarified that the transportation authorities have told them that a verbal statement should suffice for free transit to and from a Vote Center.

Disability Workshop Development

The current plan for the Disability Workshop is to take place on January 14th, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 04:00 PM. The office is planning on working with various community-based organization, especially those that provide services for voters with disabilities, to get the word out and help with transportation as needed. It was agreed that a flyer will need to be developed to get the word out, which will need to be developed ASAP. Calendars for January are already being developed, so this will need to be done sooner rather than later.

Election Worker Hiring

Cindy Lee then discussed hiring and training for the Election Workers. Approximately 300 applications have been received, with around 150 of those resulting in election workers being hired. The elections office has been pushing the recruitment efforts out on Social Media, reaching out to community organizations, and working with the County Human Resources department to get the word out about our need for workers. The elections office is currently competing with the IRS and Census for the hiring of temp workers, so any help would be greatly appreciated with our recruitment efforts. There is a job for everyone, and if any accommodation is needed, the elections office is more than willing to work with everyone.

Sarah asked about the student poll worker program. Students that are 16 years of age or older will be able to work in 2020 during early voting and on Election Day. Students will be paid an hourly wage. The elections office will also be conducting outreach to the local high schools to recruit the students as well as to pre-register any students that are 16 years of age or older.

The Elections Worker recruitment video was then played to the committee, which is on the Fresno elections office website and social media sites. Sarah encouraged the elections office to send all links to social media, election worker recruitment, etc. to the various CBOs to get the information out there.

Election Worker Training

Training is scheduled to begin conducting training mid-January. There will be 4 mandatory classes offered for the Election Outreach Coordinators and Elections Workers. There will be multiple days of training, with flexibility of days/times for the workers to take all classes on their own schedule.

Paul then asked about training regarding voters with disabilities. Cindy stated that there will be a disability awareness portion of the training dedicated to this. Paul also offered some materials that would be helpful

Update on Outreach

Susan mentioned that the office is getting close to finishing up the attachments for the Elections Administration Plan, which is pending the translations into all minor languages. All social media platforms have been rolled out and are being updated weekly. There will also be bilingual workshops around the same time as that the accessibility workshop will take place.

The office is also in the process of finalizing the VCA postcard to educate all voters about the changes to the elections process that is required by the Elections Code, along with sending out a postcard to all voters registered as No Party Preference to inform them that unless they choose to cross-over to a party ballot, the ballot that they receive will not include any presidential

candidates due to the March 2020 election being a partisan primary election.

Sarah asked if the VCA postcard will be large print. James stated that due to the amount of information in the postcards, despite trying to be as succinct as possible, this may not be possible. It was recommended to add wording for a potential request for accommodation on the postcards, along with posting a large print version on the County Elections website.

Topics and date for next meeting

Future topics were discussed for the next meeting, which will be on the agenda for the next VAAC meeting.

The next meeting will be held on January 16, 2020 at 11:00 AM at the Elections Warehouse Training Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 PM.