

Fresno County VAAC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 26, 2018 10:30 AM

Location:

Resources for Independence Central Valley Conference Room
3008 N. Fresno St. Fresno, CA 93703

The Meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM with the following members present: Bill Hyatt, James Kus, Marilu Jimenez, Rachel Lopez, Susan Coulter, Veronica Hernandez, Douglas Loera, Charity Tokash, Brandi Orth, and Rosaura Barajas.

After introductions by those present was made, a review of the minutes from the previous VAAC meeting on October 20, 2017 was completed and accepted by the committee.

State HAVA Accessibility Training:

Douglas Loera went over the Accessibility training that Fresno County Clerk staff attended in early 2018.

Some of the topic that were covered in the training included Parking on Election Day, Path of Travel, Entrances, Slopes and hands-on experience. Newest using iteration of the Polling Place Accessibility Checklist. Usage of survey tools was also discussed and demonstrated how to be put to good use in measuring potential issues with accessibility. Douglas also explained how the training helped his understanding of the regulations that affect accessibility for a voter.

Review new Polling Place Accessibility Checklist:

Douglas shared the latest Polling Place Accessibility Checklist that was released by the CA SOS on 04/05/2018.

The new checklist emphasizes greater detail in the questions provided. Rather than an open box, the questions ask for a specific bit of information (height, angle of slope, etc.). The new checklist opens up accessibility rather than hinders it; this is due to the fact that all locations are different. One example is that the allowed cross-slope is 2.08% rather than 2%.

June 5, 2018 Statewide Primary Election:

For the June election, there were 384 voting precincts at 266 polling places across Fresno County. Rosaura Barajas discussed mitigation efforts to make the polls useable on Election Day. Fresno County conducted more surveys than the 35 sites planned from the last VAAC meeting, and will be putting together 113 Red Mitigation Binders to enhance accessibility on Election Day.

Rosaura then compared two of our polling places: Mosqueda Community Center which has Van Accessible parking, and a new polling place House of the Gospel, which does not. Rosaura discussed how a Red Mitigation Binder will be sent along with cones and a sign to create a Van Accessible Parking space in the parking lot.

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The County will also have 40-50 Election Coordinators the day of to review adherence to the Red Mitigation Binders, as well as an ADA Survey team on the day of the election.

Drive-thru sites to return VBM ballots were also discussed. There are 10 locations in Fresno County outside of one of our polling places, where voters do not have to get out of their car to turn in their VBM ballot and receive an 'I Voted' sticker. Info regarding Drive-Thru locations is available on the Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voters website. VBM ballots can be taken to any polling place in Fresno County to be turned in.

Feedback from community:

A discussion of experience with the TSX machine was conducted, in how the machine is set-up for use is disparate with actual use. The wording of the recordings can be slow and confusing at times. James Kus discussed the review of the recordings for greater understanding with our IT department.

At the last election, the Accessible Voting booth was not set up correctly, so that a person in a wheelchair would not be able to approach the booth. This can cause issues with allowing everyone to vote.

Wording for the measures can often be confusing, especially for a voter who is hard of hearing or deaf. There are sometimes videos explaining the measures in ASL online.

Brandi Orth suggested early voting at the Kern Street Office. A voter will have more time for help from a permanent employee with greater experience/understanding than a precinct officer on the day of the election. Up to 29 days prior to the election, early voting is open at the 2221 Kern St office.

Finally, bringing assistance to the polling place was discussed and explained. A voter can bring up to 2 people with them to the polls, barring an employer or a union rep.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:27 AM

TSX demonstrated conducted by James Kus post-meeting.