

Meeting Notes

Sacramento County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

Committee Chair: Courtney Bailey, Manager of Precinct Operations, Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections

Held: August 1, 2017

County Administration Building, Hearing Room 1

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Handouts provided to attendees included: Agenda; California Voter's Choice Act Infographic; Guide to Voter's Choice Act and Vote Centers in Sacramento County; Sacramento County Voter Registration and Election, Election Administration Plan E.C 4005 (a) (10) (I) Discussion and Consultation Document; VAAC Membership Applications.

Call to Order: Committee Chair, Courtney Bailey, welcomed all guests to this 1st meeting to establish a Sacramento County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC). She provided the background for Sacramento County's move to the Voter's Choice Act and a brief summary of the Vote Center model being rolled out in June 2018.

Welcome and Meeting Protocols: Alice Jarboe, Assistant Registrar of Voters for Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections, welcomed the attendees and reviewed meeting protocols, emphasizing the open and inclusive nature of the County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC).

Membership Applications and Appointment of Members: The Voters Choice Act (VCA) directs the implementation of a VAAC to allow for community input. Applications for VAAC committee members are being accepted. A minimum of 7 committee members are desired and applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Paper applications were made available. The application is also available online on the county's website.

Discussion: The group discussed the development of the Draft Election Administration Plan and access to the elections process for voters with disabilities. Several questions were fielded during discussion regarding accessible marking devices, cost of the devices, accessibility for drop-off locations, accessibility for the blind, handling languages, poll watchers ability to "get out the vote", requesting Vote Center sites, and casting ballots through a scanner or Vote by Mail envelope.

The questions will assist the Election Office in developing a list of FAQ's. Many of the answers are found in the Voter's Choice Act, i.e., three voting accessible terminals being required at each Vote Center. Answers will develop as the Election Office procedurally works through the implementation of the Voter's Choice Act.

Meeting wrap up and things to think about for next meeting:

- Interested committee members were reminded to complete an application. There are 7 committee applications so far and more are welcome. The VAAC is open to the public so please pass the word along to anyone that may be interested.
- What percentage of voters will have accessibility needs? It was suggested that the Social Security Administration may have data on the number of residents receiving disability benefits.

- We are looking for public input to develop the Election Administration Plan.
- What is a good location for these meetings, what time should we start, how long should they be, and how frequent? It was suggested no longer than 90 minutes and locations suggested were the Sacramento Admin Building, Central Library, City Council Chambers, SMUD Building, Voter Registration Office, DSA Headquarters, and roaming locations, i.e., in Elk Grove. Locations with best accessibility for buses and a meeting end time that doesn't exceed the time buses stop running was requested. Frequency suggested was twice a month and then reduce to once a month.
- Other suggestions for meetings included: Have a sign language interpreter, offer to teleconference the meeting in case people cannot attend in person, closed captioning, serve refreshments, and pay for bus fare.
- How do we get the information out, Google Docs?
- Mindy Romero with California Civic Engagement Project would like to present a tool for helping us choose our locations.
- Regional Transit is working on an optimization plan that may affect services around Vote Center locations.

The next VAAC meeting:

**August 16th
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Elk Grove City Council Chambers
8400 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove**