



OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

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ELECTIONS DIVISION:

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Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)

Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Attendees:

ROV Office (ROV)

Karie Lew, Disability Rights California (DRC)

Perfecto Munoz, West Modesto Community Collaborative

Blanca Marin, West Modesto Community Collaborative

1) 2024 Presidential General Election Key Dates:

- September 26, 2024 – County voter information guides begin mailing.
- October 7, 2024 – Vote by mail ballots mailing begin. Ballot drop boxes will be available.
- October 21, 2024 – Last day to register to vote. Individuals not registered by this date, would need visit a vote center or our office.
- October 26, 2024 – 6 vote centers will be open through the weekends and Election Day.
- November 2, 2024 – 26 more vote centers open through the weekend and Election Day.
- November 4, 2024 – 1 additional vote center opens in Patterson through Election Day.
- November 5, 2024 – Election Day

Business hours of voting locations will be available in the county voter guide, direct postcard mailing and stanvote.gov

2) Observer Workshop tentatively scheduled for October 17, 2024. Location TBA. Let us know if your organization plans to send anyone to attend this meeting in-person.

3) Website Update: stanvote.gov

4) Member updates:

- Karie Lew, Disability Rights California – Recommendations for increasing accessibility for D/deaf or hard-of-hearing voters

DRC first shared statistics from the DRC voter hotline during the 2024 Primary Election. DRC received 65 calls statewide. 48% of calls related directly to accessibility issue. There were no calls logged from voters in Stanislaus, however, the caller's county information is not always logged. Calls related to topics like party ballot confusion, ballot marking device, remote accessible vote by mail (RAVBM), questions on signatures and requests for assistance from those unable to leave home. DRC helps to forward the voters to the county elections official and sign up for

Ballot Trax. RAVBM is shared as an option but the need to print the ballot is a barrier for many. ROV asked for more details on what types of questions were asked to help understand how to improve education and communications to voters. ROV specifically asked about the questions asked related to ballot marking devices and RAVBM. DRC assured that the feedback given to ROV on election material and website information is based on FAQs DRC has received.

DRC shared observations from the 2024 Primary Election as a follow-up from the meeting in April. DRC visited 2 vote centers in Stanislaus. A report was sent to ROV. Calvary Baptist Church needed more "vote here" signage in the parking lot. The parking lot was busier Sunday due to church goers. ROV asked to send the map identifying where "vote here" signage are placed for review. DRC agreed to offer support and review the map. ROV acknowledged accessibility signage and ramp were not in place. ROV will also re-survey the site to improve placement of signs in November and ensure accessibility from the parking lot into the vote center entrance. Language services sign was small and placed behind the check-in desk where it is hard to see. The Salida Library was also visited. The curbside voting sign was hard to find. ROV should consider moving the sign on the sidewalk in front of the entrance. ROV acknowledged the need to improve this placement for November. When considering a solution, the ROV also wants to ensure safety of the election workers so that they do not need to take the ballot marking device on the street if requested. DRC said the staff at Salida Library vote center were great. The lead gave a tour of the vote center. DRC was pleased to observe two voters assisted were offered a printed ballot or the use of a ballot marking device. DRC reported that the cart used to make the ballot marking device looked great and the election materials were accessible to voters.

DRC shared feedback on the Accessible Voting page on stanvote.gov. The Vote by Mail section did a good job explaining the envelope and options to sign with "x" letter. It is helpful that the main RAVBM page is linked to this page. DRC liked the RAVBM and ballot marking device videos and the availability of the RAVBM demo site. Some changes in the verbiage were recommended. DRC recommended adding a photo of the curbside voting sign to the page.

DRC reviewed the "Recommendations for increasing accessibility for D/deaf or hard-of-hearing voters" document sent to ROV.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.