



## **Registrar of Voters**

### **Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting**

Thursday, April 27, 2023 – 11:00a.m.

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

### **Minutes**

#### 1. Welcome and Housekeeping

- a. Today we have American Sign Language Interpretation. Our interpreters are Rex Sarazan and Denise Lots.
- b. Thank you all for attending the April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting.

#### 2. Introductions

- a. We will do quick introductions.

#### 3. Old Business

- a. No old business from the last meeting.

#### 4. Election Administration Plan

- a. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Alameda County was approved to conduct elections under the Voters Choice Act. One of the requirements of that approval process was for the Registrar of Voters (ROV) to create an Election Administration Plan (EAP) which sets out how the ROV will conduct elections under the Voters Choice Act. This plan must be reviewed, updated, and re-approved by the Secretary of State every 2 years. Due to the upcoming

Presidential Election Cycle, counties have been asked to provide the updated plans early.

To that end, on April 12<sup>th</sup> the ROV held a development public meeting to allow our community partners to provide suggestions and feedback on the current plan. We received some very good suggestions both during the meeting and via email following the meeting. Using many of the suggestions a draft renewal EAP was created. The public, stakeholders and community groups were given the opportunity to provide suggestions on the draft renewal EAP at two public consultation meetings which took place on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation was available at both meetings.

We received a considerable amount of feedback and suggestions from the community at the meetings and via email prior to the meeting. We will be accepting suggestions until 5pm tomorrow. We expect several emails with suggestions to be received tomorrow.

Once all the suggestions have been provided, the ROV will take several weeks to review, consider, and where appropriate, incorporate the suggestions into an updated draft of the EAP. This will then be published for public comment and presented at a hearing, where, again, the public will have the opportunity to provide comment. Thereafter the final version of the draft EAP will be adopted and submitted to the Secretary of State.

Fred, you made a comment relating to the difficulty in finding information on our website and we are currently working to create specific pages for the VAAC and LAAC which will be easier to find. We will be placing minutes and agendas on those pages.

##### 5. Voter Education Outreach Advisory Committee/Commission

- a. As you are aware there was an incorrect setting on the Ranked Choice Voting races which impacted the Oakland Unified District Director 4 race. Arising from that, the Board of Supervisors has discussed how the ROV can increase transparency and increase voter confidence. The Board has decided this can best be achieved by creating a Voter Education Outreach Advisory Committee or Commission. Recommendations will be made to the board at an upcoming Board meeting, and they will decide the exact format of the new body with it being either a committee or a Board appointed commission. We do not yet know the exact composition of the body, but Community partners will likely be approached, we therefore wanted to make everyone aware. We will therefore let you know when more information is available.
6. Outreach (Betty)
  - a. Betty David gave an update confirming that so far this year the team has participated in 72 outreach events of which 12 were events for voters with disabilities. Events occurred at community centers in the Fruitvale area of Oakland, in Senior centers in Union City, Dublin, Emeryville and Hayward. They did a registration event partnering with the Center for Independent Living. The team is doing events in underserved communities and with faith-based organizations. Also, they attend street festivals. The team is still looking for events. The team is enjoying being out and doing in person events, although even during COVID they attended over 200 events. They did 2 events a day for the high school voting education week. Fred was a great resource for information about events and we would be excited to learn of any upcoming events.
7. Fred asked if we had plans to expand the VAAC and David confirmed we did. David pointed out we now have American sign language interpreters and would be approaching the person who attended the development meeting and who was associated with a resource center

for voters with hearing impairment. Fred mentioned that while he enjoys contributing it would be better to have more people to give ideas. Fred said he would email a link to his organizations publication which has addresses of organizations we might approach. Fred also said he would like us to let him know when the new VAAC webpage is up. David confirmed we would email him the link.

## 8. Upcoming Elections

### a. Oakland USD District 5

- i. The Oakland USD Board has yet to decide how they wish to proceed. Given the time that has passed it is looking increasingly likely that there will be a November Election. We anticipate one 11-day vote center will be required and we are looking at potential locations now.

### b. Presidential Primary Election

- i. We are reviewing the AAAJ report which identifies some locations which had issues.
- ii. Staff are finding some replacement sites for locations we determined were no longer appropriate and we are securing other sites in preparation for the election. Currently we have 13 signed agreements and a further 13 locations are working on agreements. Additionally, we are in touch with our school contacts and are finalizing plans on which locations we will use.

## 9. David asked if there were any other topics for discussion.

- a. Fred said he thought he covered everything in his letter.

10. Confirm Next Meeting Date and Time – July 27<sup>th</sup> at 11am

11. Close Meeting



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### **MEETING ATTENDEES**

#### ***REGISTRAR OF VOTERS***

CYNTHIA CORNEJO – DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

DAVID PINK – ELECTION DIVISION MANAGER

LOLITA FRANCISCO – ELECTION DIVISION MANAGER

MICARDO REYNOSO – POLL WORKER TRAINING COORDINATOR

JEFF NORMART – POLL WORKER RECRUITING

BETTY DAVID – OUTREACH COORDINATOR

#### ***AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS***

REX SARAZAN – FOCUS INTERPRETING

DENISE LOTS – FOCUS INTERPRETING