



Registrar of Voters

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 25, 2024 – 11:00a.m.

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting



MINUTES

1. Welcome and Housekeeping
2. Introductions
3. Old Business
4. Outreach Update
 - a. Total Events in 2024: 222 (Including Virtual Voter Registration Training Class)
 - b. ACVOTE on the GO requests: 62
 - c. Events for Voters with Disabilities: 9
 - d. Training Classes: 6
 - e. The outreach team usually has 2 events per day. They are doing a lot of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) presentations in the 4 RCV cities.
 - f. The team also partnered with a Mental Health Association in the Chinese community who have recommended some other groups. The team is thankful to community partners who let us participate with them.
 - g. There were 62 AC vote on the Go requests.

h. The team receives requests to go out and read the ballot, voter information guide and other election materials for voters who are visually impaired. They also help voters with registering to vote.

5. Large Font Voter Information Guide

a. In 2022 began providing the large font guide. Voters are informed of the availability of the services in mailers, vote by mail packets in the Voter Information Guides (VIGs).

b. The VIGs are also taken to faith-based festivals and other events the team attends.

6. ACVOTE on the GO

a. Betty confirmed that we had a lot of people now taking part in the program. They can take out the large font voter information guides, and other election materials to assist voters. They even help voters register to vote.

b. Fred asked if voting equipment is taken out to the voter?

c. David said not yet and stated that we are working on the security aspects for taking out the voting equipment. David said if Fred knew of any counties taking out the equipment we would love to hear more about it. Fred said he thought San Francisco might be doing that.

7. Report on Recent Elections

a. May 28th, 2024 - City of Berkeley, District 4, Special Election

i. David explained that the Registrar of Voters had to change vote centers the day before the election. The site we had originally secured switched rooms on us at the last minute and the new room was far too small to be usable. Luckily, the Chamber of commerce had been working with us and had an option available which we used. Explained there were some issues with parking, and the room was a little awkward. David said he was aware Fred had enquired about the ramp and David said the ramp was 8.2% slope. On the higher end

but considered accessible according to the regulations. The Registrar of voters does not plan on using the site for the November Election. It was used just because we had no other option.

- ii. Registration 7453
 - iii. Election Day Turnout 128 (1.72)
 - iv. VBM Turnout 2207 (29.61%)
 - v. Overall Turnout 2335 (31.33%)
 - vi. There were 28 total RAVBM uses including 6 RAVBM (domestic IP address) and 22 UOCAVA
 - vii. Fred asked how busy was the location?
 - viii. Micardo confirmed that sometimes might have 10 up to maybe 14 voters on the days leading up to the election. On Election Day there were maybe 100. Micardo confirmed there were a few people in a line but not a line out of the door.
- b. July 2nd, 2024 - Sunol Glen USD, Special Recall Election
- i. Registration 828
 - ii. Election Day Turnout 60 (7.25%)
 - iii. VBM Turnout 473 (57.13%)
 - iv. Overall Turnout 533 (64.37%)
 - v. There was one activation of the RAVBM system

8. Upcoming Elections

- a. November 5th, 2024 – Presidential General Election
- i. 100 Vote Centers – Just over 90 are the same as used in March. Some of the sites have construction or are otherwise unavailable. We have teams looking for replacements and already have a few options.
 - ii. 67 VBM 24 hour drop boxes

1. We will be working with our vendor on improvements to the collection process. We found some of the boxes were getting filled up too quickly and staff could not keep up. We intend to have staff stationed at least in some of the locations for the entire day, emptying approximately every hour. This would include the boxes we know fill up quickly, for example at Alameda, Livermore and Pleasanton City halls. The Registrar of Voters office is still having discussions with the vendor on exactly how that will work.

2. Additionally, the Sheriff is very interested in helping and they assisted during the Primary Election. The Registrar of Voters is very aware of concerns relating to having uniformed officers near vote centers or drop boxes. Previously the sheriffs provided security for ballot drop offs and that occurred aware from the boxes or vote centers. This will be factored in when considering how the Sheriffs can assist us for this election.

- iii. Many of the supplies have been prepared for the vote centers. Our election worker training section is updating the current materials. The courthouse is preparing mailers, VBM materials and reviewing procedures prior to the election.

9. American Sign Language at the Vote Centers

- a. We have been communicating with Focus Interpreting, the vendor for the Language Telephone Lines used at the vote centers and recommended by the Secretary of State's office. We are now working on the logistics of how to implement it at the Vote Centers including software needed etc.

- b. Given the proximity to the November election we won't be able to implement this by then. We do expect there to be elections in 2025. We are planning to do a pilot implementation during a smaller election. It may be difficult

to provide assistance and we have been told much would depend on if the person can conduct the conversation. Cynthia mentioned it is possible we have had a request before and worked with the vendor. She will discuss with Lolita to get more information. Any assistance would be via the use of the smart phone issued to the captains. and connected by focus.

10. Other topics of discussion and questions

- a. Fred requested to discuss some items from “Recommendations for County Election Officials: Increasing Accessibility for D/deaf and hard-of-hearing voters” by Disability Rights California.
- b. David read out the document for the group.
- c. Fred asked if it is possible for November. David confirmed we don’t think we can roll out for this November. Fred asked about a possible appointment type scenario where people call in? Cynthia said that while video conferencing is available it may be difficult on the phone. It is possible that we have had requests in the past and Cynthia indicated would speak with Lolita about her recollection of that.
- d. Fred asked if we provide any information about ASL now and David confirmed we provide information on language assistance we don’t for ASL as far as David is aware.
- e. David thanked Fred for the very thorough recommendations that the Registrar of Voters will consider when implementing ASL at the vote centers.
- f. David asked Fred if DRC had any other best practices, particularly for curbside voting. Fred said they are working on one and he will provide us with his draft.

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 – ELECTION WORKER TRAINING COORDINATOR

BETTY DAVID – OUTREACH COORDINATOR

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

REX SARAZAN – FOCUS INTERPRETING

AIMEE ANDERSON – FOCUS INTERPRETING

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FRED NISEN – DISABILITY RIGHTS CALIFORNIA