



Registrar of Voters

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 23, 2025 – 11:00a.m.

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting



Minutes

1. Welcome and Housekeeping
 - a. We have American Sign Language Interpretation for this meeting.
2. Introductions
3. Old Business
4. Outreach Update
 - a. Update provided by Betty David the Outreach Coordinator for the Registrar of Voters.
 - b. She confirmed it was very busy last year. Her team attended around 400 events. From March to November the team attended had roughly 16 events targeting Voters with disabilities.
 - c. Betty said she and her team are looking forward, this year, to partnering with the Ed Roberts Center, CRIL, CIL and with Fred.
 - d. She confirmed her team has already attended 12 events this year. These events included the Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations in China Town in Oakland and the Vietnamese New Year Festival.

- e. Betty mentioned that the high school voter education week was coming up soon.
 - f. Betty also said they would appreciate any referrals for events they could attend.
5. Review of November 5th, 2024 – Presidential General Election
- a. Overall, the Election went well. We did learn from a few situations, and I will outline some of the things we encountered and learned later. I will start off with some of the important statistics and data for the election.
 - b. For anyone who was not in our last meeting, we had 67 vote-by-mail drop boxes and up to 100 vote centers operating during the election.
 - c. The drop boxes were open 28 days before the election. The ballots were collected by our vendor Valley Relocation and the Alameda County Sheriff office. There was good feedback from the public regarding the use of Sheriffs to collect the ballots.
 - d. Fred asked if the Sheriffs went to the vote centers and David confirmed they did not. They only went to drop boxes.
 - e. We had 20 vote centers that opened 11 days before and thru the election and further 80 opened 4 days before and thru the election.
 - f. Voter turnout for the election was, as expected, high.
 - i. Total Registered Voters was 960,649
 - ii. Vote-by-Mail turnout was 595,991 (62.04%)
 - iii. Election Day Turnout was 87,078 (9.06%)
 - iv. RAVBM turnout was 490 of the 524 issued
 - v. The total turnout was 683,069 (71.10%)
 - g. Youth Voting

- i. Total Registration was 1,494
 - ii. Vote-by-Mail turnout was 549 (36.75%)
 - iii. Election Day turnout was 26 (1.74%)
 - iv. Total turnout was 575 (38.49%)
- h. The Election Day vote center turnout was particularly high. In previous elections the vote center/Election Day turnout had been around 2-3%. We did not anticipate such high in person turnout. The vote centers around UC Berkeley were extremely busy and the waiting times on Election Day were, at their peak, several hours.
- i. We are evaluating the cases where the turnout was so high, to determine the best approach going forward. Our intention is to see how we can put more election workers and more equipment in the areas where voters attended in the vote centers in much higher percentages than normal. The vote center on campus is too small to significantly increase the election workers and equipment. David said he will be reaching out to UC Berkeley to see if they can provide a bigger room. We will consider doubling the staff and equipment numbers if the room size permits but, as indicated, we are in the evaluation stage at this point.
- j. The Registrar of Voters had to close one vote center for Election Day. We work closely with the Sheriff office regarding severe weather or other events that may impact voting. Unfortunately, a Red Flag warning was issued in an area containing one of our vote centers. This warning was given just before Election Day and so we were unable to relocate the vote center to another site. The only option therefore was to close the vote center for election day. We put information on our website to update voters and put signage at the site to alert voters. We will not be using this location for future elections.

6. Upcoming Elections

- a. April 15th, 2025 – City of Oakland Municipal Special Election

- i. On the ballot for this election
 1. Oakland Mayor
 2. City Council District Two
 3. Measure
 - ii. There are 252,362 active voters in Oakland and 34,237 in District 2.
 - iii. There will be Five 11-day vote centers, opening on April 5th. They will operate until the close of voting on Election Day. A further four 4-day locations will open on April 12th, and they will operate until the close of voting Election Day. A total of 9 vote centers will be open on Election Day.
 - iv. The Registrar of Voters will have 18 vote-by-mail drop boxes available from 28 days before the election. The Sheriff will again be assisting us with ballot collection and security.
7. Committee Feedback on Registrar of Voters Services (David and Betty)
 - a. ACVOTE On the Go
 - i. This is the service where voters who cannot make it to a vote center or our office can make an appointment with our Outreach team to have staff come to their home, hospital, assisted living facility etc.
 - ii. Staff can assist with several things including use of RAVBM, assist with marking the ballot and read election information from the guide to the voters.
 - iii. The appointments are set for 2 hours and often run for longer.
 - iv. During the last election the Outreach team attended 118 appointments. Many of the appointments were on Election Day.

- v. Some of the appointments for Alameda County voters took place outside of Alameda County, including places like Stockton.
 - vi. David said the Registrar of Voters office wanted to know if the committee knew of anyone who used the service and if so, what feedback can the committee give? What suggestions are there for what we can do better?
 - vii. Fred said he did not receive any feedback from voters but was very happy to hear about the service and especially the visits Betty's team had made to hospitals including the Alameda health systems hospital and VA in Livermore.
 - viii. Fred asked if there had been problems with facilities not letting them visit, Betty reported that locations had been cooperative and generally very happy to participate.
 - ix. Other Registrar of Voters don't offer this service, so it is good that Alameda County does.
 - x. Fred has said he mentions the service to voters he encounters and will continue to promote it for us.
- b. Large Print Voter Information Guide
- i. We saw a large increase in the requests for large print voter information guides.
 - ii. Does anyone know anyone who requested them, and did they have any feedback regarding the experience? Fred said he has had requests for it, and he tells voters we offer them.
- c. I asked if there were any issues that voters reported to his hotline. He said that other than the things we fixed at the time, not issues were reported that he could recall.
- d. Betty let the group know that she had reached out to several contacts to see if any would like to be members of the voter accessibility advisory committee. David said we could often get people to come to one meeting but it was

problematic getting them to be consistent participants.
Fred suggested surveying out past members to get
feedback on why they did not continue to attend.

8. Close Meeting



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MEETING ATTENDEES

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

CYNTHIA CORNEJO – DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS (Absent)

DAVID PINK – ELECTION DIVISION MANAGER

LOLITA FRANCISCO – ELECTION DIVISION MANAGER (Absent)

MICARDO REYNOSO – POLL WORKER TRAINING COORDINATOR

JEFF NORMART – POLL WORKER RECRUITING (Absent)

BETTY DAVID – OUTREACH COORDINATOR

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

REX SARAZEN – FOCUS INTERPRETING

BAILEY GREEN – FOCUS INTERPRETING

DISABILITY RIGHTS CALIFORNIA

FRED NISEN