

ALAMEDA COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Spanish Language Accessibility Advisory Committee

Date: Thursday, April 18, 2024

Time: 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting

Representing the Registrar of Voters, **Estela Orozco**, initiated the virtual meeting with a warm welcome, emphasizing each attendee's crucial role in our collective efforts. Present at the meeting were Sasha Ritzie Hernandez, (Executive Director) representing Somos Familia; Alba Hernandez, representing FIAEB (Faith in Action East Bay); and Claudia Guzman, representing the Registrar of Voters. We also had the following members of the public: Pedro Hernandez representing Common Cause; Aashika Srinivas and Sietse Goffard, representing Advancing Justice; and Brittany Stonesifer, Staff Attorney for the Democracy & Civic Engagement Program at the ACLU of Northern California. **Estela Orozco** expressed gratitude for the collaborative efforts that will help lead to the success of the Registrar of Voters.

On Announcements, **Estela Orozco** informed us of the latest Special and Previous Elections. March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election and was Certified on April 1, 2024. She also mentioned that for a complete list of election results, visit our website at: <https://www.acvote.org/election-information/elections?id=251#>

Pedro Hernandez raised a valid concern about the voting center's operating hours, specifically his experience of visiting the Vote Center at the Fremont Main Library during the Primary Election, which was already closed by 6 pm. We appreciate his feedback and want to assure him and all attendees that we are actively considering this issue to ensure that voters have sufficient time to vote in future elections.

In her commitment to transparency, **Estela Orozco** shared the details of the recently completed City of Berkeley Special Election for District 7 on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. She reassured the audience that the Registrar of Voters is diligently canvassing all Vote By Mail Ballots, including those received by April 23rd, as long as they are postmarked with the E-Day date of April 16.

Pedro Hernandez commented that it would be helpful if the Registration of Voters posted the agendas ahead of time on the website since that would help them prepare questions or suggestions. **Claudia Guzman** requested that their email information be posted on the team's chat and reassured them to send the agenda as soon as we prepare for the next meeting.

Estela Orozco has emphasized the importance of two upcoming elections for our community. The first one is the special election for District 4 in the City of Berkeley, scheduled for Tuesday, May 28th, 2024. The second one is the Sunol Glen Unified School District Special Recall Election, which will be held on Tuesday, July 02, 2024. Two School Board Members are being recalled in the latter. Each city will have one Vote Center open for eleven days during these elections, staffed by the Registrar of Voters. It is vital for our community that our partners actively participate in these elections.

The date for the District Attorney Recall election has not been determined yet. **Estela Orozco** confirmed that the petition for the recall was sufficient. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors will get the Certificate of Sufficiency during its upcoming regular meeting, which is scheduled for April 30, 2024. The Registrar of Voters will provide further details after the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Claudia Guzman discussed preparing for the upcoming Presidential General Election on November 5, 2024. Twenty-one Vote Centers will be open for eleven days, and 80 Vote Centers will be open for four days.

Regarding the pending questions for the previews meeting, **Claudia Guzman** mentioned that the Registrar of Voters is working collaboratively with city officials to devise and implement measures for youth voting. Alba Hernandez and Sasha Ritzie wanted to know when the following measures would be implemented.

Claudia Guzman talked about how the Registrar of Voters is working on Measure QQ implementation for the November 2024 Presidential General Election in the City of Oakland. Measure Y1 was passed by voters for the City of Berkeley. It will allow 16- and 17-year-olds (who pre-register as voters) to vote in School Board Director elections only. The implementation of elections is to be included in the November 2024 General Election. The Registrar of Voters is working with the cities, school districts, and the Election Management System vendor to form an agreement and develop the Custom Build software to support youth voting. The Registrar of Voters is also working on creating a youth voting outreach plan. Regarding the measure, SS, the Registrar of Voters, hasn't been approached for the implementation or processes to follow.

During the conversation, **Pedro Hernandez** mentioned that he and Mark Numainville, the Berkeley City Clerk, had previously worked together. If Sasha Ritzie or Alba Hernandez had further questions or needed clarifications, Pedro suggested they could approach Mark Numainville for more information.

Sasha Ritzie and Alba Hernandez thanked us for always answering their questions and following up on their suggestions during Spanish LAAC committee meetings. It's great to hear that the measures will be implemented soon.

Claudia Guzman talked about language, outreach, and education. We want to extend our outreach to the language communities and our language community outreach efforts. Currently, we put out print ads, radio announcements, social media, and television announcements, and attend in-person events. What other marketing mechanisms would you suggest we use to reach the language communities further? The members did not suggest any other way of outreach during the meeting.

Pedro Hernandez mentioned that the California Secretary of State has data regarding the LEP Students, and they have bilingual materials that can help provide information to all the bilingual students.

Estela Orozco mentioned that when recruiting election workers for the Vote Center, the Registrar of Voters continually works to support voters for whom English is not their first language. The Internal Registrar of Voters' team members are bilingual and available to assist voters daily who need language support over the phone and in person; they also review language election materials.

Claudia Guzman discussed the upcoming Spanish LAAC meeting schedule during the meeting. She promised to send attendees the schedule and agenda as soon as the date and time were finalized.

Sietse Goffard proposed that ROV collaborate with Eden Church to host an event aimed at providing information to the community. **Claudia Guzman** mentioned her previous collaboration at the Adult School in Hayward-Cherryland for the COVID-19 vaccine. **Claudia Guzman** will give the contact information for the outreach unit, which will be contacted to organize an event in conjunction with **Sietse Goffard** and Eden Church in the coming months.

At 11:50 am, **Estela Orozco** adjourned the meeting as there were no further questions or suggestions. She thanked all attendees for participating.