

ALAMEDA COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Spanish Language Accessibility Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Welcome and Introductions

Claudia Guzman, representing the Alameda County Registrar of Voters (ROV), opened the virtual meeting with a warm welcome and emphasized the important role of each attendee in supporting the committee's collective efforts to improve language accessibility and voter outreach.

The meeting was attended by:

- Alba Hernández, Representative, Faith in Action East Bay (FIAEB)
- Kelly Maciel, Representative, Church of San Clemente
- Juan Pablo López, Hayward School District Representative
- Estela Orozco, Alameda County Registrar of Voters Representative

Claudia Guzman expressed appreciation for the continued collaboration and partnership among community organizations and stakeholders in supporting the success of the Registrar of Voters' voter education and outreach efforts.

Voter's Choice Act Overview

Claudia Guzman provided an overview of the Voter's Choice Act (VCA), including the following information:

- All registered voters in Alameda County receive a Vote-by-Mail ballot.
- Voters may vote at any Alameda County Vote Center.
- Vote Centers begin opening 10 days before Election Day.
- An Official Voter Information Guide is mailed to all registered voters.

Registrar of Voters Office Updates

Claudia Guzman provided updates regarding current activities at the Registrar of Voters Office, including the partnership with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ALCO) for official ballot drop box collection.

The office is currently in the planning phase for the August 18, 2026, 14th Congressional District Special General Election.

Claudia also shared that the Registrar of Voters provides a media resource kit for each election, which includes photographs, videos, and opportunities for interviews with ROV staff. These resources support voter education efforts, encourage voter participation, and help address public questions.

Executive Order Update – Voter Identification and Vote-by-Mail Procedures

Claudia Guzman provided an update on questions raised during the previous meeting regarding the federal Executive Order on voter identification requirements and Vote-by-Mail procedures.

She clarified that a federal Executive Order does not automatically modify California election laws. Election administration in California continues to be governed by:

- The U.S. Constitution
- The California Election Code
- Secretary of State regulations
- Applicable court orders

Claudia explained that California generally does not require voters to present photo identification when voting. In specific circumstances where additional verification is required under federal or state law, established procedures are followed.

Regarding Vote-by-Mail ballots, Claudia explained that California's verification process includes comparing the voter's signature on the return envelope with the voter's signature on file. California law does not require voters to include a copy of identification with their Vote-by-Mail ballot.

From an operational perspective, there are currently no immediate changes to ROV procedures. The Registrar of Voters will continue following established processes for receiving, reviewing, and processing Vote-by-Mail ballots in accordance with California Election Code requirements and guidance from the Secretary of State.

The Registrar of Voters will continue monitoring legal developments, official guidance, and regulatory changes. If any procedural changes are required, updates will be communicated to staff promptly.

The department's priority remains the administration of secure, accurate, transparent elections while maintaining full compliance with applicable state and federal laws.

Alba Hernández requested copies of related information from the State for reference, preferably available in both English and Spanish. Claudia Guzman confirmed that she would provide the requested materials.

June 2026 Election Results

Estela Orozco presented the results of the June 2026 elections.

Statewide Direct Primary Election – June 2, 2026

- Total Registered Voters: 971,138
- Election Day Participation: 26,530 voters (2.73%)
- Vote-by-Mail Ballots Cast: 388,673 (40.02%)
- Total Ballots Cast: 415,203
- Overall, Voter Participation Rate: 42.75%

Vote Centers

The Registrar of Voters operated:

- 20 Vote Centers open for 10 days before Election Day
- 80 Vote Centers open for 4 days before Election Day

Total Vote Centers: 100

Vote Centers were open on Election Day from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Election Workers

- Total Election Workers: 906
- Bilingual Election Workers: 223
- Spanish-Speaking Election Workers: 88

14th Congressional District Special Primary Election – June 16, 2026

- Total Registered Voters: 430,751
- Election Day Participation: 2,010 voters (0.47%)
- Vote-by-Mail Ballots Cast: 123,388 (28.64%)
- Total Ballots Cast: 125,388
- Overall, Voter Participation Rate: 29.11%

Vote Centers

The Registrar of Voters operated:

- 7 Vote Centers open for 10 days before Election Day
- 7 Vote Centers open for 4 days before Election Day

Total Vote Centers: 14

Vote Centers were open on Election Day from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Election Workers

- Total Election Workers: 116
- Bilingual Election Workers: 54
- Spanish-Speaking Election Workers: 10

Upcoming Election: August 18, 2026 – 14th Congressional District Special General Election

Estela Orozco reviewed important election dates:

Election Activity	Date
First Day of Vote-by-Mail Ballot Mailing	July 20, 2026
First Day of Early Voting at Registrar of Voters Office	July 20, 2026
Last Day to Register to Vote	August 3, 2026
Public Logic and Accuracy Testing	August 6, 2026
Last Day to Request Replacement Vote-by-Mail Ballot	August 11, 2026
Election Day	August 18, 2026

Claudia Guzman provided additional information regarding election operations:

- 7 Vote Centers will be open for 10 days before Election Day.
- 7 Vote Centers will be open for 4 days before Election Day.
- Total Vote Centers available: 14
- Election Day Vote Center hours: 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM

The Registrar of Voters will also have:

- 30 Official Ballot Drop Boxes available throughout the district.
- Drop Box locations opening beginning July 20, 2026

Estela Orozco reported that approximately 110 Election Workers will be needed for this election.

Language Accessibility, Outreach, and Education

The Registrar of Voters reported participation in:

- 248 community outreach events
- 23 cultural events

Kelly Maciel invited the Registrar of Voters Office to participate in two upcoming events at Saint Clement Church to provide voter registration services and election information to community members.

Estela Orozco and Claudia Guzman thanked Kelly Maciel for the invitation and confirmed that the information would be shared with the Outreach Team for consideration.

Closing

Sasha Ritzie Hernandez thanked attendees for compiling and sharing the important information discussed during the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.