
REBECCA SPENCER
Registrar of Voters



ART TINOCO
Assistant Registrar of Voters

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)
Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2016 | 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members:

Julie Caban, Chair
Larry Smith, Co-Chair
John Kopp, Committee Member
Mario Janesin, Committee Member
Gabe Taylor, Committee Member (Teleconference)
Feliciano Godoy, Committee Member

Guests:

Ray Kennedy
Foster Tucker
Ronak Patel
Stephanie Buhr
Ellen Jones (Teleconference)

Registrar of Voters Staff:

Rebecca Spencer, Registrar of Voters
Art Tinoco, Assistant Registrar of Voters
Chris Neubauer, Chief Deputy Registrar of EO & Polls Division

Meeting Commenced at 10:00 a.m.

I. Welcome/Introductions

Introductions were made of the following staff: Registrar of Voters Rebecca Spencer, Assistant Registrar of Voters Art Tinoco, Chief Deputy of the EO & Polls Division Chris Neubauer, Committee Chair Julie Caban and Committee Co-Chair Larry Smith. Following staff introductions, attendees of the meeting made introductions.

II. Sub-Committee Reports

By-laws Sub-Committee – Mr. Taylor reported that the sub-committee has met with the Registrar's office to provide clarification on the draft by-laws. The Registrar's office is currently reviewing the by-laws and will provide their comments to the sub-committee.

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Mobility Sub-Committee – No report given at this meeting.

Visually Impaired Sub-Committee – No report given at this meeting.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Sub-Committee – No report given at this meeting.

III. State VAAC Update

Mr. Smith reported that the State VAAC met September 28th and the topics included several senate and assembly bills. The committee discussed senate bill 450 which gives voters with disabilities the same rights as UOCAVA voters; the Governor has until September 30th at midnight to sign or it becomes a law. They also discussed outreach related senate bill 589 that includes funding for outreach to the disability communities and the production of accessible materials for the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). Currently, 40% of the state does not report NVRA and they are working on improving that number. The committee discussed the Presidential Primary and Mr. Smith shared an accessibility survey with the VAAC. Some future agenda items assembly bill 2252 and accessible vote by mail ballots. The next State VAAC meeting will be held November 23rd and everyone is welcome to attend the teleconference.

IV. June Election Review

Mr. Neubauer reviewed the June Primary Election and stated that there was an issue with the mailing vendor. The new mailing vendor for sample ballots and information pamphlets is Admail and the sample ballots started going in the mail today (Sept. 29). As of this morning there are 954,000 registered voters in Riverside County. Registrar of Voters (ROV) received 30,000 online registrations over the past weekend. Mr. Neubauer reported that VoteCal became system of record this week which is a milestone for the State of California with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). For the June Election ROV switched from Accessibility Inspector (AI) to Accessibility Officer (AO) program. The prime difference was that the AI was in charge of a range of polling locations and they would roam from site to site. The AO was assigned to one site all day and their job was to ensure all of the mitigation equipment was set up correctly and that the other election officers were conducting themselves in a befitting manner to all voters including those with disabilities and elderly voters. The AO ensured any and all assistance that was requested by a voter was given correctly. Overall, there was success with the AO program and it will be expanded for the November Election. The last minute replacement of an AO that did not show up was a concern but the Range Inspectors were familiar with the mitigation techniques and were able to step in and help as needed. The June Election was a semi-open primary with cross over ballots and this proved difficult to get everything to the polls on time due to the complicated nature of the multiple ballot types. There were 62 ballot

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types and each of those had 8 ballot styles so there were actually 480 ballot types with 8 per voting precinct. This confusion will not be there for the November Election due to the 323 ballot types and only 1 per voting precinct. ROV received fewer comments from the field regarding accessibility that were of a serious nature. Some comments included path of travel wasn't set up correctly, which ROV went out and fixed, as well as providing better accessibility kits with better instructions for setting up. On an accessibility stand point, it was a good election for ROV. There will not be another election of that type for 4 years.

V. November Election Update

Rebecca Spencer discussed the upcoming November 8th Presidential General Election and passed around samples of the 2 card ballot, sample ballot and state pamphlets. There are currently 954,000 registered voters in Riverside County and that number is increasing daily. There are 323 ballot types and 587 polling places. This is a 2 card ballot and some of the county only has the front of the A card; the back of the A card is for local contests. If there aren't any city council, school districts or special districts in your area on the ballot then the back of you're a card will be blank. The front of the B card is state propositions 51-61 and the back is state propositions 62-67 as well as any local measures. There are 17 state propositions and 28 local measures. John Kopp asked how the presidential candidates are rotated on the ballots. Ms. Spencer explained that presidential, US senate and congressional candidates rotate by assembly district. Depending on what assembly district, your ballot will look different than the neighboring assembly district. The sample ballots start going into the mail today (Sept. 29) and the vote-by-mail ballots start going into the mail on October 11th. The last day for voter registration is October 24th. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is November 1st. Foster Tucker asked when the accessible sample ballot will be available on the website. Ms. Spencer stated that PDF sample ballots will be on the website on October 11th. ROV is still proofing the accessible sample ballot and working on having it on the website by October 11th as well. Mr. Tucker asked if there will be a marketing campaign regarding the accessible ballot being available on the website. Ms. Spencer stated that ROV will be doing a press release as well as a debut that the VAAC will be invited to attend. Early voting will begin on October 11th at the Registrar's office and they will be open the two Saturdays before the election as well as Election Day 7am – 8pm. Early Voting will also take place at the Galleria at Tyler in Riverside, Promenade in Temecula and Westfield in Palm Desert on October 28, 29 and 30 from 10am – 4pm. Mr. Neubauer stated that the Democracy Live system is also being used to send the UOCAVA ballots. Ms. Spencer stated that the military and overseas voters receive their ballots 45 days before the election by email or fax and they are allowed to return their ballot by mail or fax. The Democracy Live system was used to send out over 3,000 electronic ballots. Mr. Tucker asked if the military voter has to send back their ballot with a seal showing they are the actual voter. Ms. Spencer stated that they fill out a special registration form and they have to check off a box stating they are in the military, a spouse

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of someone in the military or are residing overseas which they sign under penalty of perjury. ROV enters the information and the person is flagged in the system as being military/overseas so when they run the report ROV knows who to send ballots to 45 days before the election. When they return their ballot by fax the voter must sign an oath and that signature is compared to the signature on the special registration form. Mr. Neubauer reviewed the changes to the AO program for the November Election which includes all election officers will receive the accessibility training and the accessibility training will be moved to the front of the training. This will help improve the program because everyone will be aware of how the equipment should be set up and if an AO doesn't show up to a polling place another election officer can be promoted. There are 587 voting precincts for this election and ROV is recruiting for poll workers. Mr. Neubauer asked the VAAC to encourage anyone interested in becoming an election officer to contact the Registrar's office or go online to fill out an application. It is the goal of ROV for every voter at a polling location to receive service in a timely manner so they are recruiting around the clock for as many poll workers as possible. Mr. Kopp asked what is the average number of registration precincts in each voting precinct and does ROV have a list of which of those are in each voting precinct? And also, how many voters are expected to show up at each voting precinct location? Mr. Neubauer stated the maximum is 1,000 voters per voting precinct location. There are some that are significantly lower due to ballot typing. On average it is about 600-700 voters but that is because we have some that are really high and some that are really low. Mr. Neubauer stated that the list is available by request and he can send it to Mr. Kopp. Another note on that is four of our cities have changed to city council districts so the precinct numbers are different because of that. Mr. Tucker stated that it might be a good idea to establish chain of command at the polling places to ensure mitigation equipments or items aren't changed once the inspector is gone. He also stated that there has been an effort to recruit poll workers with disabilities and he asked if ROV could note how many people were trained and for what position that had disabilities so we could have the statistic for next year. Mario Janesin stated that ROV is not allowed to ask what type of disability a poll worker has; Mr. Neubauer seconded that statement. Mr. Janesin stated that he works at the polls in Cherry Valley and normally there are two precincts there but for the June Election there were three. He noted that right before the polls opened there were only three poll workers and it can't be done without four workers at minimum. He commented that he would like to see only two precincts instead of three so there are more workers spread out. Mr. Neubauer stated that the population in that area increased so by law ROV had to add an additional voting precinct. Also, by law three is the minimum required for poll workers. ROV attempted to recruit as many poll workers as possible but it is much more difficult for the primary elections. Mr. Kopp asked if ROV does outreach at any of the high schools. Mr. Neubauer stated that there was just an outreach event at the Center for Deafness Inland Empire and AVU training at the Braille Institute. ROV has delivered voter registration packets to all of the high schools and will do voter registration drives at the high schools upon request. He also stated that ROV has received a sizable number of student

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poll worker applications for this election. There is also an email that is sent out to all of the school districts with a packet of information. ROV will also be participating in the Desert Sun's Candidate Pop-up on October 10th. Mr. Tucker stated that on the current poll worker application there is a question asking if someone requires an accommodation to be a poll worker. He stated that tracking that information would be a great place to start statistically. Mr. Neubauer stated that request would need to be reviewed for legal reasons. October 24th is close of registration and the Registrar's office will be open until midnight accepting registrations. The Election Observer Panel (EOP) and Logic and Accuracy (L&A) Testing are both scheduled for October 6th. If you are interested in attending either of those meetings please contact Candice Gordon. Mr. Tucker asked if everyone doing voter registration drives has to register with ROV and do they have to register when observing the polls on Election Day. Ms. Spencer stated for voter registration drives if a circulator picks up more than 50 registrations they do have to fill out paperwork with the Registrar's office. Anything fewer than 50 cards at a time, the person would not have to fill out anything to pick those up. Ms. Spencer also stated for every election the ROV conducts the EOP and invitations are sent to the Grand Jury, City Clerks, League of Women Voters, Chairmen of Political Parties as well as a posted public notice. During the EOP orientation ROV reviews the rules for observing at the polls and the participants are given a list of tentative dates for the election. According to California law there is no required paperwork for being an election observer. There is a letter that ROV provides to the election observer to show to the poll workers upon request. The number one rule for being an election observer is they are not allowed to interfere with the voting process. Mr. Tucker asked if it was a state decision or a county decision to not allow voters to take picture with their cell phone at the voting precinct. Mr. Neubauer stated that it was a Secretary of State's decision to not allow cell phone pictures inside voting precincts. Mr. Tucker asked how many provisional ballots were cast in the June Election. Ms. Spencer stated that it was around 30,000 provisional ballots. Many of the provisional ballots come from voters going to the wrong polling place.

VI. Questions/ Comments

Ray Kennedy discussed the International Delegation Study Tour. There is a preliminary list of attendees but not full confirmation yet. The guests include individuals from 6 different political parties in Mexico, a sitting senator, special prosecutor's office and a governor elect. The tour will start at LA County ROV to view their new voting system followed by a tour at Riverside County and a presentation on the VAAC. Mr. Tucker encouraged all members of the VAAC and advocacy groups to attend the event at Riverside County ROV. He will be sending the invitation to ROV to be sent out to the VAAC members. Mr. Kopp commented that based on the ROV website there were 403,828 ballots casts so 30,000 provisional ballots would be about 7.5%. Mr. Neubauer encouraged everyone to go to the correct polling place and make sure they are registered before the deadline to help cut down on provisional ballots. Mr. Tucker asked if there are statistics on why provisional voters are

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used. Mr. Neubauer stated the ROV keeps modified statistics for those that vote at the wrong polling place and their ballot had to be modified to the ballot the voter should have received. Most provisional ballots are counted either whole or modified. ROV keeps statistics on accepted, rejected and modified provisional ballots. They also have statistics on accepted and rejected vote-by-mail ballots. The modified category normally shows that they are not voting at the correct polling location and the rejected is almost always because the voter is not registered to vote. Mr. Kennedy stated the app Next Door would be a good platform for recruiting poll workers. Mr. Neubauer stated that he will look into using that platform. Ms. Spencer stated that ROV uses their website, Facebook and Twitter as well as the County Information Officer that puts out all of the press releases to local media outlets. Art Tinoco asked if the guests coming for the study tour will speak English or if they will need a translator. Mr. Tucker stated the guests will provide their own translator and ROV will not be responsible for that. Mr. Kopp asked if a person who registered but hasn't voted in four cycle is on an inactive list or are they no longer registered to vote. Under NVRA, a person who hasn't voted in two federal election cycles would be purged from the system. There are ways to avoid being purged without having to vote by contacting the Registrar's office. There are voters on the inactive list that can vote provisional and their status will be updated and their ballot will count. If a voter isn't on the roster they can call the Registrar's office and get an authorization code to receive a regular ballot. Mr. Tucker asked about people in line at close of polls. Mr. Neubauer stated that anyone in line at the close of polls will be allowed to vote. There is an end of the line monitor that will turn voters away after the close of polls. The closing of polls could only be extended in the state of emergency by the Secretary of State's office. Mr. Kopp asked on the ROV website using the "Am I Registered to Vote" link, can you see if a person is registered in other counties or just in Riverside County. Ms. Spencer stated the link only shows registrations in Riverside County.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.