

**California Secretary of State
Voter's Choice Task Force**

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 27, 2026 | 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

1. Welcome, Call to Order: 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Task Force Members Present: Chair Petrina Branch, Chair Donna Linder, Matt Moreles, Gabriel Taylor, Leslie Hernandez, Art Tinoco, Deanna Kitamura, Dean Logan, Ethan Jones, Evelyn Mendez, Dora Rose, Brittany Stonesifer.

Absent: Bob Page, Ellen Nash, Jesse Salinas, Melvin Levey.

Declaration of Quorum

SOS Briana Ricketts-Beck declared a quorum was reached.

2. Comments: General Public Items Not on the Agenda
Chair Donna Linder invited public comments. The following comments were made: No public comments.

3. Discussion and Possible Action: Task Force Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2026
Recommendation for Action: Staff recommend the Task Force adopt the minutes of the meeting of August 13, 2026.

In a motion by Petrina Branch, seconded by Deanna Kitamura, and carried on a 7-0 vote, the meeting minutes from August 13, 2026 were approved.

- Dora Rose requested that links be included in future agendas and meeting minutes to any documents requested to be reviewed.

AYES: Chair Petrina Branch, Chair Donna Linder, Melvin E. Levey, Matt Moreles, Gabriel Taylor, Art Tinoco, Deanna Kitamura

ABSTAIN: Camila Chavez, Brittany Stonesifer, Dora Rose, Camila Chavez, Evelyn Mendez, Brittany Stonesifer, Leslie Hernandez.

ABSENT for vote: Bob Page, Ellen Nash, Jesse Salinas.

4. Review of CSU Sacramento Data Subcommittee
 - SOS Josh Robinson noted that the two Task Force members in charge of this section of the report are not present at today's meeting, nor has a draft been submitted for Task Force review ahead of the meeting. He suggested the Task

Force can use this time to discuss the CSU Sacramento report if they would like.

- Chair Donna Linder asked members if anyone has any discussion items related to the report, and there were none.

5. Review of the draft of the “Purpose & History of the Voter’s Choice Act” section of the 2026 Primary Election Report

- Link to the draft discussed: [Voter's Choice Task Force Report on the June 2, 2026, Statewide Primary Election \(PDF\)](#)
- Art Tinoco provided an overview of the process creating this draft of the section of the report, noting what changes were made to this section from the 2025 Special Election Report. Leslie Hernandez then reviewed the specific changes made by herself and Art Tinoco.
- Task Force members made the following comments:
 - Gabriel Taylor noted that mobile voting ought to be included in this section. Leslie Hernandez agreed, citing this is a service AltaMed helps to provide to voters.
 - In the Zoom chat, Brittany Stonesifer noted: “+1 to mobile voting/flex voting is also a great pressure valve for issues like natural disasters/emergencies, interference, etc.”
 - In the Zoom chat, Matt Morales noted: “Proposed language around mobile voting: While not required by law, the flexibility offered by the VCA has enabled some counties to implement additional voting options, such as mobile voting sites, which can increase accessibility for voters, particularly in more remote locations.”
 - In the Zoom chat, Dora Rose noted: “November’s Special Election history section ended with the note that VCA costs are significant up front and ongoing. That’s been replaced with a paragraph saying the model reduces barriers and increases participation. I’d like the new paragraph in ‘designed to’ terms, since whether it delivers is the thing we’re supposed to be reviewing.”
 - Dora Rose followed up in the Zoom chat with the comment: “Last time we said high turnout doesn't tell you whether everyone was served equally. A June primary is the flip side: low turnout, older and more habitual electorate. Nothing in this outline holds that question. The VoteCal section should commit to breakdowns by race, language, age, and accommodation use, not just a statewide rate.

- Leslie asked Task Force members feedback on whether the comparison chart of VCA versus polling place counties ought to be included as part of the introduction. Leslie suggested including it later in the report, but not as part of the introduction section.
 - Deanna Kitamura agreed, and also noted she updated the table from what was in the 2025 Special Election Report.
 - In the Zoom chat, Dora Rose noted: “Ballot Processing Improvements names the finding before we have evidence. Could we make it Ballot Processing Changes?”
- In the Zoom chat, Dora Rose also noted: “On the heading that reads Unusual Nature of the June 2, 2026 Statewide Primary Election (Ballot Rejection Rate and USPS Changes). I'd keep the section and keep USPS in it. Postal service changes are an outside condition counties had to work around, same category as the compressed timeline in the special election report. I am concerned about ballot rejection sitting in that parenthetical. Rejection isn't a condition we operated under, it's a result we produced. It's the voters who tried to participate and didn't get counted.”
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- Deadline for an updated draft was confirmed to be September 8, 2026.

6. Finalize Subcommittee Assignments

- Chair Donna Linder noted there are still a few committees with only one person; would anyone like to join one of those?
 - Evelyn Mendez is added to Accessibility Refresh with Deanna Kitamura.
 - Gabriel Taylor noted that Melvin Levey may have committed to one, but wasn't sure.
 - Camila Chavez is added to Review of the University Reports with Gabriel Taylor.
 - Chair Donna Linder
 - Dora Rose noted she is available beginning mid-October. SOS Josh Robinson confirmed that works well for the Conclusion. Dora Rose joins the conclusion with Chair Petrina Branch.

7. Future Agenda Items

- Chair Petrina Branch invited future agenda items from the Task Force. None were suggested.

8. Adjournment

Chair Donna Linder adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.