

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 14, 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, Melvin E. Levey, Matt Moreles, Deanna Kitamura, Carrie Cornwell, Ethan Jones, Gabriel Taylor, Evelyn Mendez, Brittany Stonesifer, Art Tinoco, Bob Page, Ellen Nash, Dean Logan, Jesse Salinas

Absent: Dora Rose, Leslie Hernandez, Bob Page, Camila Chavez

Declaration of Quorum

SOS Ryan Reece declared a quorum was reached.

2. Comments: General Public Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Petrina Branch invited public comments. The following comments were made:

No public comments.

3. Discussion and Possible Action: Task Force Meeting Minutes of Apr. 30, 2026

Recommendation for Action: Staff recommend the Task Force adopt the minutes of the meeting of Apr. 30, 2026.

In a motion by Melvin Levey and seconded by Deanna Kitamura, and carried on a 11-0 vote, Task Force members approved the minutes with the correction noted above.

AYES: Chair Petrina Branch, Chair Donna Linder, Melvin E. Levey, Matt Moreles, Deanna Kitamura, Gabriel Taylor, Evelyn Mendez, Brittany Stonesifer, Art Tinoco, Bob Page, Ellen Nash, Dean Logan

ABSTAIN: Dean Logan

ABSENT for vote: Dora Rose, Leslie Hernandez, Bob Page, Camila Chavez, Jesse Salinas

4. Review of VoteCal Data Subcommittee

- No comments were provided on the report ahead of time. Chair Petrina Branch asked what the Task Force would like to do to provide feedback.
- Evelyn Mendez asked if Melvin is willing to format and standardize this supplemental report so it fits with the rest of the report. Melvin agreed.
 - i. Petrina Branch asked SOS what the standard practice is for formatting supplemental reports. SOS Josh Robinson noted that there is not a common practice.
- Chair Donna Linder noted the first word in the third paragraph needs to be capitalized.
- Bob Page noted in the chat that the second paragraph in the Conclusions section says “over” when it should say “voter.”
- Matt Morales shared what his process was when creating the report, including highlights from the data.
 - i. When discussing impacts on age, Bob Page asked in the chat what age ranges SOS analyzed. SOS Katreena Alder responded 18-25, 26-35, 36-45; 56-65; 66+, and Unknown DOB. Bob asked if those are mandated age ranges, and SOS noted that these are the standard ranges in VoteCal.
- Deanna Kitamura noted that “whie” should be “while” under the Additional Observations section.
 - i. She also asked in chat if SOS looked at which days drop boxes were used?
 - ii. At the end of page 3, there’s mention of concerns voters may have of USPS. Deanna wonders if there should be more about USPS postmarking. That ought to be highlighted, both given the changing way postmarks are done and the possible Supreme Court case.
 - 1. SOS Josh Robinson shared a link to the SOS report of vote center usage by day, but that doesn’t necessarily show dropbox usage. SOS Jana Lean noted that VoteCal data is when election officials enter and send the data, which may not reflect the actual day a ballot was dropped into the drop box.
- Bob Page noted that while there are some benefits and improvements for VCA, it’s not enough for the non-VCA counties to switch while it is still optional – especially because the state is not reimbursing for the additional costs.

- Dean Logan celebrated the work on this supplemental report, noting the Task Force can celebrate some implications of these data in a cover letter.
- Bob Page noted in chat “SOS didn’t look at political party preference data?” SOS Josh Robinson confirmed that yes, SOS looks at political party data.
 - i. Bob Page shared that an analysis by political party might be useful because he sees a shift in Orange County on how voters are casting a vote by party. It might not be as relevant to this report, but is still interesting.
- Bob Page asked Deanna clarification about her drop box question, then added more context to Jana’s point about the frequency of ballot pick-ups from the boxes, such as statutory requirements for pick-up and processing.
 - i. Multiple county representatives noted in the chat that they track individual drop box use.
 - ii. Jesse Salinas explains in Yolo, they pick up every 48 hours, in the late afternoon, and process the next day.
- Chair Petrina Branch asked what the Task Force would like to do regarding this report.
 - i. Matt Morales noted it might be a good idea to give until the next meeting for review and provide comments, which can be reviewed at the June 11 meeting.
 - ii. Melvin Levey asked SOS when a draft needs to be ready for circulation. SOS Josh Robinson said whatever the Task Force needs.
- Chair Petrina Branch asked SOS any update on university data, which was answered as not before the Primary.

5. Public Comment on the report

Chair Petrina Branch invited public comments. The following comments were made:

- No public comments were made.

6. Future Agenda Items and Other Comments: Task Force Members

Next meeting set for June 11, 2026 from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Chair Petrina Branch adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m.