

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2026 | 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 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, Evelyn Mendez, Matt Moreles, Deanna Kitamura, Dean Logan, Carrie Cornwell, Bob Page, Ethan Jones, Dora Rose, Art Tinoco, Leslie Hernandez, Camila Chavez, Brittany Stonesifer, Gabriel Taylor

Absent: Ellen Nash, Jesse Salinas

Declaration of Quorum

SOS Briana Ricketts-Beck 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. 2, 2026

Recommendation for Action: Staff recommend the Task Force adopt the minutes of the meeting of Apr. 2, 2026.

- Dora Rose, Camila Chavez, Carrie Cornwell will be removed from the roll call because they were absent. Art Tinoco joined the meeting a few minutes late, so can be added as present.

In a motion by Deanna Kitamura, and seconded by Evelyn Mendez, and carried on a 15-0 vote, Task Force members approved the minutes with the attendance correction noted above.

AYES: Chair Petrina Branch, Chair Donna Linder, Melvin E. Levey, Evelyn Mendez, Matt Moreles, Deanna Kitamura, Dean Logan, Carrie Cornwell, Bob Page, Ethan Jones, Dora Rose, Art Tinoco, Leslie Hernandez, Camila Chavez, Brittany Stonesifer

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Dora Rose

ABSENT for vote: Ellen Nash, Jesse Salinas, Gabriel Taylor

4. Update on the “VoteCal Data” part of the report

- SOS Josh Robinson shared that the data is unfortunately not ready for review, but will be shared as soon as possible.

5. Review of the report thus far

- Dora Rose asked clarification on which edits she should have included, per notes from the previous meeting. SOS Josh Robinson noted that the SOS team has since incorporated the edits noted in the previous meeting and circulated the report to the Task Force for review.
 - Dora noted she has not had an opportunity to review the circulated report on April 14.
 - SOS staff clarified that there were two drafts circulated to the Task Force: one on April 6 that incorporates the edits to one part of the report, and one on April 14 that is the whole report thus far (minus the “Accessibility/flexibility” section) with edits for consistency.
 - Dean Logan has changes to share with Melvin for the “Accessibility/flexibility” section before it can be updated for consistency.
 - Deanna Kitamura noted having made some changes on the “History & Purpose” section, but those are not reflected in the combined document.
- Dora Rose asked a process question, likening to the Motor Voter Task Force. Is it possible to adopt the similar process as Motor Voter?
 - SOS Josh Robinson said that if the Task Force would like the team to adopt that process, we can look into how they do that.
 - Melvin Levey noted that would be helpful, and he can turn around another draft of the combined report thus far ahead of the next meeting.
 - Deanna Kitamura and Gabriel Taylor agree.
 - Evelyn Mendez highlighted that because the different parts of the report are in different states of completion, we cannot have one combined report to look at yet; that’s why there are multiple drafts floating around.
 - Melvin Levey suggested establishing a deadline for the group to provide comments to the whole report thus far.
- Petrina Branch summarized: sounds like the ask is to have a single combined document of the first three sections, give the team time to provide feedback, Melvin will update the document, then that can get circulated with enough time ahead of the next meeting.
 - Melvin asked SOS to confirm it does not violate Bagley-Keene to circulate documents like this; SOS Josh confirmed it’s fine as long as the SOS coordinates the document circulation.

- Petrina suggested the following timeline: Melvin create a single document before Monday, new combined document get shared with the Task Force on Monday the 20th, comments due by the 24th, Melvin incorporates by the 28th, then reshared ahead of the April 30 meeting.
- Dora Rose & Evelyn Mendez asked again when the report is due: May 4. Petrina reminded the Task Force of what was discussed last meeting: that because the data are not yet available, that part of the report will have to be written as an addendum after the report is due. That's what allows the timeline suggested above to work.
- Melvin Levey asked that, seeing as the data addendum will be added to the report later, should there still be a conclusion or set of recommendations or something to finish out the report as-is? He offered to draft that section.
 - Dora Rose noted that we ought to also include a note that the report cannot be fully completed without the data. Task Force members agree.

6. Public Comment on this section of the report

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

No public comments.

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

Next meeting set for Apr. 30, 2026 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Chair Petrina Branch adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.