

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

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, April 2, 2026 | 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

1. Welcome, Call to Order: 2:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Task Force Members Present: Chair Donna Linder, Melvin E. Levey, Evelyn Mendez, Matt Moreles, Gabriel Taylor, Leslie Hernandez, Jesse Salinas, Chair Petrina Branch, Brittany Stonesifer, Deanna Kitamura, Dean Logan  
Absent: Dora Rose, Carrie Cornwell, Art Tinoco, Bob Page, Camilla Chavez, Ellen Nash, Ethan Jones

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 Mar. 19, 2026

Recommendation for Action: Staff recommend the Task Force adopt the minutes of the meeting of Mar. 19, 2026.

In a motion by Dean Logan, and seconded by Deanna Kitamura, and carried on a 11-0 vote, Task Force members approved the minutes.

AYES: Chair Donna Linder, Melvin E. Levey, Evelyn Mendez, Matt Moreles, Gabriel Taylor, Leslie Hernandez, Jesse Salinas, Chair Petrina Branch, Brittany Stonesifer, Deanna Kitamura, Dean Logan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Dora Rose, Carrie Cornwell, Art Tinoco, Bob Page, Camilla Chavez, Ellen Nash, Ethan Jones

4. Introduction of the "VoteCal Data" part of the report

- SOS Josh Robinson noted the data are not yet available, but the agency is working swiftly to get data to the subcommittee as soon as possible.

5. Final review of the comments on the “Unusual Nature of the November 2025 Special Election” part of the report

- Dean Logan asked if the committee will see a final version with edits incorporated before they can move to finalize. SOS confirmed.
- Gabriel Taylor noted that Dora Rose, who is absent today, is incorporating edits to this part of the report.
- Evelyn Mendez asked if there will be checks for consistency across the report, such as standardizing the name of the election.
- Petrina Branch brought up that we have a logistical issue coming up; that there are only two more meetings scheduled for this Task Force but still two more sections of the report that need to be written. The second meeting may also be when the final report is reviewed. This logistics question ought to be addressed at the end of this meeting.
  - Dean Logan asked if there is a process by which the Task Force can get an extension. Also, wasn't there talk about a subcommittee that would be reviewing the whole document, to Evelyn's point?
  - Brittany Stonesifer agrees for this need and suggests a team can start that standardizing/proofing work now.
  - Mel Levey volunteered to start piecing together the first three parts of the report; Task Force agrees. Mel will touch base with SOS after the meeting to confirm logistics.
  - SOS team reminded folks that all final drafts are available on the website as well.
- Dean Logan asked again about extensions or penalties for the deadline. Jesse Salinas supported the need to ask. Donna Linder noted we will run into this same issue for the June election as well.
  - Deanna Kitamura suggested that the Task Force can always put out what they can on time, then add an addendum once the rest of the report is ready. Would that work? SOS Josh Robinson can look into it.

6. Review of the comments on the “Impact of the VCA on Accessibility, Flexibility, and Security” part of the report

- Deanna Kitamura asked if more VCA-specific details can be included, and she hasn't seen mention of bilingual workers on phone lines. Should there also be inclusion of VCA requirements for outreach to specific communities?
  - Gabriel Taylor agrees, especially the kind of accessibility required of the voting machines. There are a lot of positive opportunities that

the VCA model brings, such as the work the VAACs and LAACs do (meet, provide input, host community events, participate in outreach, etc.).

- “Are required to be accessible to transportation” - Gabriel Taylor asked a clarifying question about what disability services are available, and Dean Logan noted that can be clarified.
- Jesse Salinas noted in the chat that “ballor marking devices” should be “ballot.”

## 7. Public Comment on this section of the report

Chair Donna Linder invited public comments. The following comments were made:

No public comments.

## 8. Task Force discussion of 2-hour meetings for April 16 and April 30 meetings

- Dean Logan asked if they would run from 2-4pm, or a different time. SOS Josh Robinson noted that is up to the Task Force.
- Petrina Branch noted that even if the meetings are extended, we still need the data to complete the report. Deanna Kitamura agrees. The committee needs something to review during that time. Petrina still advocates for the meeting time to be extended, though.
  - Jesse Salinas agrees, noting that the team will likely need to meet after May 4 to plan for any addendums to the report. SOS Josh Robinson noted there are already meetings scheduled in May and June.
- Committee decided to meet from 2-4pm on each April 16 and April 30.

## 9. Future Agenda Items and Other Comments: Task Force Members

Next meeting set for Apr. 16, 2026 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

- Topic: “VoteCal Data” (assuming the data are made available with enough time for the subcommittee to draft this section)
- Subcommittee members: Matt Morales & Ellen Nash

## 10. Adjournment

Chair Donna Linder adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.