



SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

September 2, 2022

Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC)

August 24, 2022, Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

Roll was called and quorum was declared. The following participants were marked as present:

Committee Members

- Deanna Kitamura
- Juan Pablo Cervantes
- Naindeep Singh
- Pedro Hernandez
- Jacqueline Coto
- Karen Diaz
- Patricia Bini
- Ramal Lamar-El

Secretary of State Staff

- LaKenya Jordan,
Deputy Secretary of State, Policy
& Planning
- Joanna Southard,
Assistant Chief of Elections
- Katreena Alder
VCA Analyst
- Andrea Boyens
VCA Analyst
- Ted Muhlhauser
Staff Services Manager I
- Janell Jackson
Outreach and Voter Education
- NaKesha Robinson
Information Technology
Supervisor II
- Erric Garris
Deputy Secretary of State,
Legislative Affairs
- Mike Somers
Election Services Manager
- Ruben Vasquez
Voter Accessibility Coordinator
- Denise Green
Strategic Partnership and Business
Outreach

Members of the Public and County Elections Office Staff

- San Diego County
- Contra Costa County
- Santa Clara County
- Sacramento County

2. LAAC Members Election Updates

Deanna Kitamura

- No updates.

Juan Pablo Cervantes (Humboldt County)

- No updates.

Jacqueline Coto

- No updates.

Patricia Bini

- No updates.

Ramal Lamar-El

- No updates.

Naindeep Singh

- No updates.

Pedro Hernandez

- Spoke with their vendor to see if it is possible to certify a non-section 203 language.

Karen Diaz

- Organization started their general election work and have 150 representatives making calls from a virtual call center. In addition, efforts are being made to go door-to-door to educate Latino voters about the upcoming election.

3. SOS Updates

Voter's Choice Act (VCA)

- LaKenya Jordan introduced 2 new VCA contacts: Katreena Alder and Andrea Boyens.
- Lakenya Jordan presented the VCA Ambassador toolkit PowerPoint to the committee. This toolkit allows LAAC committee members to promote voter education and outreach to the public.
 - The VCA team will contact the LAAC committee members to provide instructions to sign up.

OVSTA

- Nakesha Robinson communicated the SOS has two voting systems in the pipeline for certification testing. We anticipate the testing for one system to go underway late September and we expected the other to be tested in fall 2022.

Legislative

- Errric Garris presented AB 2037 that was chaptered and passed through legislation. This bill would allow facilities that handle alcoholic beverages to be used as voting locations.

Character-Based Names/Transliteration

- Ruben Vasquez stated that the Secretary of State can transliterate candidate names in Hindi, Thai, and Khmer, and asked the LAAC committee if the SOS should move forward with this transliteration change.
- Deanna Kitamura stated to discuss with those communities first since some characters can be in favor of others.
- Pedro Hernandez asked for background would useful so that the letter is introduced and be incorporated. Pedro also agreed that the communities should be contacted so that there is a sense of awareness on sensibility and correct usage.
- Liz Oviedo (Santa Clara County) communicated they provide 13 languages other than English and they do have Khmer and Japanese transliterated. In addition, they provide the names of candidates to their translators to transliterate the names.
- The committee agreed that this agenda topic should remain for future meetings.

4. Poll Worker Recruitment

- Ruben Vasquez asked the committee for advice to help the counties recruit more bilingual poll workers for the upcoming November 8, 2022, General Election.
- Evenly Mendez added that it would be useful for SOS to help promote language workshops. Currently advertisements are being performed in 13 different languages to tell people that they are hiring for Santa Clara County.

5. Committee Goals

- Paulo Chang asked for grants and if the State of California can provide a grant program, it could potentially include more people.
- Deanna Kitamura asked for a system to have the Secretary of State to follow up on the LAAC committee recommendation.
- Ramal Lamar-El asked for each LAAC member to bring committee goals.

6. Media/Communications Channels

- Ruben Vasquez asked how the Secretary of State can be more engaged and effective with the media to communicate with the non-English speaking population.
- Paulo Change (Santa Clara County) added that his county is using TikTok, Youtube, Instagram, and Twitter to post information in different languages to reach a broader audience.

7. Public Comments and Future Agenda Items

- Public Comments:
 - Juan Pablo Cervantes asked if the Secretary of State could start work on resources for poll workers. The printed materials can be supplied by the State to the counties, for the counties to distribute to their poll workers. This will help poll workers provide resources to non-English speaking voters and will be a great help to struggling counties.
 - Ramal Lamar-El asked for all LAAC members to have their name and bio on the LAAC website.

- Future Agenda Items:
 - Add grants for the LAAC members.
 - Transliteration for candidate names in Hindi, Thai, and Khmer.
 - How to partner with primary local language organizations.

8. Adjournment at 4:26pm.

- Next meeting is scheduled on October 5 at 1:00pm.