



Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.

California Secretary of State

Elections Division

1500 11th Street, 5th Floor | Sacramento, CA 95814 | 916.657.2166 | elections@sos.ca.gov

October 17, 2025

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #25143

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: /s/ Nehal Radusinovic
Elections Analyst

RE: Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee: October 29, 2025, Meeting

Attached is the notice and agenda for the next Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. via videoconference and in person at the locations listed on the agenda.

County elections officials and members of the public are welcome to attend in person or by calling in to the conference number listed on the agenda.

This notice and agenda will also be available on the VAAC website at:
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/vaac>.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions at nradusinovic@sos.ca.gov.

Thank you.



Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.

California Secretary of State

Elections Division

1500 11th Street, 5th Floor | Sacramento, CA 95814 | 916.657.2166 | elections@sos.ca.gov

October 17, 2025

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

(VAAC)

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/vaac>

Date and time: Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

Conference call number: +1 916-354-5402

Phone Conference ID: 590 240 649#

Screenshare/webstream: [Click Here to Join the Meeting](#)

Password: h2ZH6Sz9

Location: Secretary of State
2nd Floor Boardroom
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, CA
95814

Los Angeles County Ballot Processing Center
13401 Crossroads Parkway N. (Huddle Room 1)
City of Industry, CA 91746

Notice of Meeting Platform Change:

This meeting will be held on Microsoft Teams. Due to a pending Zoom update, the meeting will take place on Microsoft Teams to ensure compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and to provide uninterrupted public access.

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)

Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

Agenda

1. Welcome, Call to Order, Roll Call, and Declaration of Quorum
2. VAAC Members Community Outreach Updates
3. Secretary of State
 - Voting Systems (OVSTA)
 - Voter's Choice Act (VCA)
 - Legislation
4. Working groups
 - Petitions/Signature Verification
 - Making the petition process accessible to voters with disabilities
 - Curbside Voting
 - Outreach to Voters with Disabilities
 - Increasing Accessibility for Voters who Use ASL
 - ASL Accessibility Best Practices Recommendations
5. Public Comments and Future Agenda Items
6. 2026/2027 Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee Member Applications
7. Adjournment

IMPORTANT NOTICES TO THE PUBLIC:

- This meeting is open to the public and is accessible to the physically disabled.
- In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, reasonable accommodations are available. Providing accommodation requests at least five (5) business days before the meeting will help to ensure availability of the requested accommodation.
- Any person who needs a disability-related accommodation or modification in order to participate in the meeting, or any person wanting to subscribe to future meeting notices and agendas, may make a request by contacting Nehal Radusinovic at (916) 695-1568, by emailing VAAC@sos.ca.gov or nradusinovic@sos.ca.gov, or by sending a written request to Nehal Radusinovic, 1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814.
- Discussion and action may be taken on any item on the agenda. The time and order of agenda items are subject to change at the discretion of the committee and may be taken out of order.
- Persons interested in addressing the committee on any agenda item will be given an opportunity to speak. The committee may limit the time for each individual speaker.
- The committee may not discuss or take action on any matter raised that is not included on this agenda, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting. (Government Code sections 11125, 11125.7(a).)

Request to SOS

From: State VAAC (working group: Making the petition process accessible to voters with disabilities)

Date to be approved: October 29, 2025

1. Description of question

The committee is asking the SOS to consider encouraging the state legislature to add clarifying language to Elections code section 100.5, in order to address the following outstanding questions:

A. Witness requirement: According to elections code section 100.5, if a petition signer cannot physically write their address on the petition form, due to a physical disability, requiring another person to print the address, an additional signature from a witness is required.

Clarifications needed:

- Voters need language on the petition document itself stating this requirement.
- Voters need adequate space for witness signatures.
- Voters need to know how an address is deemed to have been written by a different person, thereby invalidating the signature on the petition.

Clarifying this language allows all petition circulators and signers to comply with requirements, thus ensuring full participation in the democratic process for all.

B. Methods of affixing physical address to petition: According to Elections code section 100.5 petition signers must physically write their address in addition to providing a valid signature on the petition document.

Clarifications needed:

- Can the signer use a stamp for personally affixing their address to the petition, especially if such a stamp was used during the voting process as an accommodation for a disability?

- Voters need to know how a hand-written address is compared against an address entered digitally during an online registration process.

Clarifying this language will allow voters to have any accommodating tools such as an address stamp available when participating in the democratic process.

2. Reasons for this request

As the VAAC is an advisory, not an advocacy committee, it does not have authority to suggest or propose legislation. While the SOS also does not propose legislation, there is opportunity to assist or guide the legislature in addressing critical election-related concerns such as this.

3. Where responses to this request should be sent

Responses should be sent back to the VAAC with special attention to the petitions/signatures working group, so as to inform the committee as to the response from the Sos. If the SOS chooses not to communicate with the legislature, committee members may be asked to contact their legislators as individual citizens and suggest this clarifying legislation.

4. Proposed timeline for this request to be implemented:

The committee would like a response within 1 month, as this is approaching the end of the term for its current members. It is important for committee members to be informed of the disposition of the item so individuals may move forward if this cannot be continued as a committee project in 2026.

ASL Accessibility Working Group – Best Practices Recommendations

1. Description of the recommendation

Best practices recommendations (see Appendix A).

2. Reason for this recommendation

While the turnout rate of voters with disabilities is eight percentage points below that of voters without disabilities, the turnout rate for D/deaf and hard of hearing voters who primarily communicate using American Sign Language

3. Where this recommendation should be sent to or updated

1. Get them on county VAAC agendas.
2. Secretary of State should get to counties through a County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) guidance.

4. Proposed timeline for this recommendation to be implemented

We would like these best practices recommendations out to counties by January 31, 2026, in time for county elections officials to implement many of these best practices prior to the June 2026 primary election.

Appendix A

Recommendations for county elections officials: Increasing accessibility for D/deaf and hard-of-hearing voters

DRC developed these recommendations in consultation with stakeholders, including members of the Deaf community and county elections officials.

Determine which services will be available at voting locations.

- In-person sign language interpretation
 - Certified professional interpreters (e.g., existing contract with County, need to contract with interpreting service)
 - Election workers with sign language fluency (e.g., recruitment, screening, assessment)
- Video remote interpreting (VRI) of sign language
 - VRI service
 - Video conferencing with fluent election worker(s) at another site

Publicize the availability of sign language interpreting services.

- What to publicize
 - Types of interpreting services available
 - How to request and access interpreting services
- Where to publicize
 - County voter information guide
 - County elections website
 - Social media
 - Voter education workshops
 - Targeted outreach to D/deaf and hard-of-hearing communities (e.g., through [Deaf Access Program service providers](#))
 - Signage at voting locations (see below)
- Use simple language, keeping in mind that the average reading level of a D/deaf person has been estimated to be at the third- to fourth-grade level.

Identify interpreters and interpreting services at voting locations.

- Post signage about interpreting services at the entrance to and at the check-in table for the voting location.
- Have interpreters and election workers with sign language fluency wear a badge, button, or sticker listing their language capabilities.
- Signage/badge/button/sticker examples
 - “American Sign Language (ASL)” (or other sign language)
 - Image of fingerspelled ASL: 
 - Image of interpreter hands: 

Plan for effective communication at voting locations.

- Secure reliable technology, including a sufficiently large video screen and stable internet connection, for using VRI.
- Train election workers
 - Needs of D/deaf and hard-of-hearing voters, including possible limited proficiency with written English
 - Etiquette for interacting with D/deaf and hard-of-hearing voters
 - Interpreting services available
 - How to connect voters with interpreting services
- Designate a sufficiently quiet and distraction-free space where interpretation can take place.
- Survey voters afterward about the quality and effectiveness of the interpreting services, and use their feedback to improve.

Create or link to short videos, with ASL interpretation and captions, to describe basic elections information, including the following topics:

- [How to register to vote](#)
- Days, hours, and locations for in-person voting
- How to vote using a ballot-marking device
- How to vote using a paper ballot
- Options and deadlines for returning a vote-by-mail ballot, including locations, days, and hours of operation of ballot drop boxes
- What is on the ballot
- How to get ASL interpretation at a voting location

Partner with [Deaf Access Program service providers](#) and other relevant stakeholders, including about the following topics:

- Training election workers about the needs of D/deaf and hard-of-hearing voters and proper etiquette
- Selecting voting locations
- Selecting interpreting services and screening for fluency
- Planning signage and effective communication
- Creating the videos recommended above
- Reaching D/deaf and hard-of-hearing voters
- Designing and implementing the survey recommended above, as well as incorporating survey feedback

Recruit D/deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals to serve on county voting and language accessibility advisory committees.