

Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC)

Monday, May 18, 2026, 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome, Call to Order, Roll Call, and Declaration of Quorum

Meeting called to order at 1:32 p.m. Quorum was met.

LAAC members present:

- Greta Arevalo
- Armando Salud-Ambriz
- Cindy Wu
- Dean Logan
- Deanna Kitamura
- Fangchun Tsai
- Gloria Liz Oviedo
- Janet Bernabe
- Paul Burke
- Pedro Hernandez

2. Public Comment

This time is reserved for public presentations on matters not appearing on the agenda. Speakers are limited to two (2) minutes each.

No public comments were submitted.

3. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes (March 2, 2026)

Motion to adopt minutes put forth by Cindy Wu; seconded by Armando Salud-Ambriz.

Vote:

- Yea: Greta Arevalo, Armando Salud-Ambriz, Cindy Wu, Dean Logan, Fangchun Tsai, Gloria Liz Oviedo, Janet Bernabe, Paul Burke, Pedro Hernandez
- Abstained: Deanna Kitamura

Motion carried.

4. LAAC Member Updates

- **Deanna Kitamura**
 - i. Leading coalition efforts to pass AB 1360, which has cleared the Senate Committee and Appropriations and is expected to move to the Senate Floor. The bill would codify Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act, expand language coverage, and lower the numeric threshold to 5,000 citizens per county.
 - ii. Conducting poll monitoring with CA Common Cause across 20 counties to identify language access issues.
- **Pedro Hernandez**
 - iii. AB 1164 is packaged with AB 1360.
- **Gloria Liz Oviedo**

- iv. Santa Clara County is producing official ballots in 9 languages, exceeding the federal mandate. This year 5 facsimile languages are provided, with 3 more being added for a total of 17 languages available to voters.

5. Secretary of State Updates

Voting Systems Testing (OVSTA)

Presenter: Rodney Rodriguez

- Hart Verity 3.2.2: Currently in post-testing phase.
- ES&S EVS 6.5.2: Full certification testing to begin after the current election cycle.
- Democracy Live Secure Select 1.2.2: Testing to begin.
- NoInk Pollbook 4.3.2: Currently in pre-testing; full certification pending.

Voter's Choice Act (VCA)

Presenter: Dana Davenport

- The VCA Taskforce has been meeting biweekly since January 2026 and submitted its report on the Statewide Special Election to the Legislature earlier this month.
 - o Report available at: <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/vca/taskforce/vctaskforce-final-report.pdf>
 - o Additional resources: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/voters-choice-act/voters-choice-task-force>
- VCA team is shifting focus to prepare for the June 2 election.
- VCA outreach team has been visiting VCA counties and assisting with student outreach and voting rights restoration.
- Ambassador Program is being revamped; contact voterschoice@sos.ca.gov for more information.

6. Legislation

Presenter: Paige Kent, Legal Affairs Office

- SB 1164: Authored by Senator Cervantes. Currently out of committee. The bill seeks to codify Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and expand and amend the California Voter Rights Act. Would require changes to language determinations.
- AB 1360: Being monitored closely. Would expand language coverage and lower thresholds for required language assistance.

Discussion:

- Members raised concerns about translation quality. Paige Kent acknowledged the issue and noted that existing legislation addresses it; the LAAC has been helpful in this area.
- Gloria Liz Oviedo noted that Santa Clara County hires temporary staff to proof each translated ballot copy. San Diego and LA County have similar review processes using certified translators and local proofreaders.
- Members inquired about a statewide toolkit for translated social media posts. Dana Davenport confirmed that a social media toolkit for election dates is available in Section 203 languages, with other languages also available.

7. Establishment of Working Groups

Working groups were restructured in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, with a maximum of 2 members per working group/committee.

The following four focus areas and initial members were established by vote:

- Translation Quality and Language Access Standards – Gloria Liz Oviedo, Fangchun Tsai
 - o Topics: Proofreading services, translation feedback on election materials, usability standards.
- Budgeting, Operations, and Compliance – Pedro Hernandez, Dean Logan
 - o Topics: Comparative analysis of translating election materials, compliance with state and federal language requirements including EC 14201.
- Community Engagement and Culturally Responsive Outreach – Clarissa, Armando Salud-Ambriz
 - o Topics: Partnering with non-profit media, best practices for building trust with communities.
- Technology and Digital Outreach Tools – Greta Arevalo, Cindy Wu
 - o Topics: Digital outreach, voter engagement tools, emerging technologies, accuracy of digital and tech-enabled access.

Vote to establish focus categories for working groups:

- Yea: Greta Arevalo, Armando Salud-Ambriz, Cindy Wu, Clarissa, Dean Logan, Fangchun Tsai, Gloria Liz Oviedo, Janet Bernabe, Melissa, Paul Burke, Pedro Hernandez, Rosie
- Motion carried.

Key discussion points:

- Dean Logan recommended a future presentation on compliance and translation standards, noting that compliance is measured by county and community satisfaction.
- Paul Burke raised questions regarding population thresholds per precinct for language selection, cutoffs for translating ballot measures, and whether counties can purchase translations from the SOS to save time and cost.
- Gloria Liz Oviedo noted that county-to-county translation sharing may be limited due to jurisdiction-specific ballot measures; however, a shared glossary was suggested as a viable tool.
- Initial working group members will shape their committee's scope and direction before the next meeting.

8. Offsite LAAC Meeting Locations

- Members were invited to host public LAAC meetings in their local areas as part of planned statewide outreach.
- Cindy Wu expressed interest in hosting a meeting in Los Angeles.
- Dean Logan offered the use of the Los Angeles office for future meetings following the June 2 election.

- Pedro Hernandez will coordinate with the SOS to confirm space requirements and logistics, with details to be shared at the next meeting.

9. Future Agenda Items

- Pedro Hernandez: SOS update on 2025 LAAC recommendations to be posted on the next agenda.
- Future presentations: Tabled to a future meeting.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.

ACTION ITEMS

- Post previous meeting minutes (March 2, 2026) to the LAAC webpage on the SOS website.
- Follow up on the letter sent to the SOS regarding last year's LAAC recommendations to be placed on the next month's agenda.
- SOS to provide update on 2025 LAAC recommendations at the next meeting.
- Pedro Hernandez to coordinate with SOS on requirements for offsite meeting locations and report back at the next meeting.