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Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC)

Wednesday, August 13, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

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

LAAC members present:

- Pedro Hernandez
- Paul Burke
- Barbara Hurtado
- Deanna Kitamura
- Dean Logan
- Monica Villicana
- Voleck Taing (left early)
- Jaqueline Coto

Members of SOS:

- Jana Lean – Chief of Elections
- Kirsten Larsen – Elections Administration Manager
- Justin Hirai – Election Security Unit Manager
- Rodney Rodriguez – Office of Voting Systems (OVSTA)
- Adam Quintana – Voters Choice Act (VCA)
- Lauro Feliciano – Legislation

Quorum was not met.

2. LAAC Member Updates

a. Paul Burke

1. Working on studying if the high cost of candidate statements in some areas in voter guides from counties is caused by translations

b. Deanna Kitamura

1. Profiles report focusing on language access will be coming out in about a week or so
2. Report authored by Asian Law Caucus, Common Cause, and PANA will be released in the near future

c. Dean Logan

1. LA County had an event commemorating the 50th anniversary of Section 204 provisions of the Voting Rights Act on August 6th
2. Op-ed will be coming out tomorrow (Aug 14th)

3. Secretary of State Updates

- Voting Systems Testing
 - Rodney Rodriguez
 - Currently we have three systems in queue for testing
 - LA County VSAP 4.0
 - Hart Verity 322
 - Election system and software's 520
 - Received application for RAVBM

- Voter's Choice Act (VCA)
 - Adam Quintana:
 - Office of police planning and implementation and VCA continues to meet periodically with VCA county's that are working on renewing election administration plans
 - Two counties that have finalized their EAP and they have submitted their final election administration plans to SOS
 - Amador County: EAP has been posted to BCA website
 - El Dorado: Under review, determination within the next week
 - 10 counties that are planning to submit by Dec 1st deadline
 - Voter Choice Task Force Meeting tentative date Sept 18th
 - Any questions or comment about VCA email voterschoice@sos.ca.gov

- Legislative Updates
 - Lauro Feliciano:
 - No specific update request for legislation
 - Oct 12 is last day for the governor to sign any pass bill
 - September 12 is last day for each house to pass bill
 - Specific requests for any updates please let Victoria know, and will be forwarded to legal

4. Voting Rights Act Section 203 Commemoration Events

- a. First event passed on August 6 as a webinar on Section 203
 1. Experts came to talk about implementation
 2. Recording is available now
- b. Encouraged to look at the conversations and police around language access at this time
- c. August 26 daylong event on Section 203 in Sacramento, CA
 1. \$50 registration fee

2. Panel on research and data, impact of increasing language access with experts
 3. Panel on Section 203
 4. Workshops
- d. Dr. Shirley Weber is hosting a commemoration as well on August 25.

5. Working Groups

- Poll Worker Research
 - No updates.
- Translation Timeline, Feedback, and Recommendations
 - Provided recommendation for improving the translation timelines for ballot materials
 - 3 possible recommendations with the context that there are a series of state provided translations that are provided to the county
 - Recommendation for SOS to explore the feasibility of delivering English version 1 to counties on E-123 not E-105 so that counties could receive version at same time as state contracted translators
 - More time for counties to translate
 - List of supporters and opponents would not be part of that set of translations
 - Look into this – not required action
 - Recommendation to standardize a glossary and provide dialect guidance early in the process
 - Supportive language supports efforts to update and expand glossaries that exist for translations and consider partnerships between community groups and philanthropists to accomplish
 - Recommendation to ensure transparency and usability of review tools for those who were part of the BLTS process (ballot label title and summary process)
 - Effort to make it more user friendly and effort to attract more language for viewers
- Language Accessibility Best Practices and Recommendation
 - Subcommittee decided to look at possible updates to the CCROV published Oct 5th, 2022
 - Desire to encourage best practices based on outreach
 - Some counties will be reached out to around their practices regarding best practices

- State and Federal Requirements
 - No updates.

6. ***“From Paper to Practice: How California authorities can better enforce language access laws and give more eligible voters equal access to the ballot”*** Presentation by Rosalind Gold representing the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO)

- a. Presentation to make sure there is the latest and greatest research in the world when it comes to language access
- b. Presentation focuses on recommendations, but full report in conjunction with the Aug 26th summit being held in Sacramento
- c. Undertaking research in part as a follow up to the CA Language access workgroups analysis and Breaking the Barrers which did comprehensive analysis of the policy landscape for electoral access
- d. Not enough consistent compliance with or enforcement of these requirements
- e. Interviewed over 25 people on this issue
- f. Recommend SOS work to enhance the ability of translation materials and resources
 1. Look beyond census data
 2. Sharpening and expanding training resources
- g. Opportunity for CA to continue to build its leadership and avail itself of opportunities to enhance language access in the state
- h. Primary individual who is seen as accountable for making compliance happen and coordinating compliance activities in both SOS and counties
- i. Pre/Post election reports that counties submit on these matters
- j. SOS and counties should assess complaint systems to ensure that there is consistent tracking of complaints, documentation of their resolution between counties and SOS
- k. SOS should look at taking administrative action to achieve enhanced compliance

7. **Public Comments and Future Agenda Items**

- a. Future agenda item on 14201 Language Determinations
- b. Costs of translation affect the cost of candidate statements in the county voter information guides

8. **Adjournment**