



ALEX PADILLA | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ELECTIONS DIVISION

1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 | **Tel** 916.657.2166 | **Fax** 916.653.3214 | www.sos.ca.gov

April 3, 2020

Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC)

April 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

Roll was called and no quorum was declared due to the meeting being available only by teleconference. The following participants were marked as present:

Committee Members

- Eren Mendez
- Tim McNamara
- Ayna Gutierrez
- Armando Salud
- Astrid Ochoa
- Deanna Kitamura
- Maria de la Luz Garcia
- Ky-Nam Miller
- Primo Castro
- Clarissa Laguardia
- Sunghee Richard Park
- Gurjatinder Randhawa
- Karlyn Kurichety

Secretary of State Staff

- Tiffany Mok,
Chief of Legislative Affairs
- Robert Abelon,
Deputy Secretary of State, Policy
& Planning
- Jana Lean,
Chief of Elections
- Lisa Alarcon
Special Counsel
- Adam Quintana,
Election Services Manager
- Reina Miller,
Voter Accessibility Coordinator

Members of the Public and County Elections Office Staff

- Deanna (Monterey County)
- Wayne (Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Service Center)
- Jonathan (Asian Law Caucus)
- Mary (Shasta)

2. LAAC Members Primary Election Updates

Eren (Contra Costa County)

- Contra Costa certified last week
- Challenges they had during the election:
 - Securing schools as voting facilities
 - Recruiting of pollworkers in all languages
- Their ballot market devices had both their 14201 and 203 languages available
 - Pollworker training was more streamlined
 - Use of tablets increased
 - Have third-party interpreter calls available at each polling location

Armando (Yolo County)

- Yolo County has not certified yet
- Overall the county had a successful election
- Challenges:
 - Recruitment of pollworkers in all languages especially Korean
 - Many dropouts because of COVID-19

Tim (Los Angeles County)

- Certified last Friday
- Deployed a new voting system
- Ballot market devices were well received
- Challenges with recruitment of pollworkers
- May's election will be all vote by mail
- June's election will have 6 locations

Wayne (Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center)

- Not enough information is being interpreted for the ASL community

Clarissa

- Served as an observer during election day in Sacramento County
- Observed 20 sites which had between 1-4 bilingual pollworkers
- Fascimille ballots were on the table so unsure if voters knew about it

Primo

- While campaigning in Los Angeles he received feedback of lack of information in the Vietnamese and Spanish community
 - Community seemed unaware that an election was happening

Gurjatinder

- There are 1 million Punjabi speakers in California and would like Punjabi as one of the ballot languages
 - Shasta County has Punjabi translators at polling places

Astrid

- Focused on education and voter outreach of Los Angeles new voting system
- Pushed early voting in Los Angeles County
- In general, there were requests of translation materials

3. Secretary of State Updates

14201

Lisa Alarcon

- Data will be provided to counties within the next few weeks
- The SOS is open to all suggestions/feedback
- The SOS is working on having the VCA glossary translated into the additional languages

Voter's Choice Act (VCA)

Robert:

- The VCA team is assisting with working groups created by SOS to tackle challenges COVID-19 may bring to the November election
 - In partnership with the Governor's office, legislature, and other organizations
 - About 12 subcommittees
- The 15 VCA counties had observers during election day which included SOS staff, members of the public, and LAAC members
- VCA plans to contract with a researcher on language usage and needs for the 15 VCA counties
 - They will finalize hiring a researcher by the end of next week

Legislation

Tiffany

- Currently the legislature is closed until April 13th, may be extended
- [AB 2314](#) Native American Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee - SOS is sponsoring and supporting
- [AB 1913](#) Voter education: high school pupils

4. Contingency Planning for the November Election Given the Corona Virus

Clarissa

- More outreach needs to be done for VBM including social media

Eren

- A call to action to community group organizations
 - Consistent filler messages that can be used throughout the state

- Leverage on RAVBM so that any person can use it in any of the languages
- What information do community groups have readily available that counties can use
- Fires may be an additional challenge

Maria

- In absence of having a physical location they will receive a VBM ballot that maybe due to illerarcy go into polling places to get assistance and VBM may prevent them from voting privately/independently
 - This may cause hotlines that assit voters to be overwhelmed
 - Solution would be having more operators assist with calls
 - Also, having community organizations assist with this

Astrid

- Community organizations are necessary partners in regular educations and more now during this situation
- Concerned about community organizations capacity
 - Most effective organizations may need to be closed
 - Many rely on foundation dollars and foundations have taken a hit because of the market
- If VBM is not being provided in voter’s language, they may not know what the material is
- Timeline for providing translations

5. Public Comments and Future Agenda Items

Public Comments

- During working group calls Public Health officials should be included

Future Agenda Items

- 14201 CCROV best practices
- SOS Primary Election Debrief
- If researcher has questions the LAAC may assist with
- Brainstorming messages to inform voters of what their options are
- Contingency planning for November election given Corona Virus continued

6. The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.