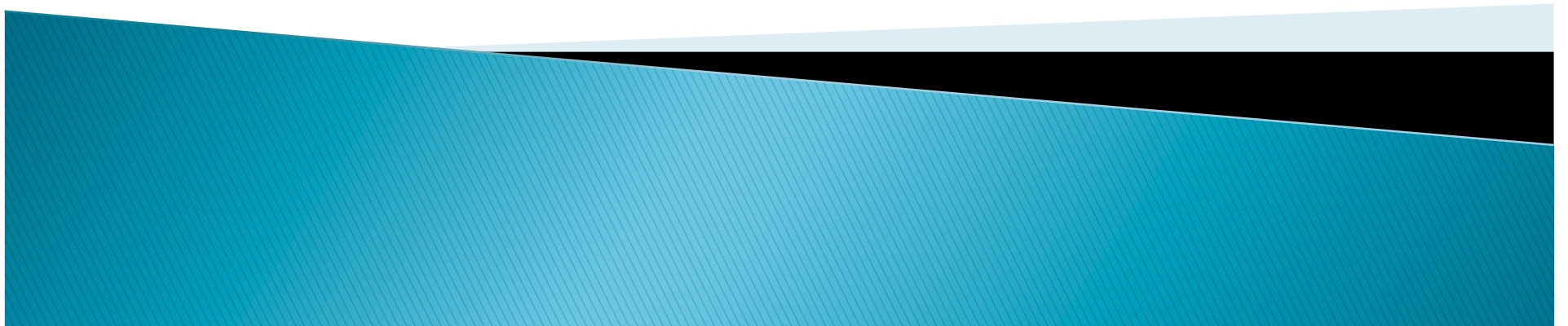


Deaf & Hard of Hearing Proposal California Secretary of State Voter Accessibility Advisory Council

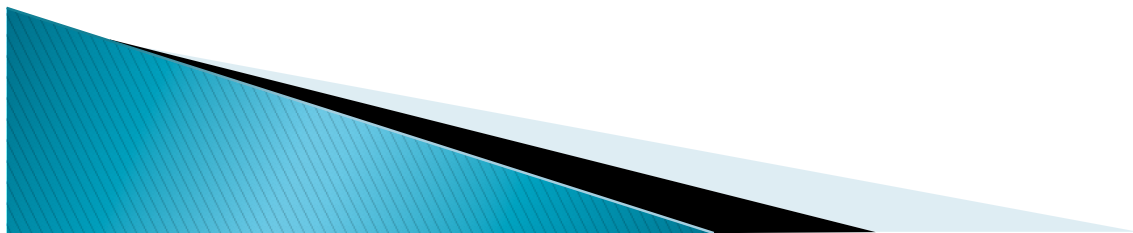
Jan Bell & Courtney Bailey
November 13, 2019



Deaf & Hard of Hearing Community

Initial Voter Accessibility Recommendations

1. Secretary of State (SOS) to add **ASL** (American Sign Language) to **California Voter Registration card** – it is a language, not just a version of English
2. **SOS to promote the use of ASL video clips (Picture in a Picture) signed by CDI or DI trained experts (Certified Deaf Interpreters or Deaf Interpreters with a strong knowledge of Legal Terminology):**
 - How to Register to Vote (SOS project in progress)
 - Text of Proposed California Propositions (In SOS plan)
 - Candidate Statements (National, State and Local) – SOS to encourage candidates to do these videos
3. **Deaf Community Organizations & SOS – create links to these video clips on their websites to inform Deaf & Hard of Hearing voters**



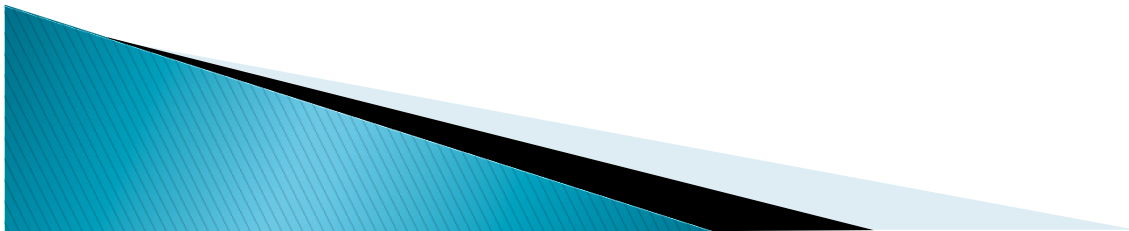
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Community Proposed Pilot studies

- ▶ Test recommendations in pilot studies where large Deaf & Hard of Hearing Communities aggregate.
- ▶ Proposed Teams:
 - Sacramento area – Pilot in 2020
 - Courtney Bailey, Sacramento County, with Rachel Porter, NorCal Center on Deafness
 - Los Angeles area – Pilot in 2021 after computer system roll-out
 - Julia Keh, LA County, with Christopher Myers, Greater LA County on Deafness



Sacramento County/NorCal Initial meeting/plans

- ▶ NorCal's Initial feedback:
 - NorCal has a 99% declination rate when offering to register citizens to vote
 - NorCal provides services to approximately 5,000 people
 - If this is indicative of other Deaf & Hard of Hearing communities, these communities are not involved in the democratic process or exercising their right to vote
 - Community needs assistance filling out voter registration form – it is overwhelming
 - NorCal staff is not trained to assist in the voting process
 - Questions about political parties, vote by mail, importance of residential address often go unanswered.



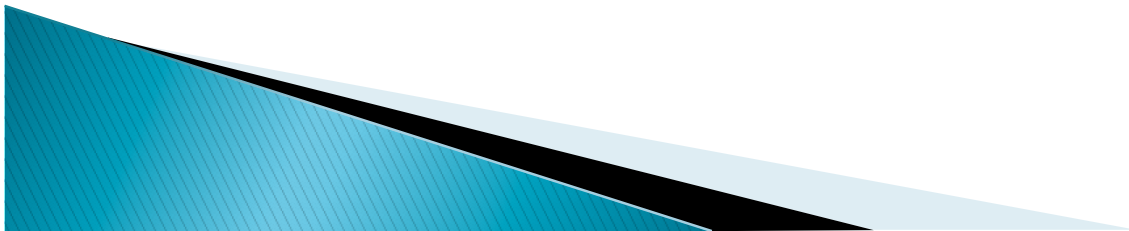
Sacramento County/NorCal

Initial meeting/plans

▶ Voter Registration

◦ Sacramento County's Initial Plan:

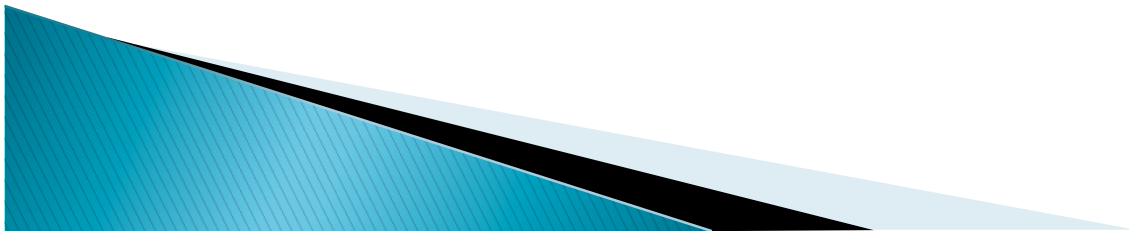
- Conduct voter registration training for NorCal staff so they can answer questions
- Provide materials in 4th grade literacy level (per NorCal's suggestion) on how to register and political party information – will need more terse political party descriptions
- Create posters with NorCal to attract people to the idea of voting, using graphics and icons to appeal to the community.



Sacramento County/NorCal Initial meeting/plans

▶ Election Information:

- Sacramento County's Initial Plan:
 - Partner with Sacramento Public Library who already hosts voter and election forums
 - Advertise to the deaf community, invite to these events
 - Provide an ASL translator for these events
 - Invite mayor/elected officials to bring out more interest in event
 - Consider Easy Voter Guide from the League of Women Voters as a tool



Sacramento County/NorCal Initial meeting/plans

▶ Voting Options:

◦ Sacramento County's Initial Plan:

- Not clear yet which way Deaf & Hard of Hearing prefer to vote – in person or vote by mail
- Use icons/graphics when discussing voting options or how to return a ballot
- Create a video of what to expect at a Vote Center, the process of voting and what it looks like to vote by mail (in ASL) to post on website and share on social media, including NorCal website.

