



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

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July 30, 2019

**Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee  
(VAAC)**

July 17, 2019, Meeting Minutes

**1. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.**

Roll was called, a quorum was declared, and the following participants were marked as present:

Committee Members

- Gail Pellerin
- Courtney Bailey-Kanelos
- Fred Nisen
- Janet Bell
- Lindsie Verma
- Sarah Fumes
- Tim McNamara

Secretary of State Staff

- Adam Quintana,  
Election Services Manager
- Reina Miller,  
Voter Accessibility Coordinator

Members of the Public and County Elections Office Staff

- Rolling Start Independent Living Center, San Bernardino
- Sacramento County Voter Registration Office
- ACLU
- Yolo County Elections
- CFILC
- Advocacy Resources

**2. VAAC Members Community Outreach Updates**

- Tim (Los Angeles County): Short update because Laura's presentation covers what they have been doing in Los Angeles County which is voting centers and the new voting experience. A new interesting thing is that community members found a way to connect with each other regarding community events which is encouraging.

- Courtney (Sacramento County): Sacramento is taking the opportunity for people to check their registration status. They have also been doing events for National Disability Voter Registration Week, one being tomorrow at Sac State. They will also be attending a luncheon on Friday for Disabled and Proud.
- Gail (Santa Cruz County): They are looking into changing Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) to Voting and Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (VLAAC), they have issued a press release to get members since a few members resigned. They are getting ahead since they won't be changing to Vote Centers until 2020. They are purchasing a new voting system in 2020, upgrading the Dominion to Democracy.
- Fred (Disability Rights California): Has continued to work with a lot of VCA Counties with transitioning. There are 14 VCA counties for 2020.
- Janet: Will give her update during her presentation.
- (Unknown speaker): Was contacted by Fred during the last meeting and is joining her first VAAC as a member, meeting on August 1<sup>st</sup>. San Mateo County's VAAC is August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- (Unknown speaker): Moving to San Mateo from Santa Clara and is trying to get on the board of ITD to have more influence over registration. Plans to apply next year to be a vote center worker for San Mateo County.
- Sarah: Is moving back to San Mateo and is working with the VAAC there. Would like to be a vote center worker for the March election.

### **3. Los Angeles County's Voting Systems Assessment Project (VSAP) Presentation**

Laura Herrera (Presenter): PowerPoint - [VSAP Presentation PowerPoint](#).

- Los Angeles County is one of the largest voting jurisdictions in the state, when creating the system they really wanted to design something that would meet the needs of all voters in the county.
- They needed to make sure that what they were making was a convenient, accessible, and secure way to cast ballots.
- When they established VSAP they wanted to make sure they invited many different voices so they had two committees. They partnered with people who could really help with accessibility.
- Device is a stand-alone device that is not connected to the internet or a network.
- Device is touch screen.
- The voter is the sole person who verifies and deposits the ballot in the ballot box.
- E-Poll gives voters the ability to go to any vote center. This will be used by election staff to check in any voter. This way they don't have to vote provisionally.

Questions:

- What is the size of the voting device? Regular size.
- Can non-county residents go to the demos? Yes.

#### **4. Deaf/Hard of Hearing Recommendations Presentation**

Janet Bell (Presenter):

- When she joined this VAAC she took on the project of a particular deaf and hard of hearing community to try and get feedback from the community, which she found hard to do. She has reached out to many groups and people with very little response.
- The ones who she was able to get feedback from showed consistency in their answer to help have better access to voting. There are three common misconceptions that this community addressed:
  1. Everyone who is deaf reads English well. This is false, many have difficulty reading. They rely on ASL. They expressed a desire to see ASL as a language option on the Voter Registration Card (VRC).
  2. All signers are created equal. Different signers come with different certification; they comment that when using a signer they really need to be certified in legal terminology or else the signing will be insufficient. They have really liked the SOS proposition videos and would like videos of other things such as local elections.
  3. This community really relies on their deaf community to get any information so although information may be on county websites, they would really like it to be distributed to the places that they frequent in their community.

Comments:

- Courtney asked: besides adding ASL to the form, what else would they like besides materials? For example, would they want staff available on Election Day that are fluent in ASL?
  - Janet responded: Although they know that by law they can request a signer, they rarely request one.
- Veronica asked: Can the organizations that work closely with these communities help counties get this done?
  - Janet responded: The issue she's having with these organizations is that they are not very responsive. Maybe if counties could have their outreach team physically go into these locations, they may get more of a response.
  - Christine commented: A lot of the TTY are old fashion so the best thing to do is rely on 711 to translate for you. Also, texting and emailing is easier for them.
  - Adam commented: One of the efforts SOS is doing is producing more ASL videos.
  - Sarah commented: Glad to see CFILC here so they can partner with county VAAC's since they already have connections with these organizations.

**SOS Updates (Adam Quintana):**

ASL Video

- This video will explain how to fill out a Voter Registration Card.
- Estimated completion date is October 2019.
- SOS also plans on making the VIG proposition videos.
- SOS received funding in order to have interpreters during the SOS's LAAC and VAAC meetings.

### **LAAC Coordinator**

- Currently recruiting for a LAAC Coordinator. In the meantime, Reina Miller will be the contact person for the LAAC and VAAC.

### **5. Voter Registration Card Update**

Adam Quintana (SOS Staff)

- The issue is with the blue ink on the Voter Registration Cards (VRC). Currently SOS is still working on this issue, the Center of Civic and Design made the suggestion to change the color intensity just slightly.
- SOS is currently working with the vendor to get this done and hoping to get shipment by December.
- A further update will be given at the next meeting.

### **Application and Authorization for Emergency VBM Ballot Pick-up Update**

- SOS has no updates. Will be discussed during the next meeting.

### **6. Public Comments and Future Agenda Items**

Future Agenda Items:

- SB 589 Fred & Brittney to present
- SOS to give an update on Dominion testing

Public Comments:

- Allie from CFILC wants to share that this whole week they have been doing a statewide celebration for National Disability Voter Registration Week. They want to invite everyone to join the campaign. They have paired up with REVUP (Register, Educate, Vote, Use your Power) for a statewide chapter.

### **7. The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.**