

**California Secretary of State  
Voter's Choice Task Force**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, February 5, 2025, | 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

1. Welcome, Call to Order: 2:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Task Force Members Present: Chair Donna Linder, Melvin E. Levey, Evelyn Mendez, Matt Moreles, Gabriel Taylor, Leslie Hernandez, Deanna Kitamura, Ellen Nash, Dora Rose, Dean Logan, Camila Chavez, Jesse Salinas, Art Tinoco  
Non-Voting Members Present: Carrie Cornwell, Ethan Jones

Absent: Chair Petrina Branch (joined later in the meeting), Bob Page

Declaration of Quorum

SOS VCA Manager Joshua Robinson declared a quorum was reached.  
Rhonda Provost asked about the report but will reserve her comment.

2. Comments: General Public Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Donna Linder invited public comments. The following comments were made:

Brittany Stonesifer – asked about the VC Task Force application process.

3. Discussion and Possible Action: Task Force Meeting Minutes of Jan. 8, 2026

Recommendation for Action: Staff recommend the Task Force adopt the minutes of the meeting of Jan. 8, 2026.

In a motion by Donna Linder, seconded by Dean Logan, and carried on a 13-0 vote, Task Force members approved the minutes.

AYES: Chair Donna Linder, Melvin E. Levey, Evelyn Mendez, Matt Moreles, Art Tinoco, Gabriel Taylor, Leslie Hernandez, Deanna Kitamura, Ellen Nash, Dora Rose, Dean Logan, Camila Chavez, Jesse Salinas

NOES: None

ABSENT: Chair Petrina Branch, Bob Page

ABSTAIN: None

4. Recording of Future Meetings

Discussion and vote on whether to record the video and closed captioning of future Task Force meetings to be posted to the SOS website.

- Camila Chavez noted this can increase accessibility and does not see any cons.
- Gabriel Taylor requests both captioning and ASL translation so they are truly accessible.
- Dora Rose confirms it's good to make them available for government transparency.
- Dean Logan asked if these accessibility features are available during the meeting. Josh Robinson (SOS) confirms this is a feature people can turn on for themselves during the meeting.
- Public comment:
  - Rhonda Provost totally supports it.

Recommendation for Action: Staff recommend that future meetings be recorded and closed captioning added.

Carried on a 13-0 vote, Task Force members voted to record future meetings.

AYES: Chair Donna Linder, Melvin E. Levey, Evelyn Mendez, Matt Moreles, Art Tinoco, Gabriel Taylor, Leslie Hernandez, Deanna Kitamura, Ellen Nash, Dora Rose, Dean Logan, Camila Chavez, Jesse Salinas

NOES: None

ABSENT: Chair Petrina Branch, Bob Page

ABSTAIN: None

## 5. Subcommittee Updates

Discussion and vote on how to proceed with subcommittees. Bagley-Keene stipulates no more than 2 people can meet at the same time without it being noticed.

- Chair Donna Linder proposes we theme each meeting a different topic for the report and all work on it together.
- Dora Rose asked if they can collaborate on a Google Doc ahead of time to prepare – Josh noted that still violates Bagley Keene issues.
- Dean Logan recommended something be prepared ahead of time in the agenda so there is something to respond to.
  - Melvin Levey likes Dean's idea and advises using two-people teams to draft something between meetings that follow parameters/high-level ideas set by the task force in a previous meeting.

- Jesse Salinas advocates that subcommittees can still work, they just have to be publicly noticed, etc. But understands that timelines would be challenging because of the two-week notice.
- Dean shared in the chat a link to the USC CID reports that may help subcommittees: <https://cid.usc.edu/turnout-briefs>

Committee agrees to the idea of two-person teams to develop drafts ahead of meetings to then be reviewed and discussed by the Task Force in publicly-noticed meetings.

## 6. Subcommittee Assignments

Purpose and History of the VCA – Chair Donna Linder, Deanna Kitamura

Unusual Nature of this Special Election – Dora Rose, Gabriel Taylor

How the VCA promotes accessibility, flexibility, and security (needs to be reworded to be more neutral in language – possible “Impact of the VCA on accessibility, flexibility, and security”) – Dean Logan, Evelyn Mendez

Review of VoteCal data – Ellen Nash, Matt Morales

Review of the reports from the universities – Melvin Levey, Jesse Salinas

## 7. Future Task Force Meeting Schedule

Proposed meeting schedule for every other Thursday 2:00-3:30 p.m. through May. Proposed April 30 meeting to finalize report; agreed. Can send a survey for May and June meetings.

Subcommittees asked to share a draft or outline ahead of time.

- Josh confirmed it would have to be publicly noticed/included with agenda.
- Melvin Levey suggested as long as an item is agendaized, folks can bring outlines and ideas to the meeting without having to include them ahead of time.
- Dora Rose proposed that the meeting topic be noted in the meeting notice – and it was confirmed it will be included in the agenda.
- Dean Logan asked if there are any previous reports that can be shared for a template/consistency. Josh noted that this is the first time a VC Task Force is completing a report.
  - Motor Voter Task Force has completed a report, and that can be shared with the VCTF as a model: <https://admin.cdn.sos.ca.gov/reports/2024/mv-annual-report.pdf> (shared in chat)

Next meeting set for Feb. 19 from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

## 8. Future Agenda Items and Other Comments: Task Force Members

- Public comment:
  - Rhonda Provost returned to a previous comment from last week asking how a county can get out of the VCA – perhaps the “Purpose and History” section can address that question.
  - Brittany Stonesifer has a question about the role of this committee holding counties accountable to their EAP renewals.
    - Dora Rose thinks this would be a good role for the committee.
    - Melvin Levey notes that compliance is a task for SOS.
    - Dora makes the case that EAPs fall under assessing if VCA is working the way it is intended. Deanna Kitamura agrees.
    - Jesse Salinas affirms that we ought to distinguish between the role of the report/looking back at the previous election, vs. holding counties accountable going forward.
  - Rhonda Provost loves the feature of the EAP process of public review and comment.
  - Brittany Stonesifer in Q&A box: “Including information about county EAP updates in the report would be helpful as a starting point.”

## 9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.