

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

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, October 16, 2025, | 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**1. Swearing in as Task Force Members: 1:45 p.m.**

Task Force Members Present for swearing in: Chair Donna Linder, Melvin E. Levey, Evelyn Mendez, Matt Moreles, Bob Page, Jesse Salinas, Art Tinoco, Petrina Branch, Gabriel Taylor, Russia Chavis Cardenas, Leslie Hernandez, Deanna Kitamura, Ellen Nash, Dora Rose  
Absent: Camila Chavez, Dean Logan

Non-Voting Members Present: Carrie Cornwell, Ethan Jones  
Absent: None

**2. Welcome, Call to Order: 2:02 p.m.**

**Roll Call**

Task Force Members Present: Chair Donna Linder, Melvin E. Levey, Evelyn Mendez, Matt Moreles, Bob Page, Jesse Salinas, Art Tinoco, Petrina Branch, Gabriel Taylor, Russia Chavis Cardenas, Leslie Hernandez, Deanna Kitamura, Ellen Nash, Dora Rose, Camila Chavez  
Absent: Dean Logan

Non-Voting Members Present: Carrie Cornwell, Ethan Jones  
Absent: None

**Declaration of Quorum**

SOS Liaison Robert Ullrey declared a quorum was reached.

**3. Discussion and Possible Action: Task Force Meeting Minutes of Sept. 18, 2025**

Recommendation for Action: Staff recommend the Task Force adopt the minutes of the meeting of Sept. 18, 2025.

In a motion by Task Force Chair, Linder, seconded by Task Force member [REDACTED], and carried on a 11-1 vote, Task Force members approved the minutes.

AYES: Melvin E. Levey, Matt Moreles, Bob Page, Jesse Salinas, Petrina Branch, Gabriel Taylor, Russia Chavis Cardenas, Deanna Kitamura, Ellen Nash, Dora Rose, Camila Chavez

NOES:

ABSENT: Dean Logan, **Leslie Hernandez**

ABSTAIN: Art Tinoco, Evelyn Mendez

4. Discussion of Voter's Choice Task Force Policies & Procedures Manual

Item was addressed toward the end of the meeting, and was tabled for the next meeting.

5. Communications – Task Force Member Statements and Requests

Dora Rose asked clarification around what is allowed to be discussed re: VCA outside of the Task Force to also follow Bagley-Keene.

6. Plan for Task Force Report to the Legislature

Members shared the beginnings of various ideas, including:

- a. Utilizing data already used and shared by SOS and counties.
- b. Potential focus on how voter gaps are being closed by the VCA model.
- c. Should a subcommittee be formed to lead this charge?
- d. Does SOS already have a template available for the Task Force to follow?
- e. Reminder that this is not a normal election, so be wary of extending conclusions.

7. Discuss Senate Bill 280's Impact on VCA counties (included on agenda via Dora Rose)

- a. SOS Chief of Elections, Jana Lean noted that no counties asked for an exemption, so each county is operating within the options available to them under SB 280.
  - ♣ Dora noted that it would be good to include in the report how many vote centers were open for how many days.
- b. **Dora Rose:** wants to understand the voter education activities happening in each county, and how that possibly impacts turnout (and who is turning out).
- c. **Bob Page:** how does SB 280 impacts drop boxes – he didn't see that impacted in his county. Donna Linder also echoed no change in her county, minus one moving one block.
- d. **Who asked?** Asked if this election is showing reduced services at vote centers. Bob Page, Donna Linder, and Art Tinoco each indicated they did not have to reduce services, including language service, because they found enough support from community members from the previous election.

8. Comments: General Public Items Not on the Agenda

Notice: The Task Force may not discuss or act on any matter raised during this public comment section, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting. [Government Code, Sections 11125 and 11125.7, subd. (a)]

Chair Linder invited public comments. No public comments were made.

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

Notice: This is an opportunity for Task Force members to make comments and announcements, to express concerns, or request consideration of any items a Task Force member would like to have discussed at a future Task Force meeting. Although any Task Force member may identify a topic of interest, the Task Force may not substantially discuss or take action on any matter raised during the meeting that is not included on this agenda, except to decide to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting. [Government Code, Sections 11125 and 11125.7, subd. (a).]

Chair Linder opened discussions for Task Force members to request future agenda items. Aside from the tabling of item 3 from this agenda, no additional items were raised.

## 10. Adjournment

Chair Linder adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.