

# **Santa Cruz County**

## **Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee**

Thursday, September 14, 2017

10:30 a.m.

701 Ocean St., 5th Floor County Administrative Office Conference Room

Meeting Summary 10:30am to 11:40am

### **Agenda**

- I. Introductions: Gail Pellerin, County Clerk; Shiri Gradek, new member; Lynn Stipes, Elections employee; Wendy Corlis, County extra help; Veronica Elsea, long-time member (with Riccotta) ; Janet Crosse, on Commissions on Disabilities Committee and Michael Bush, long time member
- II. Legislative Updates: Included –
  - AB467 Local Transport Authorities: transaction and use taxes. Pertaining to Transportation Expenditure Plan on an internet web which shall ensure that the plan is posted in a manner that is easily accessible.
  - AB 606 State Voters Information Guides. Amendment pertaining to accessibility states with the electronic version of the state voter information guide there shall include electronic notification making the guide available by means of online access.
  - AB918 California Voting for All Act. The amendment is pertaining to the facsimile of ballot in the voters' language. Santa Cruz County polling places will add mini display boards for Spanish, Tagalog and Mandarin language information for easy reference and accessibility to assist voters. These will be in addition to the large display boards.
  - AB973 Remote accessible vote by mail system. The need for connectivity for accessibility was discussed, that PDF files are not easily accessible. Polling places may to be replaced by Vote Centers, with counties around the state being models for Vote Centers for the 2018 primary. The state is offering financial inspiration to switch to Vote Centers. There are still issues that need to be addressed and the models may not be ready until 2020. A specific number of Vote Centers will be available to voters 10 days prior to election (in Santa Cruz county the discussed numbers are 4 or 5) then 4 days prior to the election day 15 locations will be available. Vote Centers will allow voters to vote outside their precincts. In Santa Cruz County 3 of the centers (Santa Cruz Election office, Watsonville City Clerk office and UCSC) will have conditional same day registration available.
  - SB569 Primary elections: election dates. This bill would change the direct and presidential primary elections to the first Tuesday in March. Proposed for 2019.

### III. Regulations Update:

- A. Retrieval of Voted Ballots Prior to the Closing of the Polls – public comments due October 16. ACLU Lawsuit over 44,000 uncounted ballots, but their information is inaccurate (for example in Santa Cruz Co. ACLU claimed 302 uncounted ballots, in actuality there were only 132). Judge to determine.
- B. Vote-by-Mail Ballot Drop Boxes and Vote-by-Mail Drop-off Locations – public comments due October 16 regarding 24-hour surveillance camera on all Ballot Drop Boxes. There was discussion to move the location of those boxes to buildings that already have surveillance cameras, for instance banks. Research will be done on the possibility of using banks. There is a concern that moving Mail Ballot Drop Boxes inside buildings will reduce the hours voters can drop off their ballots. If Vote Centers are to be used in Santa Cruz County there will be a need for additional Ballot Drop Boxes.
- C. E-Pollbooks coming soon, there are concerns regarding confidentiality after using models. Inputting a name and birth date gives access to residence address.

IV. Report on the status of our polling places the committee meets in December of 2017 and the findings will be reported back to VAAC members

### V. State VAAC

Voting Technology Public Hearing – Sept. 27 for a new voting system

VAAC & LAAC toolkits have been printed and bound, using a number of tools from Santa Cruz County. Goal is to post toolkits, committee members, agendas and minutes on website

### VI. Voter Outreach

- September 18 through 29 High School Voter Education Weeks. Students earn community credit for their involvement and participation and it looks good on college applications. Tables are set up to answer registration questions and pre register 16 and 17 years olds
- April 2018 DMV will have automated voter registration, if voters do not want their registration update they must opt out.

## VII. June 2018 Primary

- State Offices, US Congress, US Senate, State Assembly, County offices, Supervisor of Schools, County Supervisors for Districts II and IV

## VIII. County Commission on Disabilities will meet today at 3pm

- Main agenda item is the Awards night planned for October. Committee will be discussing nominees, fund raising and invitations.

## IX. VAAC page on our website – work to get VAAC and LAAC toolkits, Committee members, agendas and minutes on website

## X. Accessible voting information on website - work in progress remote accessible VBM concerns.

## XI. Future Agenda Items

- Online accessibility
- Voter Guides for district

## **Last meeting date in 2017:**

Thursday, December 7