

**Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC)**  
**Meeting Summary 03/10/2021**

**I. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.**

Introduction: Made Via Teams teleconference. The following participants were in attendance:

- Debby Chang – Conejo Chinese Cultural Association
- Rosa Gonzales – Deputy Executive Officer Clerk of the Board

Ventura County CCR and Elections Staff:

- Michelle Ascencion  
Assistant Ventura County Clerk-Recorder
- Miranda Nobriga  
Program Administrator/Public Information Officer
- Mayra Enriquez  
Program Supervisor II
- Rebecca Moak  
Records Technician IV
- Daniela Zendejas  
Records Technician II

**II. Introductions/purpose of Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC)**

Target demographic: Limited English proficiency (LEP) voters, or those who are eligible to vote but may experience more difficulty in the voting process due to limited English proficiency. Our LAAC members are valuable bridges into those communities.

**III. Language services**

All voting materials are translated in Spanish such as official ballot, and County Voter Information Guide.

Other language materials are precinct-specific based on percentage of precinct that is LEP – 3% which is mandated by Secretary of State (SOS). Telephone interpreter service was made available at the November 3, 2020 in person voting locations.

**IV. COVID Update**

The public can schedule an appointment online through our website ([VenturaVote.org](http://VenturaVote.org))

## **V. November Election update**

Results of Presidential General Election

- Registered Voters: 500,442
- Voter Turnout: 429,922 (85.91%)
- In-Person Voting Locations:48
- Ballot Drop Boxes:34
- Remote Accessible Vote By Mail (RAVBM): 827 requests
- VBM Ballots Cast: 90%
- Vote Center Ballots Cast: 10%
- Ballots received via Drop Box: 53%

Governor's proclamation called for a Vote By Mail election and changes to our services (drop off ballot Via mail, Drop Box, IPVL). Different options for voting including more days, more drop boxes, and an increase in boxes. Voters were not assigned to a specific polling location; voters had the flexibility to vote at any in-person location. For the November 3, 2020 General Election, the RAVBM was made available to all registered voters to allow them to vote independently and privately in their own home. The Ballot Drop Boxes placed throughout Ventura County was a success. Elections staff retrieved ballots Monday through Saturday from the ballot drop box locations.

## **VI. Outreach efforts update**

The outreach team had to halt in-person events planned due to COVID-19 restrictions and changed to hosting virtual events as requested. The County Voter Information Guide was our largest outreach effort. Other communication efforts included Zoom meetings, mailers, flyers etc.

## **IX. Vote Centers for future elections**

The California Voter's Choice Act (VCA) voting model provides all voters with additional opportunities to cast their ballot. Voters have the option to choose to vote at any of the

Voter Centers throughout Ventura County. The VCA will require a robust outreach campaign.

### **2021 Quarterly Meeting Dates**

- March 10, 2021
- June 9, 2021
- September 8, 2021

### **X. Discussion**

Mayra: We need suggestions on resources or contacts to reach out to community?

Rosa: I work with advocates in the Farm Worker Association who involve various languages and dialects. There is also a redistricting project that will affect the community and through this we can work on an introduction to create a connection to the Spanish speaking community.

Mayra: How can we engage and provide information? Keeping No party preference in mind what would be best when reaching out to the community you encounter? How can we best answer their questions?

Rosa: Importance in community and sharing information that is summarized and to the point (Visual Infographics) and messaging should change to fit different cultures. EX. In order to be effective, personalization and the language not being too formal can make answers/questions more tailored for the Latino community.

- Information is not “one size fits all”
- Prevention of miscommunication can start with sharing information at places of worship, members of community to avoid voting “mystery”
- Phone conversations, timing, workload, build trust and community

Debbie: Appreciate Zoom meeting, China Fair booth (2 years in a row) efforts opened up to how election worked, and registrations went up. Very fortunate to have a connection with Elections Division.

Miranda: Appreciate the groups tuned in to meeting (Conejo Chinese Association) and stepping up as poll workers this past November 2020. This is an example of how we got help to find locations in a time where there was mistrust in this past election/misinformation.

-Focus on Ventura and help them hear what we do (not politics/yes process) and get the message across of all options available.

Debbie: Great job, fair, informative and appreciate the “certain days to remember” notifications to provide to their community

## **XI. Adjournment**

Next Meeting: June 9, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.