

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

(VAAC)

April 22, 2021, Meeting Minutes

I. The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m.

Introductions were made via Teams teleconference. The following participants were in attendance:

Committee Members

- Sandra Aldana
Secretary of California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)
- Ginny Nyholm
Tri-County Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness (Tri-County GLAD)
- Jennifer Lucas
Secretary of California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)
- Matthew Spinneberg and Bonnie Garringer-Lara
Moorpark College
- Eric Rodriguez
VC ARC Foundation
- Jannette Jauregui
VC Area Agency on Aging
- Gabe Taylor
Disability Rights California (DRC)

Ventura County CCR and Elections Staff

- Michelle Ascencion
Assistant Ventura County Clerk-Recorder
- Miranda Nobriga
Program Administrator/Public Information Officer
- Martin Cobos
Elections Operations Manager
- Kim Goodenough
Polling Place and Election Officer Supervisor
- Christina Valenzuela
Voter Registration Supervisor
- Monica Terrones.
Candidate Filing Supervisor
- Jessica Ocegueda
Records Technician III

II. VCA Update:

Kim Goodenough

- Ventura County's future voting method is moving to change to the Voter's Choice Act (VCA) model.
- This model will switch from polling places with only one ballot type available to Vote Centers that will make all ballot types available and extend voting days from one day to several.
- To facilitate this change, voting locations and VBM Ballot Drop Box sites will be selected based on mandated criteria.
- Voting site selections will be made available to the community for feedback. Feedback will be collected from groups and individuals to assist with final decisions on voting location sites.
- Assistance was requested of VAAC members in reviewing and gathering feedback on the voting locations and Vote By Mail sites used in November 2020 election.
- Gathered information will be used in analysis of any site issues before the final selection of Vote Centers.
- Feedback information was requested to be submitted by May 14, 2021.

III. Changes/Suggestions or Recommendations

Sandra Aldana asked two questions regarding voters that have a felony conviction or are legally found mentally incompetent or are conserved. Her first question was if they were automatically denied their right to vote? Sandra stated that Bill 589 seems to be taking voter rights away from them without confirming eligibility. Her second question was on if this denial was coming from the courts or from somewhere else?

Christina Valenzuela answered: No, only through a court order could a voter have their voting rights taken away.

Jennifer Lucas provided a link to voting rights under conservatorship.

<https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/publications/your-voting-rights-under-conservatorship-sb-589>

Gabe Taylor talked about Language Voting Assistance being available at voting sites. He asked if we have ASL services at our voting sites? LA County provides video conference service for those that are hard of hearing, will we implement it or are we going to provide those services to voters? Gabriel mentioned Ginny Nyholm would be a good candidate to receive information on ASL services.

Sandra Aldana asked about braille voting of ballots on voting machines. She pointed out that braille would be a very helpful service in assisting blind or low vision voters. Kim informed her that this service is not provided at this time but can be offered to the state for when it is considering certification and approval of future voting equipment and further means of accessibility.

Matthew Spinneberg stated that there is a program in which you can fill out forms at home using braille. Some of the voters have it available in their own personal possession. He stated it could be helpful and is a good idea to use those services. Matthew suggested contacting Jeff Baugher at atpc.net for braille production.

Sandra Aldana stated that it would be nice to be interactive with other organizations and other members for our future meetings.

Gabe Taylor suggested that Sandra contact sites to be on board to be potential vote centers for next year.

Kim Goodenough asked members to encourage other groups or communities to give input on the use of the November 2020 voting locations. (She stated that a team has been hired to review the feedback information to negotiate the use of selected facilities once approved for use as voting locations.)

Sandra Aldana spoke about her experience at a poll worker training class. She stated that it would be helpful to have these training classes ADA accessible just like at the voting locations.

IV. Guest Speakers Presented the Services and Assistance Available to Ventura County Residents

- Candidate Filing-Monica Torres
- Voter Registration-Christina Valenzuela
- Multilingual-Civic Engagement-Jessica Ocegueda
- Election Officer and Voting Location- Kim Goodenough
- Elections Warehouse - Kim Goodenough

V. Questions

VI. Adjournment was at 11:30 a.m.