

Santa Cruz County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 19, 2016
10 a.m., 701 Ocean St. Basement – Cafeteria

Minutes

In attendance: Gail Pellerin, James Davies, Veronica Elsea, Helen Ruiz-Thomas, Felicia Marquez, Diana Chavez, Chato Rojas, Katie Ladouceur, Jonathon Stein

May 2016 Special All-Mail Ballot Election for Los Gatos/Saratoga High School District. Special election with 3150+ voters. Voter turnout was ok with 38.77% in Santa Cruz County. There were a total of 65.16 % yes votes and 34.84% no votes. Since the Los Gatos/Saratoga High School District is in two counties, this election was conducted with Santa Clara County. The measure passed with the combined votes of Santa Clara County.

June 2016 Election – Jim reported that the site binders have been updated and are ready for June. Polling site update includes St. Andrew's Church is moving us to a different room. There is a flagstone surface outside. Church staff has confirmed that people in wheelchairs have not had a problem with accessibility. Good news is we'll be back to the regularly used room in November. New Brighten has asked us not to use the gym anymore and provided the music room as an alternative. Confirmation has been received for Boulder Creek Fire Station and Highlands Senior Center. Mt. Bible Church will be used as a temporary facility until Loma Prieta School is available. Soquel Conference Center will be used as an alternate for Mt. Elementary. The VAAC committee approved the use of New Brighten, Soquel Conference Center, Highlands Park Senior Center & St. Andrews Church as polling sites.

Poll worker training classes start today. They take approximately 2 hours and include the use of touch screen, audio and DVD. Audio is available in bilingual Spanish language.

Gail reviewed the voter information guide and shared copies of the large font practice ballot. Jonathon Stein shared information about the Disability Rights California election hotline.

Veronica reported that she tried the Citizens Connect App and only had a little trouble picking the city from selection options.

Practice ballots are available bilingually in Spanish and English. Tagalong and Chinese speaking staff work on Election Day in the elections office to respond to any requests at the polling sites.

Vote Cal – Gail reported that it is not yet system of record the plan for that is after the June election.

State VAAC- Gail reported that the Secretary of State will be conducting a survey for people with disabilities to see how voter registration and voting went after the June election. State VAAC plans to do observations with counties during the election. The Secretary of State has audio and large font voter information guides available.

Website/Media – Website accessibility work is ongoing. Veronica commented that the only challenge she has experienced is waiting around on Election Day for poll workers to set up audio equipment. Jim suggests that audio setup be a part of the open poll set up to practice and test. This allows poll workers to become familiar with audio set up. Hope Services staff offered to partner with elections on video development.