

# **Santa Cruz County**

## **Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee**

Thursday, April 19, 2018, 10:30 a.m.

701 Ocean St., 3rd Floor PLH Conference Room

### **Minutes**

Attendance: James Davies, Veronica Elsea, Gail Pellerin, Shiri Gradek, Lynn Stipes, Helen Ruiz-Thomas, Amy Shephard

Gail gave a legislative update including pending legislation regarding cyber security;

AB 2051 which would allow candidates to make changes to their candidate statement; AB 2450 regarding the switch to Vote Centers from polling sites and every registered voter being mailed a ballot;

AB 2125 changes the canvass audit process and allows for Risk Limiting audits to replace the 1% manual tally currently being conducted. We participated in the pilot program, this could go statewide;

also mentioned possible legislation to change the order of the ballot to have local measures listed first;

Financing of new voting systems across the state. State will match 1-1 with county funding. State allotting 134M does not seem like enough.

June 5, 2018 Election - Jim presented four new polling sites for VAAC approval, Live Oak Library, Soquel Elementary, Loma Prieta Community Center, UCSC Bay Tree Center. All were approved. Jim reporting having a hard time finding polling sites this time. We are still in need of more.

We will have 3 CVR Centers for the June Election, Watsonville City Hall, UCSC Bay Tree Center and 701 Ocean Street. We will be hiring and training staff for each.

On the ballot for June 2018 there are 6 local measures, 5 State propositions and 3 for the City of Santa Cruz.

Jim announced two new drop-box locations for the June Election. Covered Bridge Park in Felton and Cabrillo College.

November 6, 2018 Election - Expect to certify June Election on 7/5 Candidate Filing opens on July 12 for November Election. November ballot contains local district races, state propositions and local measures.

State VAAC – Working on updating poll worker training standards. The next meeting will be May 14 or 15. Fred Neily is working on Voting under Conservatorship. New legislation may allow more people to vote. Gail will send out more information to everyone.

Voter Outreach – Helen reported that she is really busy with High School Voter Education week and sending mailings to assisted living facilities. She is planning to attend an event at Loudon Nelson with Veronica and is looking for Earth Day volunteers. Helen read her calendar for April and May to the group. Gail requested a copy to be posted weekly. There was mention of visiting the new homeless encampment site. Helen also mentioned trying to contact the facilitators for the Cinco De Mayo event in Watsonville. Janet recommended tabling at the Human Race.

County Commission on Disabilities currently has a vacancy for the 3<sup>rd</sup> district.

Website - Gail and Veronica discussed working on making our Voter Guide more accessible. Gail passed around an example of the new format. Gail met with Veronica at her home to see how our website works with her screen reader software.

Gail mentioned Voters Edge, League of Women Voters and Maplight as additional web sites to get voter information. Veronica has sent suggestions to Voters Edge for improvements.

No future agenda items were suggested.

#### **Upcoming Meetings in 2018 – 10:30am, PLH Conference Room**

- August 16, 2018
- October 18, 2018
- December 6, 2018