Santa Cruz County
Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 20, 2015
10 a.m.
701 Ocean St. Basement – Cafeteria

Minutes

In attendance: Gail Pellerin, Bill Hershaw, Amy Sheppard, Lynn Stipes, Jim Davies, Brad Neily, Helen Ruiz-Thomas

2015 Elections
November 17 All-Mail ballot election – Santa Cruz City School District, 2 ballot types. We are hoping to have several drop box sites within the district. Santa Cruz City Hall and Capitola City Hall will be drop off locations. We will also have voter assistance centers at the Santa Cruz County Elections office and the Congregational Church of Soquel. Voters will be able to request a second ballot and/or vote on the accessible voting machine.
Suggested sites for drop boxes: Jade Street Park, Capitola Mall, Libraries, Live Oak Sheriff's center.
It was suggested to contact John Dougherty, Mobility Services Coordinator at Santa Cruz Metro for transportation concerns.

Jim Davies is now able to create PSAs through Santa Cruz Community TV and has access to the Community Calendar

Polling Places

Vote Center Proposal – Stalled for now. Expected to re-invent elections in CA. Still discussing the number of voters per vote center and other logistics. New vote centers will require more Ballot on Demand machines and some sort of real time connectivity, that is secure. Implementation will require additional money, technology and security.

State VAAC

AB 683 – VAAC Bill – Amended June 23, 2015
This bill would rename the board as the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee and would instead require the committee to advise the Secretary of State on improving the accessibility of elections

Website
Redesign of Elections & County Clerk websites – Brad would like to be involved in meeting with ISD for functionality of new web site. Gail will set up meeting. Gail will send link to new web site out to VAAC when ready.

Accessibility grant
HAVA $20,000 for new technology.

ADA 25 Conference – Fred, Bill and Jim will be attending.

Planning for the 2016 Elections
Hoping for a big turnout. Gail introduced our new Candidate Filing Coordinator, Mari Segura. Bill will get voter hotline number to Gail to be added to the Sample Ballot/Voter Information Pamphlet.
Future of California Elections is working on a more user friendly, plain language voter information pamphlet/ Sample Ballot with the Center for Civic Design.
VoteCal is in the process of going live, pilot counties are now live and Santa Cruz is expected to go live in February, 2016.

Future Agenda Items
Brad would like to discuss his recent Technology, Access and Civil Rights in Education event. He had approximately 100 people turn out for his Global Accessibility Awareness Day event in May.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2015