

Santa Cruz County

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 15, 2018

11 a.m.- 701 Ocean St., 3rd Floor PLH Conference Room

In attendance: Gail Pellerin, Janet Crosse, Jim Davies, Veronica Elsea, Amy Sheppard, Emma Gordon, Helen Ruiz-Thomas, Lynn Stipes and Shiri Gradek

Emma Gordon shared a report on the accessibility training she attended in Sacramento.

Legislative update – Gail shared the deadline to propose new legislation for the current session is 2/16/18. As of 2/15/18 there are 22 assembly bills and 12 Senate bills currently under consideration that affect elections. Highlights were:

SB25 – Changes order of contests on the ballots so that local races are listed first.

SB159 – Allows for VBM signatures that are challenged to be cured during the canvas.

AB2125 – proposes Risk limiting audits to target closer contests to recount by hand.

SB221 - The Secure Elections Act focusses on security.

Vote Centers - 5 counties to go to vote center model in 2018; Sacramento, San Mateo Nevada, Madera and Napa. We will know more about our direction after the June Election.

Remote accessible ballot systems – So far two systems have been certified; Democracy Live and 5 Cedars. Veronica reported that Dominion's system had problems. There were too many steps just to get ready to begin voting.

LAAC – Gail is working on forming a Language Accessibility Advisory Committee for Santa Cruz County. Veronica expressed interest in being on that committee. There are changes to our language requirements this year. We are no longer mandated to provide Chinese and Tagalog. At this point Santa Cruz County will continue to offer translations of local measures and translation assistance to anyone requesting it.

June 5, 2018 election

Polling Places – approximately 50% of those sent a letter requesting the use of their facility for June and November have responded to our request. Lynn reported that the Tannery Arts Center is interested in being a polling site. Jim reported that he and his staff are contacting polling sites to get surveys ordered and to find out if any improvements or changes have been made since 2016.

CVR centers – We will have 3 Conditional Voter Registration Centers. Watsonville City Offices, Here at 701 and one up at UCSC. Jim also discussed ballot drop boxes. We currently have 4 established locations and 2 more coming.

State VAAC - Elections survey Gail reported there were 220+ responses. The results are not yet posted, Gail when send out to everyone when they become available.

Voter Outreach – Helen reported that the Women's March was great. She also had a training with NAACP last week on voter registration. Ramping up for June and promoting a new app called "Global Mobile" and a new text "2vote" to register to vote.

County Commission on Disabilities – Next meeting will be 2/22/18. Janet reported that they are working on plans for the Kudos Awards in October.

Website – Gail working on VAAC page. Jim is working on a map that can be added to show drop box locations. Lynn needs to update her poll worker flyers including Adopt-A-Poll.

FOCE Conference – March 8, 2018, Future of California Elections Conference will be held in LA this year. Gail will attend.

Future Agenda Items - **Happy Birthday Amy!**

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

- April 19, 2018
- August 16, 2018
- October 18, 2018
- December 6, 2018