

Santa Cruz County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 18, 2016 - 10 a.m.
701 Ocean St. Basement – Cafeteria

MINUTES

In attendance: Gail Pellerin, Veronica Elsea, Jim Davies, Helen Ruiz-Thomas, Lynn Stipes

August 2016 Special All-Mail Ballot Election Branciforte Fire – Special election – more information is available on website votescount.com

June 2016 Election Recap – The new voter guides got mostly good reviews. People were unhappy with the sample ballot because it was too small. In November the sample ballot will be inserted sideways in order to make it larger and easier to read.

SOS was here to observing for the June election. Attended poll worker training and visited some polling sites on election day.

Gail is working on improving the accessibility of the web site and the County Voter Information Guide online. Elections office is buying a new laptop specifically for creating more accessibility and recording audio versions of the voter information guide.

Veronica suggestion using word documents for accessibility rather than an audio version. It's easier to go back and review and/or adjust speech rate etc. – MP3 may be the future to have available for people on ScanDisk so people can use them in their own technology.

Veronica has reviewed the accessible voter guide on Inyo County's website. She and Gial discussed the details and suggested some changes.

November 2016 Election- 17 State Propositions and 16 local measures. There are also 11 candidates for Santa Cruz City Council and 8 candidates for Port District. It's going to be a big ballot/\

Trump has now been declared the AIP candidate as well as the Republican candidate. Working on how to show the double party information on the ballot.

Polling places – Jim Davies reported that there are 24 polling sites that need to be revisited to update the blue binders that are used to show the poll workers how to set up the site as accessible. There have been many changes made to many of the sites as an example; Boulder Creek Fire has built a new ramp for entering their building.

Jim reported that responses for confirmation to use sites for November are pretty good. He will also be updating the blue binders to reflect SOS new laws that are taking effect January 2017.

Jim reposted that the UCSC Student Union has requested a VBM drop box and vote center at their location. Accessibility is an issue in complying with this request.

Jim would like to set up accessible parking at the distribution sites so that the inspectors see exactly how it should be done.

Gail Reported on State VAAC – Next meeting will be September. Election Day accessibility survey results are not yet available. There is a new bill in the works regarding the accessibility of the Voter Information Guide. Also, candidate statements can now be posted electronically for no charges. There is also a new bill regarding Felons rights to vote. Gail will email updates of new bills.

State VAAC is still discussing and working on a redesign of the voter registration card. Possibly adding a question for how a voter would like to receive their voter materials. Not sure how to word the question. Veronica stated concern for who will have access to the information. Will that information now be shared and people labeled with disabilities?

Accessibility of Elections & County Clerk websites – New sites are now up and running. They are a work in progress. They have a pretty good layout but they still need some work for better accessibility. Need to work on getting more of it screen reader ready.

Remaining meetings in 2016 – Note New Time!!!

Thursday, October 20, 2016 – 10:30am

Thursday, December 15, 2016 – 10:30am