

Santa Cruz County

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 23, 2019, 10:30 a.m.

701 Ocean St., 3rd Floor PLH Conference Room

Minutes

Attendance: Gail Pellerin, Janet Crosse, Lynn Stipes

Legislative update – There are many new laws in the works, including changes to the requirements for sending notification to NPP voters. Good news, the Governor has added more money in the state budget for voting systems.

State VAAC - Gail reported that she attended the state VAAC meeting and they had a presentation on outreach to the deaf and hard of hearing. It was very interesting and informative. There is a power point available if anyone is interested. Emergency medical ballot requirements were also discussed. Santa Cruz is already in compliance.

Voter Outreach – Helen is out on leave, but outreach is still taking place. We had a few High Schools take part in High School Presentations during the last two weeks of April. There are volunteers trained who are working out in the community registering voters and training others to register voters. The county clerk will be participating in the Pride parade on June 2, everyone is welcome to join us.

Upgraded Voting System – Our current system has been de-certified. There are only two new systems available. We will be going with the new system from our current vendor, Dominion. Gail will be going in front of the board of supervisors for approval of the lease in June. There will no longer be scanners at each polling site. Ballots will be brought back to the main office to be counted. Demonstrations of the new equipment will be scheduled this summer, beginning with staff and VAAC members. We will begin outreach to the voters sometime in July, August or September.

New VAAC members – Today's meeting had three in attendance and one excused absence. All members please let Lynn or Gail know if you would like to remain on the committee. Gail will send out flyers and a press release in hopes of recruiting more members.

County Commission on Disabilities – There are vacancies in districts 1, 3 and 4. Lynn provided copies of flyers for distribution. The C.O.D. had a really nice retreat/joint meeting with the In Home Support Services Commission and the Seniors Commission on May 6. It was a productive brain storming opportunity for the three commissions to come together and identify and come up with ideas on how to solve three major issues those living with disabilities in our community face; Transportation, Shortage in Care Givers and Services, and Emergency Preparedness.

Future Agenda Items – Lynn will invite John Daugherty from Metro Santa Cruz to our next meeting on August 29. Change to next meeting date from August 22 to Thursday, August 29.

Meetings in 2019 – Thursday, 10:30am, PLH Conference Room

- August 29
- November 21