

Santa Cruz County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

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

Minutes

In attendance: Gail Pellerin, James Davies, Lynn Stipes, Laura Harrison, Veronica Elsea, Helen Ruiz-Thomas, Bill Hershon

May 2016 Special All-Mail Ballot Election for Los Gatos/Saratoga High School District. Special election with 3150+ voters.

Still working on the best way to provide a fully accessible ballot. Veronica is trying to find more information from Oregon to see how they supply a private and independent vote in an all mail election, for someone who is blind. Also, information provided on web sites needs to be plain text for those who have basic screen reader software.

Veronica suggested putting the voter guide on the web site in plain text.

Gail explained the new easier to read voter guide format that is now in plain language. Voter surveys were held regarding the new plain language guide in Santa Cruz, Orange and Shasta Counties.

It was suggested that we should put information regarding voter resources on 211.

Santa Cruz County has a new TDD number. It is now 711.

June 2016 Election – Presidential Primary, all Supervisors have opposition. The District Attorney has no opposition, yet.

This is a primary elections so party will matter for the presidential vote. Three parties are allowing crossover voters, Democratic, American Independent, and Libertarian. All other must be a registered member of the party to vote for president.

Gail will have “How to Vote in the Primary” loaded onto the web site in word and will look into HTML. She will also add in plain text “If you cannot read or access any portion of this website, contact me”

Polling place surveys: Jim reported that there are 4 new sites to present to the VAAC:

- Chevy dealership in Watsonville
- Sheriff's center in Live Oak
- Santa Cruz City Schools District Office
- St Andrew's Church will have us in a different room this time.

Laura asked about having the metro change their routes for election day to allow for more voters to use public transit to vote. There was much discussion on different possible methods of transportation for voters who need assistance getting to the polls. Laura said she will email John Daugherty at metro and cc Jim to ask about adding special election day but stops and/or how can metro help to accommodate voters on election day. Veronica is on the Metro Advisory Commission.

Gail suggested posting the barrier that cause polling sites to be categorized as not accessible so that voters have the information and can determine if they will be able to access the site to vote.

Vote Cal – Helen reported that VoteCal will go live on 2/16/16. It is expected to be the system of record for the June election. There are approximately 800 records in the “dump” that need to be worked through to get them cleared. There has been some trouble with online voter registration with DMV and signatures not pulling over. VoteCal runs in real time and can match duplicates more quickly with a 90% probability match. Gail said that VoteCal was part of HAVA from 2002. We will be able to look up voter records statewide. Veronica asked if this was a step towards vote centers and same day registration. Answer was YES.

State VAAC- Considering adding Disability Questions to the VRC Veronica said “No” if you identify yourself as having a disability you lose your anonymity. Also, the DMV would then have information regarding your disability.

Website/Media – Jim reported that He, Veronica and Laura had an excellent meeting. Who do we want to reach? Just disabled persons, or all people?

Redesign of Elections & County Clerk websites – Laura suggested that we use library computers to check the accessibility of the new website. Jim suggested that we get a screen reader so we can check to be sure our site is accessible. Gail suggested everyone check out the new “Citizens Connect” app.