



Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters
Election Administration Plan (EAP)
Japanese Consultation Meeting Minutes

Joyce Ellington Branch Library
491 E. Empire St., San Jose, CA 95112
Community Room
Thursday, July 11, 2019
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Attendees Present:

One member from the public from the Japanese Community

Staff Present:

Shannon Bushey, Vanessa Hamm, Andrea Solorio, Michael Borja, Magdalena Sta Maria, Priscilla Favela, Janora Davis, Patricia Lopez, Allen Ocampo, Linh Nguyen, Michelle Tran, Adrian Garcia, Paulo Chang, Alfred Gonzales, Eric Kurhi, Rachel Jung, Liz Oviedo, Chip Mulenga, George Hiu, Mike Davis, Martin Ayala, Smita Shah, Lorenzo Castaneda, Diane Castaneda, Ruth Luo, Chenxi Ye

Action Items:

- Attendee to send links to ROV regarding items discussed
 - Will reach out to her contact for Sakura Radio
 - To send a list of Japanese community groups within social media like Facebook
 - To contact Japanese Language teachers for the possibility of voter education training (VEOC's train the trainer program)
 - Provide a list of Japanese school for language workshops
 - To forward the feedback form to her network

I. Introductions

Welcome attendee

II. Voter's Choice Act Overview

With the Voter's Choice Act (VCA), voters will now be able to choose how, when, and where they can vote. Voters can choose to vote by mail, drop off their ballot at a ballot drop-box, or have up to 11 days to vote in person at any Vote Center.

1. ROV Staff gave a brief overview of the VCA details; from languages the ROV will cover and the change from polling places to Vote Centers.

2. ROV Staff talked about Vote Centers logistics and how we will staff languages in each Vote Center.
3. ROV Staff gave brief overview of the polling place model to the VCA model.

III. **Goal of the Election Administration Plan**

The Election Administration Plan outlines how the Registrar of Voters (ROV) will implement the changes related to VCA and will be developed together with input from the community.

Discussion

1. ROV Staff: We are looking for feedback for the EAP, specifically for the Japanese Community, but we are open to any feedback for the development of the draft EAP: where we should do our outreach, Vote Center locations, and where in the community to place drop-boxes.

IV. **Vote Center/Drop-box Selection**

The ROV is seeking public input to assist the County with locating potential sites for Vote Centers and drop-box sites. Vote Centers need to be accessible and have enough space to properly service Santa Clara County voters.

Public Input/Questions:

1. ROV Staff: Do you have any recommendations for drop-box locations?
 - a. Attendee:
 - i. Stanford campus would be great. There's a popular farmers market in Palo Alto and it's one of the biggest in California. It would be good to have a booth there and somewhere on California Ave. or Downtown Palo Alto. This would cover a huge demographic. Palo Alto and Mountain View have a Buddhist temple, this would be a perfect place to reach out to the Japanese community.

V. **Language Accessibility**

The ROV is seeking public input to assist the County with various means of providing language accessibility so that all eligible voters can understand the voting process and have equal access to the ballot. Examples include suggestions for historically underserved language communities and bilingual election officer recruitment.

Public Input/Questions:

1. ROV Staff: What do you think would be helpful for unity?
 - a. Attendee: The most difficult thing is for mono-lingual Japanese to understand English, and Japanese Americans who prefer language in English.

VI. **Voting Accessibility**

The ROV is seeking public input to assist the County with various means of providing accessibility for senior voters and voters with disabilities so that all eligible voters can understand the voting process and have equal access to the ballot.

Public Input/Questions: (None)

VII. Outreach Opportunities

The ROV is seeking public input to identify different venues and methods of outreach so as to best reach the County's voters and educate them on the elections changes that will come with VCA.

Public Input/Questions:

1. ROV Staff: We are trying to gather information of possible avenues we haven't explored yet including advertising, social media, and outreach. How do we reach specific communities? Next-door has been a great outreach tool. We are looking for ideas. What vendors would be helpful in Japanese community?
 - i. Attendee: Bay Area Sports, Sakura Radio, T.V. Japan (a separate channel), [Vivid Navigation](#), J-Weekly. Japanese Americans usually prefer everything in English.
2. ROV Staff: What about social media?
 - a. Attendee: Japanese people love Facebook and Twitter. Stanford University also has a group that works with communities that speak only Japanese. The Japanese Stanford Association is a good group to contact.
3. ROV Staff: Is there a Japanese community group on Facebook, maybe something specific to Santa Clara County?
 - a. Attendee: The Japanese community likes to look up Twitter hashtags in "Japanese." They constantly search by using hashtags. For example, if you translate, "Presidential Election 2020 in Japanese, they will search it as a hashtag."
4. ROV Staff: We have Nishi Bei Weekly; are you familiar with them? Also, Stanford Daily, we have as a Japanese resource. Japanese American Citizens usually read the Nishi Bei Weekly.
5. ROV Staff: Are you familiar with San Jose's Japantown? I wasn't familiar because I was usually in school.
6. ROV Staff: We have a program where we train the trainer to help assist with spreading voter education; are you connected with any organizations?
 - a. Attendee: The Palo Alto Adult School has Japanese classes. That may be a good community to connect to and hold Train the Trainer meetings. Also, Gunn High School, which provides Japanese classes and Japanese language teachers.
7. ROV Staff: Rachel Jung is in charge of our Voter Education Outreach Coalition and if you're interested, you can connect with Rachel.
8. ROV Staff: Explained the purpose of the Voter Education Outreach Coalition. Due to the number of registered voters in Santa Clara County in comparison to the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Outreach team of three people, we would need assistance from people from different community-based organizations with educating the voter masses.
 - a. Attendee: There are also big summer festivals in early August to set up booths at.
9. ROV Staff: Are you familiar with any cultural centers that teach English to Japanese-speakers?

- a. Attendee: Yes, the Palo Alto Adult School and they teach international students. The Buddhist temple may be a place to most likely check, especially the temples specific to Japanese. The Palo Alto Farmer's Market is a good place to do outreach because that market sells a lot of Asian vegetables and there are Japanese American farmers. There's a place where academic classes are taught in Japanese that are held every Saturday. The students are Japanese monolingual and having Japanese language workshops would be a good place for this school.
10. ROV Staff: Are you familiar with Tycho in Japantown?
- a. Attendee: Yes, they are a community/club in San Jose and there are other drumming associations in different cities. Tycho associations are connected in different cities. They would be a good contact.