

County of Santa Clara

Registrar of Voters

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Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Sept. 15, 2020 | 1:30-3:00 via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://sccgov-org.zoom.us/j/97299010439>

Meeting ID: 972 9901 0439

Dial in number: (669) 219-2599 US (San Jose)

MEMBERS: Christine Fitzgerald, Maya Bareket, Lisa Quan, George Hamma, Tricia Kokes, Meghan Wheeler.

ROV Staff: Shannon Bushey, Virginia Bloom, Evelyn Mendez, Mike Fong, Paulo Chang, Vanessa Hamm, Alfred Gonzales, Pamela Hamilton, Bren Lehr, Bob Nguyen, Michael Borja, Nina Jordan.

a. Review and approve minutes

- i. August 18, 2020 minutes - motion to approve by Christine Fitzgerald and seconded by Tricia Kokes to approve minutes.
- ii. New Member introduction of George Hamma – resident of Santa Clara County.

b. ROV Division Reports

- i. Vote by Mail Division (VBM) (Alfred Gonzalez, VBM Manager)
 - Emergency Ballot Delivery Program and list of agencies unitizing those services
 - VBM has expanded the Emergency Ballot Delivery program by contacting the Facility coordinator at hospitals, convalescence homes in Santa Clara County to offer our services.
 - VBM called 328 different facilities to offer our services to them. We contacted the Directors at each facility; 101 were interested, 67 were left messages, 91 facilities were not interested in our services due to COVID some had no residence and the family handled the ballots for them or the facilities were too busy to provide this service to their residents, and or the residents handled this themselves. Some facilities were closed and no longer in business. Lastly, 69 facilities telephone numbers were disconnected numbers.
 - VBM is set to reach out on 9/21/20 by sending another email and letter out to the facilities again.
 - Member asked which hospitals in Santa Clara county were contacted.
 - VBM confirmed they contacted Good Samaritan, O'Conner, Stanford, and Kaiser hospitals to see who the contact is to partner with this service.
 - Member asked why some facilities declined as this violates a person's right to vote.
 - ROV will check into this matter and report back with an answer.

- ii. Precinct Operations Division (POD) & Outreach (Paulo Chang, POD Manager)
 - Vote Center Update – We have a 98 confirmed vote centers.
 - Vote Center Staffing Updates –
 - We are at 60% staff capacity including the monolingual staff.
 - We need bilingual staff to support us at the ROV office and at the vote centers.
 - Voter Education Outreach Coalition Meeting Update
 - Regularly meeting every two weeks.
 - Successfully getting the message out to get people to VOTE.
 - Oct 5th VEOC members will pick up materials from ROV to distribute materials to local businesses and their communities.
 - ROV will provide PPE's
 - National Voter Registration Day Virtual Event – Sept 22
 - National Voter Registration Day is a virtual event through Facebook Live.
 - POD asked members to spread the word.
 - Member asked how to connect to the Facebook live.
 - ROV to share the zoom link to members to join the virtual event on 9/22/20.
 - Member suggested informing the various groups of the virtual live event.
- iii. Advertising and Messaging (PLA) (Evelyn Mendez, PLA Manager)
 - Discuss screen readers on ROV website
 - The screen reader reads an image as you scroll over images on the screen and if you scroll over the ROV logo the screen reader will read “ROV logo.”
 - Discuss distribution of braille flyers
 - Braille flyers “Be Heard” were ordered and expected to arrive next week, 9/21.
 - Please contact us for flyers.
 - Background images to use in meetings
 - The backgrounds were emailed out to members and we encourage everyone to use these images in their meetings.
 - Discussion of “What now” flyer to distribute
 - Presented a draft form of “What now” flyer – when finalized ROV will share.
 - Presented “I Voted” placard is part of our media kit.
 - ROV will mail out copies of the placards to the VAAC member's next week.
- iv. November Election Administration (Virginia Bloom, AROV)
 - VCA Mailer #1 (8/23/2020) and Mailer #2 (10/5/2020)
 - Every voter in the county should have received the 1st Mailer to “Vote Safe, by Mail” which this mailer is letting voters know when the vote centers open and the locations of the drop boxes.
 - Military and Overseas Voter ballots to be mailed out Friday, 9/18/20.
 - ROV is about to print our official ballots.
 - Number of Ballot Cards and Ballot Types
 - There are four cards to this ballot: 12 state propositions, 21 local measures
 - Some voters may receive 3 ½ cards one side of the 4th card blank.
 - Some ballot types may have up to 8 local measures on the 4th card.
 - Vote by Mail packets to be mailed out on October 5th.
 - Expectations for processing of ballots and updates
 - Member asked if the ballots are scantron or hand counted.
 - Virginia explained we hand count the write-in votes.

- The ballots are scanned by a tabulating machine as there are tally marks on the outside of the ballots that allows the machine to tally the ballots.
- Member asked about the COVID-19 safety precautions in processing the returned vote by mail ballots.
- VBM explained staff are fully protected with PPE, tables are set with seating arrangement planned out 6 ft. apart to allow social distance while processing the returned vote by mail ballots.

II. Next steps

- a. Future meeting key dates – January 2021
 - ROV explained we will be quite busy in October for this November's election and we will resume VAAC meetings in January 2021.