



OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

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Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)

Tuesday, January 22, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Registrar of Voters Office (ROV)

Karie Lew, Disability Rights of California (DRC)

Blanca Marin, West Modesto Community Collaborative

1) 2024 Presidential General Election Feedback

ROV shared ASL video interpretation was offered at each vote center but not requested by any voters. An election worker who knew ASL was scheduled at the office and had access to a phone for video calls to connect to each vote center.

Curbside voting was also offered but not requested at any sites.

Large print of sample ballots and candidate statements were also available upon request but not requested by any voter this election.

Karie asked to clarify how ASL interpretation was offered. ROV office confirmed that voters were to use their personal cell phones or election workers would offer theirs when needed.

Karie asked about the large print ballots and asked if the entire voter guide was offered in large print. ROV office clarified that it was only the candidate statements and sample ballots. Only these items were offered given the amount of information in the guide. This is the material most requested by voters. The full guide is also available in accessible format using the county's RAVBM (remote accessible vote by mail) system.

Karie discussed ASL interpretation signage used at vote centers. There was not enough time between implementation of the procedures and the election to send the signs to members for feedback.

Karie shared that DRC received about 135 calls during the November election. Calls were made concerning a variety of accessibility issues. DRC could not identify if any of the calls were from Stanislaus voters. ROV office explained that knowing if any of the calls were from Stanislaus voters helps us understand where we can make improvements. Each county has different voting equipment, voting models, voting systems, etc. which impact their in-person voting procedures or how they have to conduct the election.

2) Future goals of the committee?

Karie expressed the need to focus on accessibility for the deaf and hard of hearing. She emphasized the need to involve NorCal Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing in our meetings. ROV Office explained they reached out to the agency before the November election. Another email and phone call were made before the January VAAC meeting but have not received any response. ROV Office asked Karie if she had any direct contact with the agency, but she did not have any. ROV Office will continue to make attempts to engage the agency.

3) Member updates

Blanca shared West Modesto Collaborative's spring health fair event on March 8th. The registration forms will be sent soon.

Members were asked to send any questions or ideas for future discussion before the next meeting on April 23rd.

4) 2025 meeting dates

January 22

April 23

July 23

October 22