



COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE

Elections Department

VAAC/LAAC Summary

Voting and Language Accessibility Advisory Committee

Location and Time

County Administration Center
2 S. Green St, 4th Floor
Sonora CA 95370

September 9, 2019
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

In Attendance

- Pam Vlach
- Barbara Farkas
- Robbie Bergstrom
- Barb Dresslar
- Jane Braga
- Vonna Breeze-Martin
- Leonides Russell
- Mary Anne Schmidt
- Ann Leonard

Minutes

Minutes taken by Barbara Dresslar

- Robbie explained the new provisions of the Voter's Choice Act with 5 unassigned Voter Centers instead of the previous 27 assigned precincts. Registered voters can vote at any Voter Center. There will also be drop-off boxes to mail ballots at other locations around Tuolumne County. All registered voters will receive a return postage paid vote-by-mail envelope and ballot which they can mail, drop in a drop-off box, or take to a Voter Center.

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- Voter Centers will be open and staffed a minimum of 6 hours a day, and those hours are yet to be determined. The days open will include a weekend. There will be 4 staff at each voter center during open hours as temporary, paid election department workers, with an anticipated total of 50 total temporary Voter Center employees. The County Elections Department office will be open starting 29 days prior to the election.
- The State of California requirements for the Voter's Choice Act includes drafting an Elections Administration Plan (EAP) which will be released soon for a 14 day comment period after which is followed by a public comment meeting. The EAP will be amended if necessary due to public input, which will be released and have another 14 day comment period. This amended EAP is then sent to the Secretary of State. The Advisory Committee is required for public input on the EAP. Robbie requested the committee members share the election office information about the Voter's Choice Act and the EAP process with interested members of the community. Robbie also mentioned that Christine Hager, a Modesto disability advocate, would talk to local Sonora groups and will ask for input on the needs of disabled groups to work with Robbie on the ADA survey for the EAP.
- Robbie then demonstrated the Poll Pad, of which there are 2-3 at each Voter Center. The electronic roster contains voter registration information for the county. The iPads will communicate over an invisible Wi-Fi hub, then only to the county elections office in a closed system. Voters will sign the roster. This will be checked by 'characteristics' at the elections office if contested or if there are duplicate ballots. Robbie explained, historically, there have been an average of only 2 contested ballots per election.
- Voters casting ballots at Voter Centers will have the choice of paper ballot, or a touch screen which prints out the completed paper ballot. No votes are stored on the machines.
- The advisory group suggested changes in the election department flyer and recommended open hours for the Voter Centers. Robbie said he would email the amended flyers to the group members. He also asked for any additional suggestions for the flyers or voter center operations to be sent to him ASAP at: rbergstrom@co.tuolumne.ca.us.
- The committee suggested agenda items for next advisory group as:
 - Discuss locations of Voter Centers and ADA suitability – ideas for Jamestown
 - Educating the public – suggestions
 - Advertising and outreach
 - Robbie will demonstrate to the group re: RAVBM (Remote Access Vote By Mail) which is for military, overseas citizens, and those with disabilities. (i.e. of which our county has 100+)
- Robbie also announced a Voter Registration Workshop, Sept. 19 from 9am – 10:30 at the Shepard St. Firehouse.
- The next meeting will be on Oct. 7 at 10am, probably in the BOS chambers 4th Floor, 2 Green St., but Robbie will confirm.