

RYAN RONCO
COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER-REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

STEPHEN AYE
ASSISTANT RECORDER-REGISTRAR

LISA CRAMER
ASSISTANT COUNTY CLERK



3715 ATHERTON ROAD
ROCKLIN, CA 95765
PHONE: 530-886-5600
FAX: 530-886-5688
election@placer.ca.gov
www.placercountyelections.gov

PLACER COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE

Placer County Language Accessibility Advisory Committee

August 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Date: 08-03-23

Time: 3:30 PM – 4:48 PM

Location: Training Room, Placer County Elections Building, 3715 Atherton Rd, Rocklin, CA 95765

Via Zoom:

<https://placer-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/95565018983>

Or Telephone: +1 888 788 0099 US Toll Free or 877 853 5247 US Toll Free

Webinar ID: 955 6501 8983

Present in Person:

- LAAC Committee Members: Kim Unidad, Mohinder Sohi, Gurmit Bassi, Marisela Barbosa (DeCortez)
- Elections Staff: Ryan Ronco, Stephen Aye, Philip Chantri, Stacy Robinson, Oscar Mancilla, Marcus Smith, Ali Sherazee, Mason Gray, Hana Uhler
- IT Staff: Jeremy Kelley

Present Online:

- Advocacy Group Representatives: Sietse Goffard, Brandee Calagui

Minutes

I. Elections Staff/Attendee Introductions

- a. LAAC members and other attendees were welcomed and thanked for their participation. Elections staff were introduced to membership. LAAC members and advocacy group representatives introduced themselves.

II. Committee Role

- a. Overview of committee's role: typical committee discussion topics, projected meeting schedule, expectations of members

III. Presentations:

a. VCA/Draft Election Administration Plan (EAP)

- i. Overview of the Voter's Choice Act (VCA) and its requirements for implementation: Election Administration Plan (EAP), vote centers with required languages (3% threshold and targeted languages), State and county information guides, signage, bilingual election officers, translation line, facsimile ballots
- ii. Information on what VCA requirements Placer County has already fulfilled (issuing vote-by-mail ballots to all eligible voters, the use of drop boxes, etc.) was also shared.
- iii. Copies of drafted EAP were distributed to meeting participants. Request was made that all LAAC members and any other interested parties closely review the document and offer any feedback to the Elections Office.
- iv. Overview of EAP public comment requirements/schedule provided.

b. Vote center handout – required languages/locations

- i. Information provided on how certain vote center locations are identified as having “assigned languages” based on concentrated percentages of language diversity amongst the corresponding population.
- ii. Other vote centers had “added” rather than “assigned” languages, demonstrating commitment to providing language assistance to all eligible Placer County voters wherever required.

c. Language minorities defined – GIS StoryMap

- i. Presentation of a new web-based tool that demonstrates language diversity within certain areas/neighborhoods of Placer County.
- ii. This tool, also known as StoryMap, will soon be accessible to all interested parties.

d. Equal accessibility

- i. Overview of Elections Office's existing program of providing targeted voting assistance in Spanish, Korean, Tagalog and Punjabi.
- ii. Overview of Elections Office's strategy to enhance this language support to improve and increase accessibility for all eligible voters, and to ensure all voters feel educated and informed about casting their ballot in Placer County.

IV. Questions & Answers

- a. It was asked if Russian and Ukrainian voters would have their languages addressed. Mr. Chantri answered that neither is a “targeted language” under section 14201 of CA Elections code, but that the County was always willing to assist any community

that required language assistance, regardless of meeting the state-dictated threshold. He mentioned that currently, those communities could be assisted through the language line, but that the Elections Office would certainly consider additional mitigations if there appeared to be a need.

- b. It was asked how targeted language voters could get language support when voting by mail. Mr. Chantri replied that information pertaining to this specific topic is always included in the voter information packet, including directions on how to obtain that support. He also added that one significant benefit of transitioning to vote centers is making in-person voting easier and possibly more common, thereby easing reliance on vote-by-mail voters with diverse language needs.
- c. It was asked if the County would consider adding vote centers and/or drop boxes for the Punjabi population, specifically at the Sikh Temple in the City of Roseville. Mr. Chantri replied that if a location met accessibility requirements, all such requests would be considered, and that they could be added to future meeting agendas for discussion.

V. Future Agenda Items

- a. The next meeting of the Placer County LAAC is scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 3:30 p.m., to be held both online and in-person in the Training Room at the Placer County Elections Office; 3715 Atherton Rd., Rocklin, CA 95765.
- b. While the EAP is under public review, meetings will be held once a month, typically on the first Thursday of each month. (Meetings will eventually be held quarterly.)
- c. The September meeting of the LAAC will primarily focus on updates made to the EAP, reviewing feedback offered to the Elections Office during public consultation meeting(s), and discussing any additional feedback provided by membership and interested parties.