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## PLACER COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE

### Placer County Language Accessibility Advisory Committee

#### October 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 10-05-23

**Time:** 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

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

**Via Zoom:**

<https://placer-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/95051348312>

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

**Webinar ID:** 950 5134 8312

#### Present in Person:

- LAAC Committee Members: Kim Unidad and Mohinder Sohi
- Elections Staff: Philip Chantri, Stacy Robinson, Tina Belding, Oscar Mancilla, Marcus Smith, Dillon Dineen, Jared Sanford, Tracy Hyde, Cody Nichols, Mason Gray, Hana Uhler
- IT Staff: Jeremy Kelley

#### Present Online:

- LAAC Committee Members Marisela Barbosa (DeCortez) and Jasleen Bal
- Interested party Ferdinand Tanada

### Minutes

#### I. Elections Staff/Attendee Introductions

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

## II. Committee Updates – Mr. Chantri

### a. Draft Election Administration Plan (EAP) Update

- i. The amended draft of the EAP has been posted for additional public comment and LAAC review. Public comment period ends Oct. 11, 2023.
- ii. EAP will be submitted to SOS for approval sometime between Oct. 12 and 16. Mr. Chantri thanked members and organizations for their participation and feedback.

### b. Initial Public Workshops Discussion

- i. Mr. Chantri asked for input regarding language diversity workshops; at least one workshop in each of the targeted languages is planned. Members were asked to provide input for specific locations, days of the week, time of day, and content.
- ii. Mr. Unidad said to include information regarding the transition from traditional polling places to vote centers to ensure voters know.
- iii. Mr. Sohi suggested Saturdays or Sundays before noon would work well at the Sikh Temple for the Punjabi community.
- iv. Ms. DeCortez asked what kind of resources the county has allocated to perform voter outreach. Mr. Chantri answered that the current discussion was intended to determine what the Elections Office needed to allocate. For the time being, the Elections Office was planning to use an approach that includes social media, in-person and online events, and a mixture of print and broadcast media to ensure thorough message delivery.
- v. Mrs. Robinson added that there is a whole section of the EAP addressing outreach, but reminded the group that the current topic was language community workshops, and reiterated Mr. Chantri's question/invitation for input.
- vi. Ms. DeCortez said that the Hispanic community gets a lot of information from the radio, and suggested starting the PSA with "Did you know...?" She promised to send an email with a list of organizations and/or radio stations that may be able to assist.
- vii. Ms. DeCortez also asked if the workshops would be bilingual or just in the targeted language. Mr. Chantri answered that each individual workshop would be bilingual in its targeted language.
- viii. Ms. DeCortez asked if someone wanted to attend a workshop or had other questions, would someone at the Elections Office be able to answer them in Spanish via phone call. Mr. Chantri replied that assistance in Spanish *is* available, as there is a bilingual Spanish speaker currently a part of elections staff. He noted that is not the same for Punjabi, Tagalog or Korean, as there isn't a legal

requirement under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act in Placer County. If/when the County meets the thresholds under Section 203, it will provide bilingual speakers for the other targeted languages. However, translation technology like Language Line can be deployed to assist non-English speakers with communication with the Elections Office.

- ix. Mr. Unidad added that a lot of Tagalog-speaking people were not likely to attend an in-person meeting but were more likely to be reached by social media and flyers, which would best be placed at the Oriental Market and the St. Claire Church on Sundays.
- x. Mr. Sohi said that the Elections Office could do a one-week ad on Punjab Radio, based in Rocklin; it would need to be paid for. He added that senior Punjabi speakers don't typically mail in ballots, so making sure they know about vote centers is a good idea. Mr. Chantri said the Elections office was happy to consider various venues, both paid and unpaid.
- xi. Mr. Chantri mentioned being able to reach more people about the availability of facsimile ballots is a part of the plan; VIGs will be mailed in each of the languages for them to be able to read in their language that they can request facsimile ballots.
- xii. Mr. Chantri explained how certain vote center locations are identified as having "assigned languages," based on concentrated percentages of language diversity amongst the corresponding population based on census data. Other vote centers had "added" rather than "assigned" languages, which Mr. Chantri hoped demonstrated Placer County's commitment to providing language assistance.

*c. Initial Messaging Discussion*

i. Voter Information Guide

- The Placer County Voter Information Guide will go out to active eligible voters about a month prior to the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election. It will be followed by a vote-by-mail packet and an 8.5" x 11" postcard that comes about a week after that and contains more info on submitting and tracking your ballot. The initial documents were provided for discussion.
- At least one Placer County Voter Information Guide page will be in all targeted languages in addition to English and will explain how to request additional information in voter's language.

ii. Postcard

- 8.5" x 11" postcards will follow the VIGs and the VBM packet.

- Early draft of the postcard regarding Placer County’s transition to VCA (and other important election details) presented for LAAC members’ input.
- Potential changes to content are dependent on whether AB626 gets signed, but as of right now, the language in the draft available to VAAC members is not included in the version going out to the public.

iii. Website

- Mr. Chantri showed the “Placer County and the Voter’s Choice Act” page on the Elections website and asked for LAAC members and their respective organizations to provide feedback.
- Mrs. Robinson mentioned that both the page format and content would soon be revised to improve navigation and message delivery, but that she is actively looking for feedback regarding content.

d. *Potential Drop Box Location Additions*

i. Sikh Temple (Gurdwara Sri Sachkhand Sahib) Update

- Mr. Chantri reported that ongoing discussions with the leaders of the Sikh Temple in Roseville would likely result in the placement of a drop box.
- Two options for placement are being considered; one on the sidewalk and close to the street, and one placed behind the gates of the temple’s parking lot. He asked the committee for their opinion as to which location was preferable.
- Marisela said that when it came down to the two potential locations at the Sikh Temple, she supports whichever one is more accessible to those with disabilities.

ii. Oriental Market Update

- Mr. Chantri stated that efforts were being made to contact the owner(s) of the Oriental Market on Harding Blvd. in Roseville to assess the possibility of placing a ballot drop box there (based on the recommendation provided by LAAC member, Mr. Unidad).

iii. General Update

- Several changes to proposed drop box locations have occurred since the last LAAC meeting:
  - Drop boxes at Olympic Valley Public Service District, the Lincoln City Clerk’s Office and Whitney Ranch – The Ranch House were previously internal boxes and will transition to external, 24/7 boxes for the March election.
  - Sierra College has been added as a location for a 24/7 external drop box; discussions with school administration about where on campus to put it remain ongoing.

- The Loomis Town Clerk's Office has added signage indicating additional accessible parking is available at the rear of the building to meet accessibility standards for a drop box location.
- A request to transition an internal drop box at Nugget Market in Roseville to an external, 24/7 box has been denied.
- The Sikh Temple in Roseville has been added as a location for a 24/7 external drop box; a decision about where to locate it on the premises is on-going.
- The Oriental Market located on Harding Blvd. in Roseville is being evaluated as a possible location for a 24/7 external drop box.
- Negotiations regarding the placement of an internal or external drop box at Sun City Roseville remain ongoing.

### **III. Questions & Answers**

- a. There were no questions.

### **IV. Future Agenda Items**

- a. Mrs. Robinson reminded meeting attendees that the link for joining the VAAC and LAAC Zoom meetings remotely on the Advisory Committee website will be good for all meetings through the end of 2023.
- b. Mr. Chantri mentioned that the EAP public comment period would close on Oct. 11, 2023.