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## PLACER COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE

### Placer County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

#### October 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 10-05-23

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. – 3:16 p.m.

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

**Via Zoom:**

<https://placer-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/94139308954>

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

**Webinar ID:** 941 3930 8954

**Present in Person:**

- VAAC Member Alexa Guerrero (PIRS); Advocacy Group Representative Fred Nisen (DRC)
- Elections Staff: Philip Chantri, Tina Belding, Stacy Robinson, Oscar Mancilla, Marcus Smith, Dillon Dineen, Jared Sanford, Tracy Hyde, Cody Nicols, Mason Gray, Hana Uhler
- IT Staff: Jeremy Kelley

**Present Online:**

- VAAC Members Rebecca Hensley (Agency for Aging, Area 4), Barbara Smith (Placer County Democratic Party Central Committee), Karen Enghusen (League of Women Voters, Placer County)

#### Minutes

##### I. Elections Staff/Attendee Introductions

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

## II. Committee Updates – Mr. Chantri

### a. *Draft Elections Administration Plan*

- i. Public comment period closes Oct. 11, with submission to SOS intended sometime between Oct. 12 – Oct. 16.
- ii. Changes made to EAP; staff tagged to make changes suggested by members of public. Specific changes stemming from feedback from VAAC members were highlighted.
- iii. Mr. Nisen inquired if the version being shown in the presentation was the same as the one on the website. Mr. Chantri answered that no, the version being shown was specifically created to highlight changes made in response to suggestions contributed by Placer County VAAC and LAAC members and advocacy groups.

### b. *Initial Public Workshops Discussion*

- i. Mr. Chantri explained that the public workshops were meant for disabled, language, and senior community members.
- ii. Mr. Chantri asked attendees which locations, dates, times would be best, and what content should they contain.
- iii. Mr. Nisen commented that at the beginning of VCA, no one knew what they were doing, that counties were the only ones publicizing it, and probably didn't know where to do workshops. He suggested that they work with agencies like his and that the workshops focus less on Remote Accessible Vote-By-Mail (RAVBM) and more on vote centers, which is the primary change in a VCA transition.
- iv. Ms. Guerrero asked if Fred was recommending organizations like PIRS host the workshops—Mr. Nisen clarified that when PIRS has events, it would be great to invite the Elections Office to do some type of education at them. He also said that workshops addressing disabilities should address *all* types of disabilities at these events.
- v. Ms. Guerrero said she would speak to her supervisor about PIRS having more events, and she offered to exchange information with Mr. Nisen, directly.
- vi. Ms. Enghusen mentioned that from her experience at the League of Women Voters, small informational meetings are very successful for targeted groups. She offered her facilities for workshops, but said she also loved the idea of using the Elections Office for them.
- vii. Mr. Nisen added that it would be great to have workshops at the Elections Office, but also in another place where people with disabilities visit regularly.
- viii. Ms. Smith mentioned that a hybrid in-person/online version would be best because not everyone feels able to go in person. She suggested utilizing county notices and social media and the county-wide texting system for informing people about the workshop meetings.
- ix. Mrs. Robinson asked if PIRS had a newsletter and Ms. Guerrero answered that they only had a Facebook page, and she was the one who always posts on it. She encouraged the Elections Office to contact her if they ever want to put

something on the PIRS Facebook page and that she would let them know of upcoming events that would be good options for elections education.

- x. Ms. Guerrero said that the PIRS Senior Center is hosting workshops, so the Elections Office would just have to contact them for a couple dates that are available.
- xi. Ms. Smith mentioned that the California Association of Retired Americans (CARA) also has excellent outreach to the senior community for educational purposes.
- xii. Mr. Chantri said that the Elections Office was already on the agenda for the November Senior Commission meeting for the City of Roseville.
- xiii. Ms. Hensley mentioned that the Agency on Aging Area 4 has a monthly newsletter that goes out and social media pages, which could be a good means of reaching some disability groups.
- xiv. Mr. Nisen asked when Placer County was planning to do the workshop(s). Mr. Chantri answered there was no definite date set, as we need to finalize the EAP and receive approval and/or feedback from the SOS before planning a workshop.
- xv. Mr. Nisen suggested the best time would be January 2024, after the holidays are over and people start thinking about the election.

*c. Initial Messaging Discussion*

- i. Voter Information Guide
  - The Placer County Voter Information Guide will go out to active, eligible voters between January 25 and February 13, 2024 for 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.
- ii. Postcard
  - Early draft of the postcard regarding Placer County's transition to VCA (and other important election details) presented for VAAC 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.
  - Mr. Nisen asked if we would use the slogan "More Days, More Ways". The answer was maybe, but we're waiting for the State to come out with their outreach materials first before making that decision.
  - Ms. Enghusen said from her experience with VCA transitions, the hardest thing was getting voters to recognize the change from traditional polling places to vote centers. She said any opportunity to address this is meaningful, and suggested the county supervisors use their public outreach abilities to assist with getting the message out.



- 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.

*f. Curbside Voting Devices*

- i. When originally purchased, the curbside voting devices were not at an accessible height, but that has since been corrected. Some prototypes are done, but not all of them.
- ii. Mr. Nisen asked how high the corrected versions are, now. Mr. Chantri answered the button is now 41 inches and was formerly 32 inches. Mr. Nisen suggested contacting the vendor to let them know.
- iii. Legacy Voting Equipment cart might be utilized again, but no guarantee. A demonstration of the rig was given to meeting participants.
- iv. Mr. Nisen mentioned that AB545, recently signed by the governor, requires that there be some kind of curbside voting. Mr. Chantri mentioned that the Elections office thinks this cart idea will work to not only meet but exceed that requirement, but added that it's still a work in progress, as some weather concerns would need to be considered.

**III. Questions & Answers**

- a. Mr. Nisen asked if there would be ASL accommodations at vote centers. Mr. Chantri said there were none currently planned, as the State had no resources to offer, but invited Mr. Nisen to contact him personally about possible options.

**IV. Future Agenda Items**

- a. Mrs. Robinson reminded meeting attendees that the link for joining the VAAC and LAAC meetings remotely via Zoom posted 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.