

Members:

Benjamin McMullan
Bill Hershon
Craig McCulloh
Fred Nisen
Michael Levinson
Wilhelmina Riley



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SAN MATEO COUNTY
VOTING ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VAAC)

Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2017

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

(Meeting held at 555 County Center Plaza, 3rd Floor, Redwood City, CA)

Members Present

Craig McCulloh, Chair
Mike Levinson, PCC
Wilhelmina (Sammi) Riley, PCC (via Conference Call)
Bill Hershon, Disability Rights California
Fred Nisen, Disability Rights California
Ben McMullan, Center for Independence for Individuals with Disabilities (via Conference Call)

Staff Present

Anthony Suber, Elections Specialist III, (VAAC Secretary)
Mark Church, Chief Elections Officer
Jim Irizarry, Assistant Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder
Diana Izaguirre, Deputy Assessor-Clerk-Recorder (Elections Manager)

Items Discussed

1. Introduction of Committee Members and Announcements
 - Committee on Disability is having an annual presentation on October 17th at 9:00 during Disability Awareness month. They will be presenting the strategic plan for 2018.
 - The Transition to Independence event is on 10/21/2017 at 11:00 am. The Elections Department Outreach team will attend to offer Voter Registration, Voter Education and display Voter Equipment.
2. Review and approved Meeting Minutes from September 21, 2017 Agenda
 - S. Riley motioned to approve, M. Levinson second, motion carried
3. Remote Accessible Vote by Mail System (RAVBM)
 - J. Irizarry discussed the process the Elections division is undergoing in working with Democracy Live to test and implement the Accessible Vote by Mail System within the November 2017 election. M. Levinson has assisted our team with testing and training. The department will share a press release and other forms of communication once we are certain we can provide the service with confidence in it's complete functionality.
 - F. Nisen shared that he has been in contact with the California Secretary of State and that there has not been an official announcement of a certified Remote Accessible Vote by Mail System. D. Izaguirre clarified that we have an

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- agreement with the Secretary of State to work in good faith that the system will be certified, and we can begin preliminary testing if that happens to be able to provide the service to voters.
 - C. McCulloh would like clarification on the channels and types of outreach and marketing we will do to the information.
 - F. Nisen emailed his concerns about the 1st page of the Democracy Live site specifically about “waiving” the rights of secrecy and privacy.
4. Board of Supervisors Meeting, September 26, 2017 Review
- C. McCulloh watched the live stream.
 - J. Irizarry shared that Alex Padilla attended the meeting and addressed the Board. He also attended a local high school and spoke to students. Jim and Mr. Padilla discussed the San Mateo County VAAC and Mr. Padilla encouraged the BOS to increase funding support for outreach during the June election.
5. Public Voters Choice Act Hearing
- The PowerPoint is final
 - M. Levinson discussed methods for presenting the presentation to people with visual impairments.

ACTION ITEM: A. Suber will distribute physical copies of the presentation to the attendees

- J. Irizarry will discuss alternative formats of the material are available and comment cards will be provided. The agenda will be reviewed and VAAC members will be available to meet and greet the audience.

ACTION ITEM: A. Suber will develop questions for the facilitator to assist the audience members with public comment.

- VAAC contact information will be made available to audience members

ACTION ITEM: A. Suber will evaluate if developing a VAAC@smcare.org address is a good option.

ACTION ITEM: A. Suber will follow up and ensure the assistive listening devices are available and tested at the BOS Chambers. Make sure VAAC applications are available, comment cards are on audience seats, share information about Mobile Voting services, sign-in sheets for attendees, create badges for VAAC members.

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ACTION ITEM: A. Suber will confirm food order for the meeting.

- Mr. Church made a special appearance at the meeting and addressed the group. He acknowledged their contributions to our department and thanked them for their service.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:15 p.m.