

PLACER COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE

Placer County Language Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

June 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Date: 06-06-24

Time: 3:35 PM – 4:17 PM

Location: Training Room, Placer County Elections Office, 3715 Atherton Road, Rocklin, CA 95765

Present In-Person:

- LAAC member Mohinder Sohi
- Elections staff Philip Chantri, Ali Sherazee and Leslie Rostron
- CRE Officer PIO Stacy Robinson

Present Online:

- LAAC Member Kim Unidad
- Sietse Goffard of Asian Law Caucus.
- Elections Staff Dillon Dineen, Marcus Smith and Tracy Hyde

Minutes

I. Recognition of community member and Placer County Elections volunteer Aldo Pineschi

II. Attendee and Staff Introductions

- Attendees were welcomed and thanked for their participation.
- LAAC members and Elections staff in person and online were given the opportunity to introduce themselves.

III. Presentations

Mr. Chantri: March 2024 Presidential Primary Election Report

- **Election numbers**
 - 281,556 total registered voters:
 - 114,289 Republicans
 - 89,229 Democrats
 - 54,255 No Party Preference
 - Remaining 8% "other"
- **Placer County**
 - 18th largest county in voter registration, top 5% of largest in nation by population, 3rd highest percentage of eligible voters registered in CA with over 93% of eligible voters registered, thanks in part to strong youth voter outreach.

- **This Election**
 - 153,869 ballots were cast, about 48.3% turnout.
 - This is lower than average of 55 to 60% but is higher than CA average of 35%.
 - Placer turnout was 16th overall.
 - In counties the size of Placer and larger, Sonoma alone had higher turnout.
- **Ballots**
 - 15,295 that were both printed and cast in vote centers
 - 120,574 VBM ballots
 - 8 voters used RAVBM
 - 86 UOCAVA voters also used RAVBM
 - 104 provisional ballots cast, 85% qualified to be counted
 - 446 CVR ballots cast, 97% qualified to be counted
 - Crossover ballot requests: 2845 Democratic/NPP, 707 AIP/NPP, 133 Libertarian/NPP.
- **In-Person Voting**
 - 4,000 voted during 10-day early voting period
 - 11,000 voted on Election Day
 - 6,300 voters cast vote center ballots
 - Over 8,000 scanned their VBM ballots (AB 626).
 - Placer County is one of only three counties in the state to allow voters to scan their ballot in a polling location.
- **Vote Centers**
 - Most popular vote center overall was Rocklin Clerk-Recorder-Elections Office with 1,247 voters over 11 days.
 - Busiest on Election Day was Granite Bay Library with 718 voters on that one day.
 - In-person voting increased from 8% to 11%
 - 9 out of 10 votes cast used VBM ballots, either by mail, drop box, or scanning at vote centers.
- **Drop Boxes**
 - 30 in the county, higher than required
 - Highest number of returned ballots: 9,494 at Placer County Clerk-Recorder Office in Auburn
 - Lowest returned: Olympic Valley Public Utility District
 - Drop boxes specifically requested by VAAC and LAAC: 347 at Gurdwara Sahib Sikh Temple and 825 at Oriental Market, both in Roseville.
 - Adding a 24/7 drop box at the Tahoe Truckee Airport
- **Canvass**
 - 69,436 ballots examined
 - 2,708 challenged for non-matching or missing signatures
 - Outreach to voters was conducted by mail, phone, and email.
 - 2,441 (90%) were cured and qualified

- Post-election functions performed: Roster reconciliation and 1% manual tally
- Hand counted 6,062 vote center ballots and 1,401 VBM ballots
- **Outreach Efforts and Voter Information Guide**
 - Vote centers page in VIG: possibility of removing a couple of the vote centers and adding a couple in other locations. Expansion of drop boxes in Tahoe Truckee area
 - Postcards: VCA notification, VIGs, Pre-residency confirmation, VBM packet, NPP voters options notification, Important Election Dates, and important voting information postcard.
 - Included in VIG: newly translated language assistance pages in Spanish, Korean, Tagalog and Punjabi. Thanks to the VAAC for assistance in creating those. They were made available for the ballot types for each major political party.
 - Public Workshops: Voter Education and Accessibility on Jan. 31st.
- **Bilingual Election Aides**
 - Spanish: Attempted for ALL locations, were short a few
 - Korean: Placer County Clerk-Recorder-Elections Office
 - Tagalog: @theGrounds, Lincoln Veterans Hall
 - Punjabi: Martha Riley Library.
 - New smartphones purchased and pre-programmed with a language line for assistance in up to 38 languages.
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- **Public workshops and voter education sessions**
 - Provided in all four languages.
 - Both in person and online.

Election Feedback

- **Thanks** to Disability Rights California who did poll monitoring and notified the elections office of actions needed.
- **Asian Law Caucus** provided an extensive report.

Asian Law Caucus: Election Feedback by Sietse Goffard.

- Well-organized and smoothly executed election
- Visted 14 vote centers in Placer County
- Observers were trained in disability and language access laws
- Successful implementation of facsimile ballots in Placer
- Multi-lingual signage in every vote center satisfactory
- Desire to find more Korean, Tagalog, and Punjabi poll workers to cover the gap
- Reminder to bilingual poll workers to wear a specially identifying badge to be obvious for those needing bilingual support
- A few suggestions on making some signage more visible
- Will be running same observation program for November Election

Mr. Chantri

- **Actions Taken**

- Suggestions from Disability Rights California and Asian Law Caucus incorporated into updated election aide training manual and syllabus and reinforced during election aide training.
- Permanent staff placed at vote centers on the first morning

- **November election 152 days away**

Questions and Answers

- No questions presented

Future Agenda Items/Meeting Schedule

- Meetings will now be quarterly on the first Thursday of each quarter.
- Future agenda items welcome from all participants via phone or email.
- Sietse Goffard suggested doing a website review to improve info about accessibility and language service.

Close of Meeting