

# PLACER COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE

## Placer County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

### June 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 06-06-24

**Time:** 2:07 PM – 3:18 PM

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

#### Present In-Person:

- Karen Engusen and Mohinder Sohi
- Elections Staff Ryan Ronco, Philip Chantri, Oscar Mancilla, Ali Sherazee and Leslie Rostron
- CRE Office PIO Stacy Robinson

#### Present Online:

- VAAC Members Barbara Smith (Placer County Democratic Party Central Committee), Fred Nisen (Disability Rights California) and Alexa Gurrero (PEERS).
- Elections Staff Dillon Dineen, Tracy Hyde, Jared Sanford and Marcus Smith

### Minutes

#### I. Attendee and Staff Introductions

- Attendees were welcomed and thanked for their participation.
- VAAC members and Elections staff were given the opportunity to introduce themselves.

#### II. Presentations

##### Mr. Chantri: March 2024 Presidential Primary Election

##### Election Report

- **Election numbers**
  - 281,556 total registered voters:
    - 114,289 Republicans
    - 89,229 Democrats
    - 54,255 No Party Preference
    - Over 8% “other”
- **Placer County**
  - 18<sup>th</sup> largest county in voter registration, top 5% of largest in nation by population, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 cast; 48.3% turnout
- This is lower than the average of 55% to 60% but is higher than CA average of 35%.
- Placer turnout was 16<sup>th</sup> overall.
- In counties the size of Placer and larger, Sonoma alone had higher turnout.
- **Ballots**
  - 15,295 ballots 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)

Fred Nisen commented that Placer may have been one of the only counties, including those implementing VCA, that were encouraging voters to open and scan their VBM ballots in the vote centers.

- **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 were by VBM ballot, either by mail, drop box, or scanning at vote centers.
- **Drop Boxes**
  - 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
- **Accessibility Tools**
  - Handheld magnifiers
  - Signature guides

- Curbside carts
- **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.
  - Public Workshops: Voter Education and Accessibility on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **Election Feedback**

- **Thanks** to Disability Rights California who did poll monitoring and notified the elections office of actions needed.
- **Actions Taken**
  - Important reminders and/or updates were able to be sent straight to vote centers as they were created
  - Some materials not readily available or easily viewed
  - Assistive devices not readily observed
  - Improved informational signage
  - Additional directional signage
  - Vote center workers not easily available
  - Incorporated into updated election aide training manual and syllabus
  - Reinforced during election aide training
  - Ground staff at vote centers

Fred Nisan made comments about his own experience at Placer County Vote centers

- Roseville Veterans Hall: parking, accessible entrance, obstacles in the path of travel, curbside voting, electioneering signage, and signature guides.
- Lincoln Veterans Hall: directional signage from parking lot, floor mat in front of entrance door, signage ballot choice, accessibility aids, materials in non-English languages, ballot marking devices
- Granite Bay Library: obstacles in the path of travel, materials in non-English languages, and curbside voting signage making it more clear

## **November General Election**

- Only 152 days away; the Elections Office is already heating up

### **III. Questions and Answers**

- It was asked if the bell that dings in the scanner could be made louder
  - Mr. Chantri said we're working on it

### **IV. Future Agenda Items/Meeting Schedule**

- Moving the meetings to a quarterly schedule; first Thursday of each quarter
- Next meeting on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>
- Mr. Chantri encouraged anyone with questions or future agenda items to contact the elections office by phone or email.

**Thank You to Elections Staff**

**Commemoration of Memorial Day**

**Close of Meeting**