

PLACER COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE

Placer County Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

December 5th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Date: 12-05-24

Time: 2:03 PM – 3:00 PM

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

Present In-Person:

- Community members Lauren Mclaughlin and Bob Thornton
- Placer County Elections staff Justin Canning, Marcus Smith, and Ali Sherazee
- Placer County Clerk-Recorder-Elections Public Information Assistant Stacy Robinson

Present Online:

- Alexa Guerra - Placer Independent Resource Services
- Fred Nisan - Disability rights California
- Barbara Smith – Placer County Democratic Central Committee

Minutes

I. Attendee and Staff Introductions

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

II. Presentations

Mr. Canning: November 2024 Presidential General Election Report

Election Report

- **Election numbers**
35 days prior to Election Day:
 - 288,076 total registered voters:
 - 117,649 Republicans – 40.8%
 - 91,008 Democrats – 31.6%
 - 54,994 No Party Preference – 19.1%
 - 8.5% “other”

By Election Day:

- Registrar grew to 295,072, overtaking Stanislaus County as the 17th largest county in CA in voter registration. Had **over 95%** of eligible voters registered, **the 2nd highest percentage** in California (only Alpine County beats us at 96%).

- **Placer County**
 - Top 5% of largest in nation by population, 2nd highest percentage of eligible voters registered in CA.
 - Number of Placer County registered voters increased by 14,000 since March Primary.

- **This Election**
 - **238,700** ballots cast: **83.2%** turnout
 - This is within Placer County's average range of 80% to 84% for a Presidential General Election and is 12% higher than CA average of 71.5%.
 - Placer turnout was 8th overall for the state.
 - In counties with populations the size of Placer and larger, Sonoma alone had higher turnout.
 - Over 3,700 people requested same-day voter registration ON Election Day.

- **Ballots**
 - 52,500 ballots were cast in person during total 11-day period.
 - 183,000 mail ballots were cast:
 - 87,000 were collected from drop boxes
 - 76,000 were returned in mail
 - 17,500 were dropped off at a vote center
 - 2,500 were dropped off at Election office.
 - 278 non-UOCAVA ballots were issued via Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM); 104 were returned
 - 1,224 registered, active UOCAVA voters by end of Election Day
 - 790 UOCAVA ballots counted; 464 issued via RAVBM
 - 739 provisional ballots cast, 45% qualified to be counted
 - 4,072 conditional ballots cast, 97% qualified to be counted

- **In-Person Voting**
 - 27,800 voted during 10-day early voting period
 - 24,700 voted on Election Day
 - 19,500 voters got their ballot printed for them at the vote center and cast it there
 - Over **33,000** scanned their VBM ballots via **Sign, Scan & Go!** (AB 626)

- **Vote Centers**
 - Most popular vote center overall was Placer County Clerk-Recorder-Elections Office in Rocklin with **5,649** voters over 11 days. Second place was Martha Riley Library in Roseville with **5,271** voters over 11 days.

- Busiest on Election Day was Placer County Clerk-Recorder-Elections Office in Rocklin with **1,574** voters on that one day. Second place was Lincoln Library with **1,316**.
 - In-person voting increased from 11% to 22% from the primary.
 - 8 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: 13,274 at Placer County Clerk-Recorder Office in Auburn
 - Lowest returned: 235 at Olympic Valley Public Utility District
 - Drop boxes specifically requested by VAAC and LAAC: 390 at Gurdwara Sahib Sikh Temple and 1,461 at Oriental Market, both in Roseville.
 - Ballots returned to drop boxes specifically requested by Placer residents: 445 at the Tahoe Truckee Airport drop box.
- **Canvass**
 - Postelection functions performed:
 - Reconciling voter rosters
 - 1% manual tally
 - Elections office hand-counted 10,384 vote center ballots and 2,200 mail ballots.
 - 8,777 challenged for non-matching or missing signatures
 - Outreach to voters was conducted by mail, phone, and email.
 - 7,994 (91%) were cured and qualified
 - Hand counted 6,062 vote center ballots and 1,401 VBM ballots
- **Accessibility Tools**
In every vote center:
 - ICX touchscreen ballot marking devices with multiple accessibility features
 - Curbside service voting carts
 - Handheld magnifiers
 - Signature guides
- **Vote Centers and Drop Boxes**
 - Two vote centers utilized in the Primary, North Tahoe Event Center in Kings Beach, and Rocklin High School, were not used in this election.
 - Two new locations, Victory High School in Rocklin, and Sheridan Stewart Community Hall in Sheridan, were vote centers this election.
- **Voter Information Guide**
 - Full lists of vote centers and drop boxes were in VIGs
 - Voting options, candidate statements, and sample ballots
 - Whole page for voting accessibility, including hotline to Disability Rights California
- **Outreach Efforts**
 - Postcards: 2 sent out.

- 1. VCA notification and important dates
- 2. follow up, how to return ballot, and offer to help with any voter or potential voter needs.
- Public Workshops: Voter Education and Accessibility, held on Oct. 8 and 9. Also in Korean, Punjabi, Tagalog, and Spanish.

Stacy Robinson commented that the presented flyers for the workshops are just examples of the collateral that were put out to advertise and inform about the workshops. The 1st flyer that came up that was actually translated into all 4 of our targeted languages. A copy was mailed to every Placer County voter with a language designation on their voter registration record, as well as sent out to different advocacy groups, etc. And then the other 3 are just examples of social media posts, etc., that were put out to inform the public of the workshops. They were fairly well attended, but at the same time they're always available on the website for anybody who wasn't able to attend in person, or who would just like a little bit of extra voter education. The content in each one of the workshops was the same. Because there's nothing precluding somebody who is a Spanish speaker, who also may be experiencing mobility issues, or somebody who is hard of hearing, who might also be a Tagalog speaker. So the content was combined that way, that no information was left out, and that it was across the board.

End of Election Report

III. Question and Answer

Barbara Smith commented that she was pleased that 91% of challenged signatures were able to be cured and asked how it compares to previous elections such as 2020 or 2016 and if having vote centers could have an effect on that, and if there was a way to break down the numbers on voters needing to cure based on demographics. Justin Canning answered that the percent was slightly higher than it was in the March primary but that we don't currently have the numbers from elections before that run out and he would see what reports could be generated on that.

Barbara asked how we could better serve the voters in the future so we have fewer ballots we need to cure. Justin answered that having multiple communication options is the best way to get a hold of voters and inform them of the need to cure missing or non-matching signatures.

Barbara commented that because we have such a high number of voters using VBM, having some communication up front about necessary signature matching could be helpful. Stacy Robinson answered that that was an excellent point and that from her position in Voter Outreach it was something she would love to evaluate for those gaps in knowledge and develop more or better voter education content, stressing the importance of signing your mail ballot envelope.

Mr. Ryan Ronco, who joined in the middle of the meeting, said he would see if he could get that demographic data from this election available to Barbara and any other interested parties, but that he was doubtful they could generate it for previous elections. He added that because so many voters register online these days and e-sign, that is a contributor to so many mismatches in signature. He said that Placer County Elections Office was planning a re-registration campaign with paper registration cards to get many voters to update their signatures.

Lauren McLaughlin asked Ryan Ronco if the Elections keeps a copy of those signatures in the event that someone is using one different than what they might have last time. Mr. Ronco replied that yes we do so the voter registration data management system keeps the most recent voter registration signature that's on file in our system, but there's a button that can be clicked to bring p all other signatures so for anybody that has an abbreviated signature for work purposes can have their signature history seen.

IV. Future Agenda Items

Fred Nisan suggested that we could make improvements to the curbside bell device to ensure its height is good for a variety of vehicles and that the tactile letters on it meet codes. Stacy and Justin answered that he should email them with more details and that they would add this to the next meeting.

Fred also reminded the committee of his desire to introduce more official ASL procedures. Justin answered that they would definitely look into that for the next meeting in March.

End of Meeting