

MINUTES OF THE NEVADA COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

1:30 P.M. Friday, October 13th, 2017
Freed Center for Independent Living
2059 Nevada City Hwy #102, Grass Valley, California

Voter Accessibility

AGENDA

A. INTRODUCTIONS / OTHER VOICES

Staff: Sandy Sjoberg, Teal Caddy, Janice Gosalvez, Kristin Kopec, Kristian Hamilton

Carl Sigmund, Janice Bedayn, Sandy Jacobson, Niki Davis, Joe Glick, Paul Spencer, Mindy Romero

Copies of the agenda, Voter's Choice California's flyer, and Election Administration Plan calendar were given to all of the attendees.

B. VOTER'S CHOICE ACT OVERVIEW

Teal starts the meeting with an overview of the VCA for the new attendees. Everyone will be receiving a vote-by-mail ballot, and Nevada County will be moving to the vote center model. Instead of having over 50 polling locations on one day Nevada County will have 7 vote center locations. 2 of the vote centers will be open for eleven days and 5 of the voter centers will be open for four days.

Teal says that they are looking to set up a partnership with a paratransit to possibly provide free rides on Election Day.

Sandy says that the law requires us to make available an accessible ballot. She says they will send a link directly to the person's email that needs it and from it they can get a digital copy of the ballot which they can then mail back.

Kristin says each voter will be receiving a postage-paid postcard that they can send in, for requesting a remote-accessible, vote-by-mail ballot.

C. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION PLAN AND MAPS

Kristin says that they are going to have 7 vote centers. Vote centers will not be limited to precincts like polling places are. You can update registration and register the same day as you vote at vote centers.

Kristin refers everyone to the EAP calendar. The Elections Department is looking to have the draft EAP published by October 31st and holding a public meeting for it on November 14th. As of right now Elections is looking to submit the plan to the Secretary of State on December 4th.

Kristin displays maps on the projector. The first one is a population density map of Nevada County. Kristin says that they are planning on having the eleven day vote centers in Nevada City and Truckee. They are looking at having 2 of the four day vote centers in Grass Valley, 1 in Penn Valley, 1 in South County, and 1 in Truckee. They've determined these based on criteria like, population density and transit routes. Their goal is to place these vote centers within half a mile of a transit stop. They are also looking at criteria like areas with high population of people with disabilities. They are looking at serving the geographically isolated population of North San Juan with a mobile vote center.

An attendee suggests that Old Runnel Road would be a good location for a mobile vote center because it has three senior apartment complexes; Nevada Commons, Nevada Roads, and Grass Valley Senior Apartments.

Kristin says that Colorado received around 80% of their ballots in dropoff boxes.

An attendee suggests that the Elections office looks at sites near assisted living homes. An attendee suggests that it is important to get in touch with the receptionists at these homes because the people who live at them are familiar with the receptionists and could be useful in disseminating information.

Sandy says it's great to get out into the community and get feedback because there are lots of things that are hard to account for without community feedback. An attendee says there are a lot of people in our community who just have an iPad and no printing device.

Teal asks the attendees for any media sources that they can use to reach people in the community.

An attendee says Lake Wildwood and Lake of the Pines have their own networked television.

Sandy says that meals on wheels might be a good way to get people their ballots. An attendee says that they did a survey recently with their clients and it showed they trusted their meals on wheel drivers the most. Kristin suggest passing out a flyer with the meal.

An attendee thinks that the VCA is a courageous undertaking and they think it will fly, but Elections really needs to get the word out about it to do so.

Teal asks how they can combat confusion at vote centers and attendee responds with lots of display boards and signs. An attendee suggests that Elections needs to make sure that vote centers have a polling place feel.

An attendee points out that it will be a challenge training everyone because voting procedures are strict. Sandy says that training over 300 poll workers will be a challenge. The attendee points out that a systemic problem with the training is that they don't focus enough time on helping voters with disabilities and accessible equipment.

An attendee asks if there is a way Nevada County can make Sacramento County aware that Nevada County is doing the VCA as well. Sandy explains that they have been working with the counties, including Sacramento, that are going forward with the VCA.

Sandy says the county is getting ready to do website accessibility training. She asks if the attendees are able to test out the website and give feedback on how to make it more accessible.

An attendee suggests creating a voter with disabilities webpage, something that says how the Elections Department is going to make things accessible and what tools will be available. Inyo and Madera have really good ones.

An attendee from the California Civic Engagement Project from UC Davis wanted to make people aware of a vote center and dropoff siting tool they are working on. The tool can show geographic information based on required considerations in code. This is a way of aiding counties that don't have access to a lot of resources. They also go a step further by modeling and doing analysis on the data.