

# MINUTES OF THE NEVADA COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

## Language Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

1:30 P.M. Wednesday, October 11th, 2017  
Family Resource Center of Truckee  
11695 Donner Pass Road, Truckee, California

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### Language Accessibility

#### AGENDA

##### A. INTRODUCTIONS / OTHER VOICES

Staff: Gregory Diaz, Abby Kelly, Janice Gosalvez, Kristian Hamilton

Alex Keeble-Toll, Kelsey Westfall, Barbara Kane, Yami Gutierrez, Sarah Schrichte, Joanna Oseman, Kim Bateman, Teresa Crimmens, Dora Rose, Mike Somers, James Schwab, Milena Paez

Copies of the meeting agenda, a print out of feedback received since the last meeting, maps of the Truckee area, and Voter's Choice California's informational flyer were given to attendees.

##### B. VOTER'S CHOICE ACT (VCA) OVERVIEW

Presented by Janice Gosalvez

Janice explains that everyone will be getting a vote by mail ballot and voters will have three ways of voting:

1. You can vote by mail.
2. You can drop off your ballot at a dropoff location in the county.
3. You can vote in person at a vote center.

There will be seven vote centers. Two will be open starting 10 days before the election and five will be open starting 3 days before the election. The vote centers will be accessible and near public transit routes.

An attendee says that they live in a rural area and that its residents don't have a lot of confidence in their mail system. Mr. Diaz says that's why we will have dropoff locations, and that he wants more of them than the law requires, and that we will put them where people go. Abby says that getting potential locations from locals is very helpful.

### C. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Janice first asks the room to give suggestions of Spanish media outlets. An attendee suggests Radio Lazer, Tricolor, Univision and that there is another one that is in Reno that reaches Truckee as well.

It is brought up that flyers can get a lot of traction at schools. Outreach at schools can be done through “robocalls.”

It is important to have VCA materials translated into Spanish to be distributed by Promatora de Salud program at the Family Resource Center of Truckee. Tahoe Truckee Unified School District has a new adult school with English Second Language classes constantly happening in Truckee with high attendance so that’s another avenue where information can be disseminated.

Janice says that we are looking to hire bilingual workers to work in vote centers so it would be great if these organizations could also help us get the word out about that.

Mr. Diaz asks if all of these different counties coming up with their own translated materials might make things confusing. An attendee says that a glossary can be adopted to keep translations more consistent. James says that a lot of counties are just lifting language from the Voter’s Choice California flyer. James said that they are working on a VCA video based on the flyer.

An attendee asks what metrics are used to determine how successful the pilot counties are. It is brought up that the Secretary of State has a taskforce for reviewing VCA implementation. Things like voter turnout will be looked at.

It is brought up that the material should be marked very clearly “Nevada County” especially in Truckee so that people in Placer County are not confused.

Janice wants to move the discussion towards the voter education workshops. An attendee suggests that having the presenter at the workshop actually speaking Spanish will have the most impact instead of having an interpreter. The person thinks it would also be good to hold this workshop at the Truckee Family Resource Center because most Spanish speaking people in Truckee probably know the location. As far as the outreach goes it is important to make personal contact, make some phone calls. A suggestion was made to provide food and babysitting during the workshop.

Because high school students are required to do community service hours now, the Elections Department could potentially go to counselors and tell them we have an event we need help with. These students could potentially help with babysitting.

It is recommended that we do a workshop in Grass Valley in addition to the one in Truckee. In Truckee we should consider the timing of the events we do in order to avoid ice and snow.

James said that Alex Padilla, the California Secretary of State, would be willing to come up to Truckee for an event and present in Spanish.

Truckee's average wages are more competitive than what the county would be able to pay poll workers.

Janice asks for feedback on locations for dropoffs and vote centers. An attendee suggests that the firehouse would be a good place for a dropoff.

Some attendees said that they would be willing to include education and outreach materials for the VCA with other materials they pass out or in an email.

An attendee states that they think Sacramento County has ruled out using schools as vote centers just because it is hard to get them for multiple days.

The bilingual hotline was discussed. Sacramento County has a phone service they use for interpreting. Three way interpreter services are available; for example when a Spanish speaker calls, you can dial up and add the interpreter to the call. The Elections Department should talk to the Nevada County Social Services Department to see how they do it.