



Orange County Registrar of Voters

**COMMUNITY ELECTION WORKING GROUP
JUNE 11, 2015
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA**

Chair Lucinda Williams called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Present:

CEW Chair Lucinda Williams, City Clerk, City of Fullerton
Karen Hamman, City Clerk, City of Mission Viejo
Linda Andal, City Clerk, City of Anaheim
Deanna Kitamura, Senior Staff Attorney, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, LA
Tim Cheng, Commissioner, Irvine Community Services
Charles Kim, President, inter-Community Action Network (iCAN)
Fred Nisen, Attorney, Disabled Rights California
Debra Marsteller, Executive Director, Project Independence
Jose Pena, Systems Change Advocate, Dayle McIntosh Center
Judith Barnes, Senior Community Representative
Suzanne Narducy, Poll Worker Representative
Henry Vandermeir, Chair, Democratic Party of Orange County
Jennifer Shawver, Republican Party of Orange County
Wanda Shaffer, Representative, League of Women Voters of OC
Victoria Chenevey, Representative, League of Women's Voters of OC (Guest)
Lyle Brakob, Veterans Affairs Representative
Kay Cotton, Candidate and Voter Services Manager, Registrar of Voters
Ben Hamatake, Community Outreach Manager, Registrar of Voters
Imelda Carrillo, Election Services Manager, Registrar of Voters
CEW Secretary, Marcia Nielsen, Candidate and Voter Services Lead, Registrar of
Voters
Neal Kelley, Registrar of Voters

**WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 5, 2015 CEW MEETING MINUTES /
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS / OTHER HOUSEKEEPING / CHAIR LUCINDA
WILLIAMS**

CEW Chair Lucinda Williams welcomed the group, followed by self-introductions. She called for review and approval of the minutes from our March 5, 2015 meeting. Wanda Shaffer made a MOTION to approve the minutes. The MOTION was seconded by Linda Andal and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. Chair Lucinda Williams welcomed several guests to our meeting, including Victoria Chenevey from the League of Women Voters of OC, and colleagues from the Riverside County Registrar of Voters: Julie Caban, Larry Smith, Caroline Saucedo, and Art Tinoco.

OVERVIEW OF 37TH SENATE ELECTION; CITY OF BUENA PARK; JUDICIAL RECALL

Neal Kelley discussed the low turnout for the January and March special elections. The challenge of voter engagement is reflected in this trend of lower participation, and is a statewide issue. This is one of the reasons behind the Vote Center concept, which will be discussed later. A simple majority was obtained in the 37th State Senate District Election by Senator Moorlach, avoiding a run-off election in May, 2015. The City of Buena Park's election was an all mail ballot election, with one day drop off at the City Clerk's office on Election Day. A simple majority was required for passage.

There is currently a recall effort being conducted to recall Superior Court Judge M. Marc Kelly. The petition will require approximately 98,000 sufficient signatures for a recall election to be held. The proponents will have 160 days to collect signatures after the draft petition has been approved. Depending upon when the petition is filed, and if it is sufficient, an election potentially could consolidate with the 2016 June Primary Election.

2014 ELECTION DEBRIEF OVERVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS; UPGRADES TO POLL WORKER TRAINING AND PROCESS

Imelda Carrillo discussed the election debriefing meeting that was held to review the November 2014, January and March 2015 elections. She mentioned that 86 action items were created from the meeting that would help improve the election process, such as creating an online portal for candidates to submit candidate's statements and redesigning the vote-by-mail return envelope and sample ballot pamphlets. She added that we are designated as one of three pilot counties for the sample ballot pamphlet redesign. In addition, general enhancements to the EIMS will be made for easier accessibility to information, such as polling places and recruitment tools. Imelda Carrillo also focused on the importance of reaching out to poll workers earlier and researching ways to get the communities more involved.

Ben Hamatake discussed updating and redesigning training materials. He is currently working to update the overall appearance of our Polling Place Operations Manual. As this is a presidential election cycle, we will be re-shooting the training videos and revising the visual materials. He noted that we are currently recruiting a Training and Special Projects Manager and that we will be researching different methods of instructional design to improve the quality of instruction and increase retention. He stated that we will ask for input from this group.

Imelda Carrillo noted

that we received a HAVA grant \$103,593.47, which will be used to improve accessibility. She asked for input on ballot marking devices and the best method of providing an audio ballot/sample ballot pamphlet for disabled voters. Linda Andal thought a CD would be helpful; Tim Cheng believes a USB or link on website or application would be better. Ben Hamatake mentioned that all of this information would need to be translated, but noted that we currently record the ballot.

FOLLOW UP ON MARCH 2015 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION; DISCUSSION OF OPEN QUESTIONS; ACTION ITEMS

Ben Hamatake reviewed the roundtable discussion on special elections and consolidation of precincts. The advantages and disadvantages were discussed.

The advantages to consolidating precincts included the fact that more voters would go to a polling place; there would be fewer polling places and fewer poll workers. He acknowledged that additional parking requirements and the possibility of vote-by-mail drop off places would be evaluated. The disadvantages to consolidating precincts included potential additional travel time and voter confusion. An action item would be to continue exploring larger consolidations. Another action item would be to increase voter awareness and turnout in special elections. Additional items included increasing community and city involvement, and expanding youth involvement through schools and social media. We are currently working with high schools and the Secretary of State to establish student ambassadors. The last action item is to continue partnering with city and community organizations.

Justin Berardino provided a synopsis of the new voting system discussion. He stated that there will be a Request for Information so we can assess potential available systems. He added that the feedback included ADA accessibility; making the voting equipment lighter and easier to assemble; and providing braille options. The group supported retaining the current access code system for security requirements. The group favored a touch screen system with larger fonts, with the ability to zoom in and out. The majority of the group wanted to retain the VVPAT system on the DRE (Direct Record Electronic) and felt that a paper system was a step back. The challenges were the learning curve, training and outreach. Most believed that cost was the number one factor in securing a new voting system. The Request for Information is an action item that is being drafted for obtaining a new voting system. This will be released in the fourth quarter and could change depending upon legislation.

He demonstrated Map Central, our new mapping system. The group provided feedback. The new system allows a voter to find his/her precinct, elected officials, and election turnout/results by precincts. Ben Hamatake stated that the results go back to the 2014 General Election and that information will be updated with each election cycle result. There was a suggestion of adding a zip code as a field to sort of results. He said that we would look into some type of training for the website.

2016 MAJOR INITIATIVE AND PROJECTS

Justin Berardino led the discussion on the major initiatives and projects for 2016. Based on feedback from poll workers, these include: poll worker supply enhancements; re-packaging of supplies; and streamlining and consolidating the process.

An academic study on list maintenance efforts to gauge performance by partnering with UCI, Cal State Fullerton, Chapman or other institution is another initiative for 2016. Our goal is to have an independent review to assist in on-going list maintenance. This

should increase confidence in the accuracy of our voter list. There was a discussion of how VoteCal will affect list maintenance. Justin Berardino explained that if a voter moves from Riverside County to Orange County, the records will simply be updated. Another part of the study will include information on death records. He added that we obtain information on deceased voters from many sources, including county, state and national databases (social security death index).

Neal Kelley continued the discussion on the initiatives for 2016. He stated that we will be refreshing our current website and making it more mobile-friendly by the use of more scrolling, applications and high level design elements. We plan to launch in the second quarter of 2016. He added that he would like feedback from this group, especially in regards to ADA requirements.

He stated that there will be a new video for the existing marketing and training packages in 2016. The changes in training will be captured in the video, emphasizing different visual elements. The new video will also include a documentary focusing on the process of how a candidate gets on the ballot, to the ballot in the hands of voters.

Neal Kelley next described petition processing and ballot duplication. He familiarized us with the new technology that represents significant savings in resources and revenue. This process would still require human interfacing, but would dramatically improve the efficiency of both processes. Neal Kelley would like our county to be a pilot county, utilizing this new technology possibly in the next couple of months. He added that for the last Presidential General Election, there were 14,000 ballots that needed to be manually duplicated within ten days because the ballots were unable to be scanned properly.

Neal Kelley stated that we will be exploring digital web press technology in order to research production of our own sample ballot pamphlets. We will be conducting a cost analysis between outsourcing production versus internal production, with a potential long-term savings of millions of dollars. This technology would allow us to insert a vote-by-mail ballot into a sample ballot mailing which would be helpful with the Vote Centers.

Our goal for 2016 is to consolidate poll worker surveys and look for ways to leverage technology to improve data collection. In addition, Neal Kelley stated that we will be working on a project of polling place surveys for a sampling of voters.

Neal Kelley addressed the voting system issues. He reiterated that there will be an RFI to obtain information on new voting systems, which is subject to change depending upon Vote Center legislation. He stated that we plan to use the current system through 2018. We currently are working on an extensive project involving identifying and repairing equipment problems.

Neal Kelley informed us about Vote Centers, a voting approach that is currently used in Colorado. He added that Secretary of State Padilla announced a series of legislative packages yesterday that included Vote Centers, which would create a significant

change in California elections. Neal Kelley, as President of the CACEO, and CACEO committee members, have been working with Secretary Padilla to review the draft language of the bill. Vote Centers would replace neighborhood voting centers, providing large voting centers that could accommodate a large amount of traffic. With Vote Centers, every voter would receive a vote-by-mail ballot. For ten days prior to an election, eight hours a day, ballots may be cast or dropped off at secure sites. Under the current regulations, our county would go from 1,300 polling places to 93; with 170 drop off locations. There is still discussion on the specifics of where a ballot can be dropped off.

He noted that the language for Vote Centers is permissive rather than required, and could be adopted January 1, 2018. Electronic poll books would be required, as any voter could go to any Vote Center. The Vote Centers would also need to print ballots. Neal Kelley stated that this would drastically reduce the cost of purchasing a new voting system, and would operate like the Early Voting sites that we provide in Presidential Elections. The staffing would change from volunteers to county Extra-Help employees.

Neal Kelley answered questions about VoteCal, which is the statewide database. He mentioned that we are one of five pilot counties for VoteCal and that we will go live in July. Statewide VoteCal implementation should be complete by March of next year.

Fred Nisen from Disability Rights California, expressed interest in voters with disabilities being able to vote both privately and independently, possibly by email. Neal Kelley said that he will advocate on this issue with stakeholder calls.

Chair Lucinda Williams concluded the meeting by stating that the next meeting will be October 8, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting concluded 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Nielsen, Secretary