



Orange County Registrar of Voters
COMMUNITY ELECTION WORKING GROUP
JULY 29, 2021
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

Neal Kelley called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Present:

Theresa Bass, City Clerk, City of Anaheim
Daisy Gomez, City Clerk, City of Santa Ana
CEW Vice-Chair, Lucinda Williams, City Clerk, City of Fullerton
Mike Chen, Chairman, South Coast Chinese Cultural Association to the Asian Community
Tim Cheng, Co-President, Asian American Senior Citizens Service Center
Alba Ramiro, Parish Ministry Coordinator, Catholic Charities of Orange County
Eddie Marquez, Executive Board Member, OC Hispanic Chamber
Debra Marsteller, Executive Director, Project Independence
Paul Spencer, Attorney, Disability Rights California
Gabriel Taylor, Voting Rights Advocate
Judith Barnes, Senior Community Representative
Moneka Walker-Burge, Vote Center Customer Service Representative
Mary Jo Rowe, Vote Center Customer Service Representative
Jan Urban, Representative, League of Women Voters of OC
Alexander Williams, Youth Representative
Lyle Brakob, Veterans Affairs Representative
Justin Berardino, Operations Manager, Registrar of Voters
Jackie Wu, Community Outreach Manager, Registrar of Voters
Imelda Carrillo, Election Services Manager, Registrar of Voters
CEW Secretary, Marcia Nielsen, Candidate and Voter Services Manager,
Registrar of Voters
Neal Kelley, Registrar of Voters

**WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 24, 2021 CEW MEETING MINUTES;
ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR; WELCOME NEW MEMBERS; OTHER
HOUSEKEEPING**

Neal Kelley thanked the group for attending both in-person and virtually. He introduced the new members and explained that these meetings are an opportunity for community input.

Neal Kelley welcomed the new members to the group, including Moneka Walker-Burge, Mary Jo Rowe, Ajay Mohan, David Landry, Jan Urban, and Evelyn Farooquee, and Briana Calleros.

CEW Vice-Chair Lucinda Williams asked for review and approval of the meeting minutes from the February 24, 2021 CEW meeting. Eddie Marquez made a MOTION to approve

the minutes, which was seconded by Theresa Bass. The minutes were APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Neal Kelley stated that we need to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair. He asked if there were any nominations from the group. Eddie Marquez made a MOTION to nominate Lucinda Williams as CEW Chair, which was seconded by Theresa Bass. The MOTION was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. Neal Kelley thanked Lucinda Williams for her leadership. Judith Barnes made a MOTION to nominate Debbie Marsteller, which was seconded by Mary Jo Rowe. The MOTION was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. Debbie Marsteller will serve as the Vice-Chair.

OVERVIEW OF STATEWIDE RECALL ELECTION PLANNING; SB 152 REQUIREMENTS; BALLOT AND VOTING MATERIALS, CHALLENGES

Neal Kelley discussed SB 152 and how it impacted the California Gubernatorial Recall Election. He added that the truncated timeframe has been challenging. He added that there are three ways for Counties to conduct the election: VCA, modified, or polling place modified. Per SB 29, every voter will be mailed a vote-by-mail ballot. Our office has started the process of inserting the ballot packets, which will be mailed August 16, 2021. Neal Kelley stated that there are some modifications such as remote accessible vote-by-mail ballots and requirements for outreach. We will be conducting the election under the second method with 64 Vote Centers. The ballot drop box requirements are still one box per 15,000 registered voters from the February 10, 2021 Report of Registration to the Secretary of State's office.

Neal Kelley added that there will not be a separate mailing for the Voter Information Guide, as the ballot and Voter Information Guide will be mailed in one packet. He noted that it has been a challenge to prepare the ballot for this election, as paper had to be ordered in advance of knowing the number of candidates. He stated that the English ballot would be printed all on the front side, while the language ballot will have instructions to flip the ballot over to view and select a candidate.

Neal Kelley discussed the impact of COVID-19 on this election. The CDC is still requiring masks indoors, but that may change. We will update the Vote Center signage and materials as appropriate. We will also continue the sterilization of equipment as a best practice moving forward. There will not be markings on the floor, but there will be markings for a path of travel for the voters. There won't be spacing between the voting booths, but we are maximizing the room sizes.

Neal Kelley stated that the dates and hours of operation for the Voter Centers will be clearly delineated in the Voter Information Guide and outreach campaign postcards. He added that the RAVBM card will be included in the ballot packet and that we are preparing packets of materials that can be sent out for voters with disabilities. Neal Kelley stated that the RAVBM information will be available on the home page of our website.

Imelda Carrillo discussed the preparations for the VC locations, including checking room/location availability, room sizes, and geographic coverage. She thanked the City Clerks for their flexibility in moving reservations, cancelling, or utilizing another facility to

accommodate Vote Centers. There will be thirty-one 11-day and thirty-three 4-day VCs. Since the ballot drop box requirements remain high, we added four staffed ballot drop box locations that will be detailed in the Voter Information Guide. Two of the boxes have been moved to new locations.

Rebecca Lee discussed CSR training for the California Gubernatorial Recall Election. She stated that we have created a hybrid training featuring online and hands-on components. Rebecca Lee noted that we continue to receive positive feedback on the training conducted in the Vote Center lab and that we will train more than 500 employees. Kim Hostler added that the timeline for recruitment has been condensed and that we have secured almost 300 returning experienced employees. She said that we are actively recruiting new CSRs for the election.

Rebecca Lee next discussed the Redistricting Academy which was conducted in two sessions. She explained our office's role in redistricting and stated that the recordings and information is on our website at ocvote.com/academy. She also stated that our office will be conducting ISO-9001 certification training for staff.

VOTER OUTREACH AND EDUCATION RECALL PLANS; LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE; VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES ASSISTANCE; VOTING RIGHTS ACT (VRA) 2021, COMPLIANCE UPDATE

Neal Kelley discussed that we will be utilizing a multi-pronged approach for voter outreach for this election. He provided an example of the postcards that explain the options for voters. This postcard will be mailed in advance of the ballots using outreach grant funding. Neal Kelley stated that we are two weeks away from mailing the vote-by-mail ballots. We will also create PSAs, send over 500,000 emails to voters with emails on file, and post information on social media. The paper shortage has been a challenge for mailing printed materials and ballots. Due to proactive planning, we were able to secure paper. Neal Kelley will send the election materials files to the group, which will include the military inserts, Voter Information Guide, and ballot packet inserts. We will also be sending over 500,000 emails to voters with emails on file.

Neal Kelley announced that Enedina Chhim was recently promoted to Community Outreach Manager. Enedina Chhim discussed language assistance for voters, language postcards, telephone and video conferencing, and language ballots. Her goal is to reach more voters with language support service. She next discussed the challenge of creating the language ballots for this election but stated that this is almost complete.

Enedina Chhim next discussed the 2020 Voting Rights Act Compliance and Bilingual Outreach Update Report that will be out mid-August. She stated that we are focusing on quality translations with a continual commitment to advocating for language accessibility. There is a tight proofing process with the ballot and all election materials, ensuring that information is available and accurate. She added that all our agents are court-certified translators.

Imelda Carrillo spoke about the increasingly popular RAVBM ballots that were accessed over 6,000 times with 2,000 voters turning in ballots in the November 3, 2020 General

Election. Another option is curbside voting which is available at all Vote Centers this election and in 2022. There is an A-frame sign with a phone number on how to get assistance. Imelda Carrillo said that we are continually striving to improve options for voters. Another popular option is drive-thru locations, such as Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Mission Viejo, and San Juan Capistrano for this election. There are also large print Voter Information Guides and ASL support at Vote Centers. She added that there is a Disability Rights hotline in the Voter Information Guide for voters to reach out for assistance.

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE TO ELECTION ADMINISTRATION PLAN (EAP) AND VOTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PLAN (VEOP)

Neal Kelley next discussed the roadmap for the Election Administration Plan (EAP). He described the details that need to be updated every two years. Enedina Chhim stated we are in the middle of the process. She said that there was a public workshop on July 10 with another scheduled for August 10. The meetings are virtual and solicit feedback from the community through the comments. She stated that there were also two consultation meetings with the LAAC and VAAC sub-committees to discuss needs and improvements. She thanked everyone for their attendance and feedback. Enedina Chhim added that we are also preparing for the Public Hearing on August 24, 2021, at the Orange County Board of Education. There will be 10 EAP public meetings; four have already been completed. She announced there would be two meetings that will be taking place later today with the last four being in early August. She asked the group to share this information. We have clarified that the EAP is separate from the recall election in the meetings and how feedback can be provided. Enedina Chhim also discussed the Supplement to the EAP, adding that we received guidance from the State. The amended EAP will be published at the end of next month.

UPDATE FROM CEW VOTING ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE(VAAC) AND CEW VOTING LANGUAGE COMMITTEE (LAAC); OTHER BUSINESS

Imelda Carrillo described the purpose of the VAAC sub-committee and thanked the members. She stated that attendance has increased since the meetings have been held virtually, adding that we may continue to use this platform. Gabe Taylor provided input on disability workshops and said that virtual meetings make it easier for attendees, as they are more accessible. He added that he is available for the recall if needed. Imelda Carrillo stated that the next VAAC meeting is Thursday next week, and thanked Gabe Taylor for serving as co-chair of the sub-committee.

Enedina Chhim described the purpose of the LAAC sub-committee and thanked the group for their participation and feedback. She said that the last meeting was held on May 19, 2021. She thanked Tim Cheng for serving as co-chair of this sub-committee. Tim Cheng stated that he appreciates that all our CPS are court-certified translators and that we are consistent with our translations.

Neal Kelley next discussed Redistricting. He stated that the Supreme Court is hearing requests to extend the deadlines. The challenge is that candidate filing is scheduled to

start in December, making it difficult for candidates to collect signatures. He stated that he is working with legislators on the various deadlines for the legislative districts and Board of Supervisors district lines. We are communicating with the cities, school, and special districts as to what to expect from our office. This process which normally takes four months will have to be done in two weeks. He added that the usable data should arrive approximately September 15, 2021.

Neal Kelley next discussed a lawsuit that was dismissed by the courts. This case, filed by the Election Integrity Project, was attempting to overturn the results of the November 3, 2020 General Election. This group alleged that there were 123,000 votes that were counted that should not have been. The courts dismissed the case due to flawed calculations and other factors. Neal Kelley explained that the 1% Manual Tally and the RLAs perform double audits on our election results. He stated that there is also a recount process to challenge the results. Neal Kelley will provide the court case to the CEW members. Currently, California law does not allow third-party audits, which the lawsuit recommends.

Neal Kelley thanked the group for their participation and input.

Lucinda Williams made a MOTION to adjourn, which was seconded by Theresa Bass.

The meeting concluded at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Nielsen, Secretary