



Orange County Registrar of Voters
COMMUNITY ELECTION WORKING GROUP
November 16, 2023
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

Bob Page called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

CEW Vice-Chair Adria M. Jimenez, City Clerk, City of Buena Park
Theresa Bass, City Clerk, City of Anaheim
CEW Chair, Jennifer Hall, City Clerk, City of Santa Ana
Lucinda Williams, City Clerk, City of Fullerton
Namhyee Kim on behalf of Tammy Kim, Managing Director, Korean American Center /
Korean Community Services
Tim Cheng, Co-President, Asian American Senior Citizens Service Center
Eddie Marquez, J.D., Executive Board Member, OC Hispanic Chamber
Beck Levin, Systems Change Advocate, Dayle McIntosh Center
Gabriel Taylor, Voting Rights Advocate
Moneka Walker-Burge, Vote Center Customer Service Representative
Mary Jo Rowe, Vote Center Customer Service Representative
Jeffrey Cardenas, Organizing Director, Democratic Party of Orange County
Randal Avila, Executive Director, Republican Party of Orange County
Jan Urban, Representative, League of Women Voters of OC
Lyle Brakob
Garrett M. Fahy, Election Law Attorney
Justin Berardino, Deputy Director, Operations, Registrar of Voters
Kim Hostler, Deputy Director, Administration, Registrar of Voters
Imelda Carrillo, Election Services Manager, Registrar of Voters
Enedina Chhim, Community Outreach Manager, Registrar of Voters
CEW Secretary, Marcia Nielsen, Candidate and Voter Services Manager, Registrar of Voters
Bob Page, Registrar of Voters

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Page welcomed the group and turned the meeting over to CEW Chair, Jennifer Hall, City Clerk, City of Santa Ana.

The Registrar of Voter's staff self-introduced.

ROLL CALL

CEW Secretary, Marcia Nielsen confirmed the attendees for the meeting and that a quorum was present.

APPROVE 3/1/23 MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from March 1, 2023, was made by Theresa Bass and seconded by Lucinda Williams. The minutes were APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

RECOGNIZE NEW MEMBERS

The group welcomed new member Jeffrey Cardenas, Organizing Director, Democratic Party of Orange County who was present at the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

Bob Page offered the group an opportunity to address anything not on the agenda. Jeffrey Cardenas thanked ROV staff for conducting the City of Santa Ana Special Recall Election.

ADOPTION OF AMENDED CEW BYLAWS

Bob Page reviewed detailed slides from the March 1, 2023 CEW meeting and presented changes to the election of officers. The meetings can now legally be held online and with the Rosenberg's Rules of Parliamentary order, which is much simpler and easier to follow.

Bob Page confirmed that he emailed a redlined version for the group to review the changes.

Lucinda Williams moved to adopt the new rules which was seconded by Adria Jimenez. The motion passed UNANIMOUSLY. The new rules will be placed on the Registrar of Voters' website.

SPECIAL ELECTIONS RECAPS

Our office conducted two stand-alone elections: the City of Anaheim Special Municipal Election, and the City of Santa Ana Special Recall Election.

The Anaheim Election, held on October 3, 2024, contained a measure seeking to raise minimum wage for hotel and event center workers. The turnout was 21% resulting in a NO vote. Throughout Anaheim, there were seven Vote Centers and twelve ballot drop boxes. There was an additional Vote Center and ballot drop box located at the Orange County Registrar of Voters' office.

The Santa Ana Special Recall Election to Recall Jessie Lopez, Santa Ana City Council Member, was held on November 14, 2023. Ballots were mailed ballots only to Ward 3, the district represented by Jessie Lopez. Bob Page led a discussion of the map used for the election boundaries and stated that there is litigation pending. The hearing date will be January 12, 2024.

The last cure letters will be sent with a due date of November 27, 2024. The earliest that we can certify this election would be November 29, 2023. CEW Chair Jennifer Hall will present the outcome of the election at the next council meeting on December 12, 2023.

Jeffrey Cardenas asked how many late ballots were received for each election. Bob Page will follow up with the response. He also asked for copies of the postcards that were sent to Anaheim and Santa Ana residents.

Bob Page clarified that special elections are only required to have one mailing sent to voters. However, we sent another mailing explaining ballot return methods as the County's Election Administration Plan does not address special elections. Communication was also sent via social media and public eservice outlets as well. Paid advertising and videos were not done to keep costs down; but they will be done for the Presidential Primary Election.

The Registrar of Voters will implement a new step in the procedures for recall elections, which will include requesting information from the jurisdiction about the person being recalled, when the officer was elected, and which map to use for the election. We consistently strive to improve our service to our partners.

2024 ELECTION PREPARATION

Bob Page discussed re-evaluating the Vote Center hours. Vote Center hours will not change for 2024. Vote Center usage data from all Voter's Choice Act elections since 2020 will be reviewed during the review and update of the Election Administration Plan (EAP) in 2025.

Due to AB 2815, every Cal State University campus is required to have a drop box. Therefore, we will add a drop box at CSUF. Next, we will work on providing boxes to community college campuses if voter registration increases require additional ballot drop boxes.

Imelda Carrillo confirmed that site visits for the 2024 Primary have been completed and agreements are being finalized. There will be a total of 183 sites, including 37 11-day centers, and 146 4-day centers. She thanked the City Clerks, who were very helpful in this process. She stated that we still need help identifying sites in Brea, Laguna Woods, and Westminster.

Bob Page and Imelda Carrillo explained the 13 criteria required by the EAP for Vote Center sites and items to take into account when qualifying a location. The next EAP review process will include maps of voting locations which the public will be able to review and provide direct input.

Imelda Carrillo next described our new Pilot Program for High School Students who are 16 years old or older, and good students. We are in the process of identifying the high school districts that are neighboring the busiest Vote Centers on Election Day. We would like to place 100 students assigned in pairs of two per Vote Center.

Bob Page explained NPP voting in a Presidential Primary Election by showing slides regarding voter options with regards to their party and receiving a partisan ballot. He stated that NPP voters requesting a Democratic ballot will not be voting for central committee. He said that this information will be in the VIG, on the website, and in an email notice if applicable. He explained there is a quick return of these notices, to prevent voters from being mailed two ballots, as the voter file will be pulled in early January 2024.

Enedina Chhim discussed Voter Education and Community Outreach Plan. She said that her team goals were to reach diverse populations through community outreach events to specifically track efforts and adjust if necessary. This included key performance indicators with goals of 20 large community outreach events (100 plus attendees) and 50 small-medium events (99 or less attendees).

Her second goal is to increase engagement and participation with newly eligible voters such as citizenship ceremonies and smaller events of classes or groups that are new citizens. They are evaluating voter turnout and identifying areas that have a lower turnout. Another goal is to collaborate with external stakeholders and community partners by looking at upcoming calendars and events.

Enedina discussed the next goal, which is to reach underserved communities, partner with community organizations, and to promote pop-up events. She said that we plan to continue to work with a PR firm to conduct a multi-media campaign. This will assist in using translated materials to reach larger number of voters in the community.

NEW ELECTION LAWS

Bob Page next discussed new election laws. AB292 – Primary Elections is a law that will require an NPP ballot to include information on obtaining a partisan ballot.

AB421 Elections: Referendum Measures details the supporters and opponents under measure texts on the ballot. This was used in the Anaheim election.

AB 545 Elections: Access for Voters with Disabilities. Bob Page stated that the items required in this bill are already being supplied by our office.

AB 626 Voting: Returning VBM ballots in person. This would allow a voter to return his/her vote-by-mail ballot in person without using the identification envelope, provided they check in at the Vote Center and the clerk confirms that he/she has not already returned a vote-by-mail ballot.

SB 77 Voting: Signature Verification Notice. This would require a second contact with voters regarding ballot challenges after we mail a first-class notice. Bob Page discussed that additional contact methods will include ballot tracking notices, emails and phone calls.

UPDATES FROM CEW VAAC AND CEW LAAC

Imelda Carrillo held a subcommittee meeting on November 9 to discuss election planning and popup voting. She received feedback on accessible services and AB 545, which expands equipment we already provide. In addition, voters requesting assistance would not be required to sign an oath.

Gabe Taylor updates that he was glad to have paratransit options and the OCTA Advisory Board. He feels that we inform and answer questions. Imelda Carrillo thanked Gabe Taylor for his continued support and that we expect positive engagement with the OCTA.

In the LAAC meeting, Enedina Chhim provided election planning updates seeking feedback on the best ways to communicate to NPP voters and language communities. She informed the group that pop-up voting will be available to the community and is open for feedback.

Roxana Castro explained the curbside voting process and instructions. She informed the group that this has been in place prior to Vote Centers and is still being used. We are continually discussing ways to improve this process.

Enedina Chhim explained that Vote Center signage will now be translated and strategically place for visibility in future, as a recommendation from the group.

Imelda Carrillo disclosed that the 2024 Presidential Primary Election will have five pop-up voting locations which will contain large print ballots and wheelchair lift to meet the needs of the community and will be in place in high-foot traffic areas. Potential locations are Easter Seals in Irvine, and Leisure World in Seal Beach. Imelda Carrillo would like to encourage suggestions on locations that may not have the opportunity to vote in person.

FUTURE BUSINESS ITEMS

Bob Page offered options for the next meeting. Topics for the next meeting will be Vote Centers and access.

Bob Page suggested to have a CEW meeting from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. prior to the Open House on February 7, 2024, from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. He added that there would be

planned presentation stations for processing and collecting a ballot with Q & A sessions. The CEW meeting will also be available remotely.

Bob Page thanked everyone for attending this meeting. He will get out the "Save the Date" email for February 7, 2024. Bob Page stated that the slides from today will be sent out by tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Nielsen, Secretary