

Language Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Summary 08/01/2018

Important Announcement:

Theresa Riviera has agreed to be the Co-Chair of the LAAC to help steer and advocate for us and our mission, while helping to bridge the Elections Office with the community.

Meeting Notes:

- The June 5th Statewide Direct Primary was the first election under the Voter's Choice Act, and it was a major success with a 42% voter turnout.
- 310,000 voters voted, with 94% voting their mail ballot and 6% voting in person.
 - Of the voted mail ballots: 35% were returned by mail, 31% were returned to a Ballot Drop Box, and 28% were returned to a Vote Center.
- Sacramento County had 78 Vote Centers and 53 Ballot Drop Box locations
 - Libraries were among the most popular locations for both.
 - For example, Carmichael Library was both a Vote Center and a Ballot Drop Box location, and collectively received 9,000 mail ballots
 - 2 Ballot Drop Boxes will be at the Top 20 locations for the November Election
 - VRE Staff is currently working to reorganize the Vote Center and Ballot Drop Box locations lists in a more clear and concise way, to help minimize confusion.
- VRE increased language access by hosting language workshops, providing information on our website, assisting voters with language needs at our office's front counter, and mailing reference ballots to voters who had a language preference and lived in an identified precinct needing resources in that language.
 - Over 1,100 reference ballots were mailed to voters, every Vote Center had laminated copies of all reference ballots, and all Vote Centers had laptops capable of printing them as requested.
- VRE also expanded accessible voting with the Accessible Ballot Marking System, allowing voters with disabilities to access their ballot using their own computer and assistive technology.
 - 200 applications were received, but only 17 voters credentialed into the system, and then only 11 voters proceeded to the ballot marking system.
- Each Vote Center had 3 ICX machines, which are the County's new accessible ballot marking devices. Approximately 42% of voters who voted in person used them.
- Moving forward, we want to place emphasis on the Election Period, not just Election Day—to emphasize that voters can vote early starting 10 days before Election Day.
- A composite reference ballot was presented to the LAAC, which translates all of the contests across all ballot types into each of the state languages.
 - If VRE provided a composite reference ballot, we would be able to help more voters with language needs regardless of where they live in the County.
 - LAAC members present saw the benefits of having a composite reference ballot for voters and are interested in providing this to the voters of Sacramento County
- VRE has a lot of resources for voters to use and we would like to see the returned percentage of ballots higher, which is where we need our committee members to help reach out to their communities and spread the word about the resources available.