



## County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters

200 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Madera CA 93637  
Clerk (559)675-7721; Recorder (559)675-7724; Elections (559)675-7720  
Toll Free 1-800-435-0509; Fax (559)675-7870

**Rebecca Martinez, County Clerk-Recorder**

---

### MINUTES

#### LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAAC)

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Madera County Government Center

200 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Room 2005

Madera, California

Call to order at 6:15 p.m.

Introductions by Rebecca Martinez, County Clerk-Recorder, Registrar of Voters

Staff: Justin White, Chief Assistant; Stephanie Sibley, Elections Manager; Pearl Carlotto, Sr. Deputy Clerk-Recorder

Everyone in attendance was provided with a copy of the Agenda, Draft Election Administration Plan and the Future of Voting handout.

The County Clerk advised everyone that Pearl Carlotto of her staff was there to serve as a Spanish Language Interpreter if needed.

The County Clerk advised those in attendance that the purpose of the meeting was for the LAAC portion of the EAP Draft Consultation and that the draft of the EAP was released on January 12, 2018 and is posted on the Elections Division website at [www.votemadera.com](http://www.votemadera.com).

Justin White began the presentation and advised of the proposed locations for Ballot Drop Boxes and Vote Centers and requested suggestions for alternate locations. No suggestions from the attendees. Mr. White informed those in attendance that our office is also considering grocery stores as possible drop box locations as they provide one of the best options for meeting the criteria and offer comparable operating hours that would afford the most

convenience to the voter.

Charity Tokash of Resources for Independence, Central Valley inquired as to whether or not we have made contact with any stores yet. She was very enthusiastic about the use of grocery stores as potential drop box sites.

Mr. White described the details for selecting each of the 11-day vote centers . During the discussion of Vote Center locations , the sites for the 11-day vote centers (County Government Center and Oakhurst Community College) were presented and no objection was received from the attendees. Justin asked the attendees for suggestions for additional potential vote center locations; no additional locations were given. He further explained that the Oakhurst Community College location would be used for June 2018 only and moving forward, the site would be moved back to our usual location of the Oakhurst Community Center.

Discussion continues to 4-day vote center locations. Sites presented were:

Madera - Millview Community Center or Pan Am Building

Coarsegold - Community Center

Chowchilla - City Hall/Civic Center

Ranchos - Liberty High School

Ms. Martinez described ongoing issues with trying to negotiate rental fees with Coarsegold Community Center and will be making contact with Board of Directors to continue discussions. She was advised that the use of the Highway 41 corridor is the most beneficial to voters in the area.

Discussions continued regarding locations in Madera. Johanna Torres was asked for her opinion of the best location to reach voters with non-English preference and she preferred the Pan Am location over Millview.

Samuel Molina inquired as to any locations between Highways 41 and 145 for potential vote centers. Mr. White advised that those areas do not offer many locations that could accommodate a vote center. Pan Am is walk-able, is known by the neighborhood and after further discussion was the recommended location by Mr. Molina and Ms. Torres.

Ms. Martinez advised that the EAP to this point has taken a lot of planning and thought and our plan as presented, tries to do the best for all affected.

Mr. White advised those in attendance to submit any comments now thru February 1. He also advised that a public hearing on this matter will be held January 30, 2018 at 3pm in the same location. All individuals present were invited to attend that public hearing.

Ms. Martinez advised of the changes made for Vote Center Staff Recruitment. She discussed the need for bilingual workers and advised of the issues we have had with retention and no-shows on Election Day.

Ms. Martinez also explained that now with the implementation of the Voter's Choice Act, we have created two temporary extra help positions : Senior Vote Center Representative and Vote Center Representative. The Sr. VC Rep will be paid \$20 per hour and the VC Rep will be paid \$17 per hour. Board of Supervisors approval of these positions and pay is expected on February 13, 2018. Applications will then be available on our website, the County website and an email blast will be sent by the Human Resources Department to their contacts as well.

Ms. Martinez estimates that we will need approximately 30-50 workers for each election. Vote Centers will be open for 11 days straight. We will need to have enough workers trained and available to allow for days off.

The Registrar anticipates that 5-6 workers will be placed at each vote center. The attendees were asked to please assist in the recruitment and to please have anyone interested get in touch with our office. Samuel Molina advised that the Jakara Movement got money to do outreach in Madera for the Panjabi population. He may have contacts who could assist with translations if necessary. He will provide contact information for Deep Singh, the Director.

The discussion moved to the production of facsimile ballots. In keeping with current practice, Madera County has always provided a facsimile of the ballot in both languages that are currently required by law: English and Spanish. Ms. Martinez polled the group to determine what ballot design was preferred for voters:

1. A bilingual ballot with both English and Spanish
2. Language specific ballots (English only; Spanish only).

The preferred style was language specific. The group felt a Bilingual ballot created a cumbersome ballot and believe that it is better to remain consistent with the procedures already in place to avoid voter confusion.

The new voting system will accommodate the choice made and will also provide Spanish audio for those voters wishing to listen to the ballot.

Ms. Martinez opened the discussion for Voter's Choice Act Outreach. All attendees were given the "Future of Voting" handout and were requested to provide feedback on the information contained thereon. Ms. Martinez advised that we will be utilizing the local Food Bank, Meals on Wheels and local schools to get information about the VCA to the voters and members of the community. Ms. Martinez requested input from those in attendance for additional ideas for outreach and any upcoming events that could also be utilized.

Charity Tokash suggested using Churches and Community Centers to help get the word out; Stacy from the City of Chowchilla also suggested adding notices to water bills and will make contact with Marty Piepenbrock to brainstorm on more ways to provide outreach to citizens.

It was also recommended by Charity to put our presentation out on video via YouTube. Once a video is done, it is easy to blast, share and spread the word. A Spanish version will also be done.

Mr. White in closing, reminded those in attendance that we are still taking applications for LAAC members. Applications are available on our website.

The next meeting has been scheduled for March 29, 2018 at 6:00 p,m. The meeting will be held at the Government Center, in a room to be determined. Notices regarding the meeting time and place will be posted on our website and will be sent via email.

Samuel Molina also suggested that another meeting be held in April. That date is yet to be determined. Once scheduled, notice will be posted on our website and will also be sent via email.

One last call for questions. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.