



# COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE

Elections Department

## VAAC/LAAC Summary

### Voting and Language Accessibility Advisory Committee

#### Location and Time

County Administration Center  
2 S. Green St, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sonora CA 95370

August 12, 2019  
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

#### In Attendance

- Robbie Bergstrom
- Leonides Russell
- Jane Braga
- Mary Anne Schmidt
- Pam Vlach
- Barbara Farkas

#### Agenda

##### **1. What is a VAAC/LAAC?**

- Robbie Bergstrom gave a presentation on the purpose of the VAAC/LAAC.
- It was stated the Voting and Language Accessibility Advisory Committee is designed to advise, assist, and provide recommendations for how to best communicate with the public and how to best arrange a vote center and drop off location, and direct a voter.

##### **2. What is the Voter's Choice Act?**

Robbie Bergstrom presented the history and purpose of the VCA (SB 450 2016). Then explained the general differences from the prior election model to administering an election under the VCA.

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### **3. The locations under consideration**

- Robbie Bergstrom noted the criteria of considering a vote center and ballot drop-off location per EC §4005(10)(b).
- The Vote Center locations being considered by Tuolumne County are:
  - Twain Harte Bible Church
  - Elections Office
  - Jamestown Community Hall
  - Tuolumne Memorial Hall
  - Groveland Library
- The Ballot Drop-off locations being considered by Tuolumne County are:
  - Word of Life Church
  - Elections Office
  - Columbia Elementary
  - Sonora Library
  - The Junction
- Barbara Farkas mentioned another possible location in Jamestown near Wilson Realty on Main Street. That is often vacant.
- Pam Vlach mentioned The Junction does have a lot of visitors from throughout the County, especially in the morning.

### **4. Best meeting times and possible future agenda items**

- Proposed time: Mondays at 10 am. Proposed Dates: September 9<sup>th</sup>, October 14<sup>th</sup>, November 4<sup>th</sup>, and December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Security – Barbara inquired on the security of the vote centers. Robbie stated he will prepare more information on the steps that will be taken to secure the ballots, machines, and ballot drop-off sites. Participants mentioned this is one of the top questions asked by voters to them.
- Machines to be used - Leonides Russell asked if the machines will be demonstrated. Robbie stated that we will have public demonstrations closer to election time. Robbie also stated he would bring an electronic roster to show the committee next meeting.

## 5. Other discussions

- Outreach Methods –
  - Participants mentioned that a visual aid, such as a map, would be a very good tool to present to those inquiring.
  - Participants also suggesting a pamphlet with the major points on the VCA would give different groups information to provide to the public.
  - Participants suggested that a flier for the schools, or maybe a bulletin in their newsletter, may help educate younger voters and their parents.
  - The Watch Program and Area 12 Agency on Aging would be good contacts for the disability community.
- Robbie emphasized the need for representatives from both the disability community and the Spanish speaking community. Leonides mentioned she performs services for ATCAA where she is involved with the Spanish speaking community. Mary Anne mentioned, due to her daughter's physical disabilities, she is experienced with questions of accessibility in Tuolumne County.
- Staffing – Mary Anne Schmidt inquired on the staffing process. Robbie responded that it will differ from prior elections as they will no longer be volunteers, but employees. They must apply, be interviewed, and will be considered a temporary employee of the County of Tuolumne. The job description and amount of pay has not been finalized.