

Santa Cruz County
Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 19, 2015
10 a.m.
701 Ocean St. Basement – Cafeteria

Minutes

- I. In Attendance: Gail Pellerin, Jim Davies, Amy Sheppard, Helen Ruiz-Thomas, Lynn Stipes, Veronica Elsea

- II. 2015 Election review -November 17 All-Mail ballot election just completed 2 days ago, currently in canvas.

- III. June 2016 Election
 - A. Polling place surveys – Jim is working on, still have a handful to be completed. We will start the process of bringing extra help people back in January.
 - B. Calendar/Contests
 - C. VoteCal – Santa Cruz will “go live” February 2016
Will be a statewide database of California voters.
 - D. Voting system updates – Motor Voter – through DMV, automatically be registered to vote unless opt out.
Will this add to our voter roll? Will people who are automatically registered to vote actually vote?
Electronic voting systems, waiting for LA who is developing their own system, and plan to make available.

- IV. State VAAC
 - Should a Disability Questions be added to the VRC?
Jim suggested the question should be “What your needs are?”
Rather than “What is your disability”
Current conversation at state level if Pre-paid postage for VBM would help?

- V. Website/Media

Working on redesign of Elections & County Clerk websites. Gail asked Veronica and Amy to please check it out and report back to her.

Placing of election messages – Veronica – Links on website lead to PDF image, Martin to correct to html so it is readable with screen reader software. Veronica will help to spread the word to the blind community. We need to be sure to advertise where to find accessible ballot information. Smartvoter.com is no longer the simple answer it used to be. We need to do more publicity for votescount.com

C. Accessible voting PSAs – Jim & Veronica

V. ADA 25 Conference

A. Jim attended conference on Sept. 25 & 26 in San Francisco, UC Hastings College of Law

VI. Future Agenda Items

Next Meeting - please mark your calendars:

Thursday, February 18, 2016