SAN MATEO COUNTY

LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAAC)

Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2018, 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M
555 County Center Plaza, 3rd Floor Room 311 Redwood City, CA

Members Absent
Kelly Chew

Staff Present
Jim Irizarry, Assistant Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder
Diana Izaguirre, Elections Manager
Michelle Yue, Elections Specialist III

Items Discussed

I. Reviewed and approved meeting minutes from the October 12th, 2017 Public Meeting with Language Communities. The minutes was approved by five members, with new member Charmaine Mesina abstaining due to her absence at the previous meeting. (5 minutes)

II. Welcome new Filipino-speaking member Charmaine Mesina (15 minutes)

Charmaine introduced herself to other LAAC members. She talked about her work experience as an attorney, and she specifically mentioned her experience serving as an election monitor in Las Vegas. In Las Vegas, Charmaine witnessed some Filipino-speaking votes complaining that the Filipino translation of the ballot was too formal, classical and difficult to understand.

Mr. Church attended the LAAC meeting briefly, welcoming the new LAAC member and thanking LAAC members for their contribution and feedback to the Election Administration Plan (EAP)

All seven LAAC members took the oath led by Jim. Michelle will contact Kelly to take the oath later.

III. Secretary of State 3% Language Requirements Update (15 minutes)

Michelle updated the LAAC on the latest change of the SOS 3% language requirements by the SOS. Hindi and Japanese are no longer listed as 3% languages for San Mateo County. In the meantime, Korean is added. Michelle explained what 3% language requirements mean and the different requirements between 3% and 5% languages.
As the 3% language requirements are precinct based, Jim talked about how the Elections Division will implement the 3% language requirements under the California Voter’s Choice Act in the upcoming June 5 Election. June suggested the Elections Division utilize technologies such as electronic pads and printers to ensure that every Vote Center can provide facsimile ballots required by 3% languages. The Elections Division will look into all possibilities to best serve voters covered under the 3% requirements. The topic will be discussed further.

IV. Update the progress of recruiting a Korean-speaking member (5 minutes)

LAAC members will help get the word out to recruit a Korean-speaking member. Wesley asked whether the new 3% rule means that Japanese and Hindi LAAC members are no longer needed. Jim explained that Japanese and Hindi members of the LAAC are still needed as we continue to have many precincts that have numerous Japanese or Hindi-speaking voters.

V. Analyze Election Administration Plan (EAP) under California Voter’s Choice Act (35 minutes)

Jim updated the committee on the final version of the EAP:
- Some major changes: a new 30-day Vote Center has been added at the YMCA in East Palo Alto; a new 11-day Vote Center has been added at the Fair Oaks Community Center; four outdoor ballot drop-off locations have been finalized.

- Jim also talked about the Roving Vote Center on the coast side. The Roving Vote Center will be a pilot program as it has many challenges.

- Julio and Rosa mentioned that minority community members are concerned about using City Halls as Vote Centers or ballot drop-off locations. These concerns arise under the current ant-immigrant political climate. Julio and Rosa suggested the Elections Division use more community centers other than government offices as Vote Centers or ballot drop-off locations.

Jim understood the concerns, but he also stressed that City Clerks are the city elections officials, and that there are many benefits of using City Halls as Vote Center or ballot drop-off locations.

Several LAAC members stated they understood the deadline the Elections Division faces, and they understood that the EAP is final now. They agree to provide feedback after the election.

VI. Discuss how to conduct outreach work to publicize the California Voter's Choice Act and the June Election (30 minutes)

Rosa asked how LAAC members can help the Voter Education and Outreach Plan outlined under the EAP. Diana talked about the current voter education and outreach
team at the Elections Division (Karla, Kenny and Sara) and their work. LAAC members expressed interest in meeting with the outreach team to find out how they can participate in the outreach effort.

Michelle mentioned that LAAC members can help the Elections Division recruit bilingual office and Vote Center staff and volunteer poll workers. Michelle will send the job posting links to all members.

VII. Summarize action items for next meeting. Set next meeting time and date (10 minutes)

LAAC members asked how often they should meet. Jim suggested that LAAC members should meet at least twice during nonelection years but can meet more during election years, including subdivision meetings on specific topics.

A LAAC outreach subcommittee meeting with the Elections Division’s outreach team Karla, Kenny and Sara is scheduled for 6 pm, April 2 at the third floor, 555 County Center Plaza in Redwood City.

Two full board LAAC meetings are scheduled for April 16 and May 14th. Both meetings will start at 6 pm at third floor, 555 County Center Plaza in Redwood City.