Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2018 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M
1300 S El Camino Real, Rm 112, San Mateo

Members Present
Diane Leeds          Christine Curry          Ashleigh Evans
Rachel Sherman       Pam Jones               Keisarina Hafoka
Charles Ramilo       Jack Mohoney           Randy Torrijos
Nikki Victoria       Nicole Wong            Sam Hosmer
Bradley Cleveland    Nandini Ruparel        
Chris Bush           Jonathan Stein         
Susie Raye           Petra Silton           
Jose Mendez          Eric Siegel            

Staff Present
Travis Dunn          Lupe Marin            Cho Chiu

Items Discussed

I.  Introductions

II. Preliminary results from June Primary – Elections Office
   a. Voter turnout- Certification isn’t complete yet but the preliminary results will look like the final results. We are pleased with the turnout rate 44.3% which is high for this kind of election in comparison to June 2014, 27.4% turnout rate, may have a lot to do with the political issues, empty governor seat and people have longer period to vote.
   b. Vote Center vs. Vote By Mail- overwhelming of people voted by mail, 92.7% cast by mail. Vote Center turnout was the greatest on Election Day. Majority voted in Vote Center on Election day. Before Election Day, only 3 VCs got over 100 votes and they were the 30-day VCs. On Election Day, all but one VC, Colma had triple digits- # of ballot cast. Few technical issues, mainly with the new VoteCal system which was implemented. We had slowdown at the higher traffic VCs but a patch was applied in an hour by Secretary of State. The group feels a lot better about the software being down since Travis explained it was a voter look up software. The other slowdown was the Ballot On Demand printer. Working with vendor to speed things up. No one was turned away. We ended up issuing Conditional and provisional ballots for them. Conditional Voter Registrations- we got 847 of those
and provisional ballots dropped down to 120. 41 AVBM- accessible Vote By mail. One Mobile Voting request in Redwood City at a voter’s home.

c. Vote Center activity- majority of use was on Election Day and two weekends leading up to Election Day. South City Vote Center saw more traffic than Tower Road on the two weekends before Election Day. East Palo Alto had the slowest traffic since it was a new VC but turnout is expected to increase in Fall. To ensure to increase turnout, we are beginning to update our outreach materials now, we have templates for the postcards we have used in the Spring since they were approved, and we just need to make small adjustments and update. The group wants opportunities to review and make a timeline for outreach materials.

III. Preliminary Vote Center report from AAAJ Observers –
   a. Sent poll monitors to 78 Vote Centers across 3 VCA counties: 25 in San Mateo County. Overall, San Mateo did well with federal 203 requirements. Poll monitors observed translated CVR envelopes were missing in 2 of the 25 VCs they visited. They have found one of both facsimile ballots were missing, even with inquiry, could not be found. In one VC, the binders were complexly missing, only Korean facsimile ballots were available. More than half of the 25 VCs did not have translated signs indicating facsimile ballots were available.

   b. Did fairly well recruiting bilingual VCRs, including one ASL, which was unique among the ten counties they observed. Room to improve in recruiting Korean and Filipino/Tagalog VCRs. Only one of the 25 had a Korean speaking VCR and 4 Filipino/Tagalog VCRs. A very few had bilingual VCRs wearing name tags indicating the languages in which VCRs could assist voters which is required under AB 918.

c. Many of the Vote Centers were crammed and fairly small.

IV. Other reports/observations on Vote Center Activity
   a. VCs ran out of Check-In forms, No smooth transition for each station. Need to come up with a better flow for next election. People were confused whether they need to stay in line to drop off ballots with no obvious signage. For East Palo Alto YMCA, VCRs were rotating signs around to attract voters. The location was not visible. Menlo College VC was not very accessible, traveled around the building to get to the VC. South City also had trouble with accessibility. Fair Oaks location has too many buildings and very little signage.

   b. Parking was also a challenge in many VCs; at MLK center; the community centers in Daly City had limited parking spaces. Maybe look into blocking off voter parking spaces since it may be a deterrent for voting. Election Office is looking into getting staff to stand outside for people to drop off as well as more exterior drop-off boxes.

c. Suggested: Boys and Girls club in East Palo Alto – has better space, end of pedestrian overpass ramp, visibilities and look into community colleges for Nov.
V. Outreach activities -
   a. People Power - 15 Presentations, 18 tabling events, sent posters to former polling places and other places in total of 108 locations, and 10 cities and other communities out on the coast. Biggest challenge was finding organizations to work with in North County. Focused on voter registrations - 550 plus voters. Started as soon as VC locations were announced, and it is important to start early since people did not know the change. Need materials earlier from the County. Will not be able to fund the materials themselves for Nov. Election.
   b. Need to improve voter turnout - engage people, partner with school teachers and offer extra credits for registering but make sure to have a special way of handling non-citizens so they are not left out.
   c. County needs to hire more staff since it will be a bigger election; start outreach earlier. There was a disconnection for promoting language workshops. Thrive can send out Newsletters.

VI. Outreach Materials -
   a. Spanish flyers from the County weren’t ready on Friday before Election Day. Need to have materials ready at least 30 before Vote Center opens. City properties needs County Official outreach materials.
   b. People Power - Cabrillo School District agreed to send flyers in bilingual or include one in English and one in Spanish with all students. Jessica Blair in HMB agreed to fund the People Power VCA flyers, VC/Drop-off boxes flyers in English and Spanish. They would suggest using the County ones if the Election Office has them ready by late September or early October.
   c. With the younger population, reaffirm vote counts and use social media.
   d. People did not understand they did not have to go in person; advertise Pre-paid postage.
   e. For future events, voter registration vs. VCA? How much more outreach needs to be done? Low voter turnout areas - people have no idea.

VII. Post-Election report -
   a. Lupe suggested for the group to meet to review what outreach materials worked/liked best and then meet with Cho. We will have the VC list in September.
   b. Rachel from Voter’s Choice California invited everyone to the 3 panel VCA counties Conference.
   c. The group wants to meet with Executives, Mr. Church and Mr. Irizarry to discuss summarize their findings and wants to help improve next election. AAAJ wants to share 30 min of their meeting once they have finalized their observer reports.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.