Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2019 10:30 a.m. to Noon
Sobrato Center for Nonprofits, Shoreway Conference Room

Present
Diane Leeds  Jose Mendez
Petra Silton  Brent Turner
Mindy Romero  Julie Shanson
Bradley Cleveland  Sarah Fields
Stacey Hawver  Ray Larios
Nicole Wong (via phone)

Staff Present
Jim Irizarry
Martin McTaggart
Sara O'Brien

I. Introductions – Completed.

II. November 2018 Election Results & Lessons Learned
   ● Mindy Romero, Director, California Civic Engagement Project, Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California, presented findings from a study on five counties that adopted the Voter’s Choice Act in 2018. The presentation focused on the impact on eligible voter turnout in VCA counties including underrepresented groups such as Asian-Americans, Latinos and youth voters. San Mateo County specific results were also presented.

   ● Sara O'Brien presented information on how voters cast their ballots (mail, drop box, vote center) and where (excluding mail).

III. New Voting Machines
   ● Sara O'Brien noted that the Elections Office is reviewing new voting equipment and expects to have more information at the next meeting.
   ● Brent Turner brought up his organization’s (CAVO) concern with security and its preference for Open Source systems.

IV. New Vote Center Locations
   ● No new sites will be used for the November 2019 elections.
Sara O’Brien provided a draft list of locations being considered for 2020 to replace some of the previous Vote Centers especially those located in government offices which had been a concern raised previously by community groups when the Election Administration Plan was being reviewed and approved.

V. County Outreach & Education
- The committee was invited to review November 2018 materials to provide feedback to help improve for future elections. Feedback was provided on the design of the envelopes used to mail out and return voted ballots.
- Elections Office will have a table at the April 29 Children’s Reading Day in San Bruno and the May 10 Community Resource event at the San Mateo Senior Center.

VI. Leveraging County Census 2020 activities
- The San Mateo County Complete Count Committee created an Elections and Census Strategy Work Group to focus on ways to leverage and coordinate outreach and marketing activities.

VII. Open Forum
- Discussion on candidate’s need to understand results are not final until they are certified (Counties have up to 30 days after an election to certify the results).
- Suggestion to review Vote Center locations at the next meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting Date
- Consensus to meet monthly through the summer.
- Petra Silton will check on room availability at the Sobrato Center for a mid-May Wednesday morning meeting and let everyone know the date.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.