

**Members:**

Michael Levinson  
Craig McCulloh  
Benjamin McMullan  
Fred Nisen  
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SAN MATEO COUNTY  
**VOTING ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VAAC)**

## Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2021 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
Via Microsoft Teams and phone

Committee Members Attending – Ben McMullan, Sammi Riley, Fred Nisen, Mike Levinson and Sarah Verity.

County Staff – Andrew Eng, Michael Lui and Sara O'Brien.

### **Elections Division update:**

While the office is still closed to the public, except by appointment, we have been rotating small groups of staff in and out daily to verify signatures for three state-wide petitions – the recall of Governor Newsom, an initiative on reducing plastic waste and another on new ways of gambling.

We are working on a special mail ballot election for the Portola Valley School District on May 4, 2021. Some 5,000 ballots will go out on April 3, and there will be a vote center in the lobby at the office. Overseas ballots are going out this weekend. Another possible school district election may be held later this year.

Our management is working with the County Manager on the upcoming two-year budget. We have asked for \$1.2 M for voter outreach – \$200,000 for 2021 if there is a recall, \$500,000 for each the June Primary and the November General Election in 2022.

Expect future change to our website because the current system will not be supported in the long run.

Mike Levinson wants to be added to VEOAC list. Sara will add him.

### **ADA Facilities Update:**

Sammi, Ben, Michael, Sara and Jim met with Brent Hipster, a CASp consultant, a few weeks ago. We are working on getting him the county's CASp report by DAC.

Andrew explained that he needs to get the decision from the ADA Compliance Committee to allow us access to the DAC Report. It was an internal report for the committee.

### **Goals for 2021:**

Mike suggests we strategize for 2022 more than 2021.

Fred asked if there is a recall election if it will be held under the Voters' Choice Act.

Michael said we are checking with counsel if VCA; maybe minor updates to the EAP for the recall. Michael explained the process and timeline for a tentative November or December election.

It mostly likely will not be the second Tuesday in November so outreach will be needed to make sure everyone is aware of the election date (though we expect media around it).

Sammi asked to see previous VAAC goals to get some ideas and see if we completed them. Sara will find them in previous meeting notes and email them to the committee.

Sarah suggested one goal should be to revisit the VAAC Charter to finalize it.

Sammi suggested the VAAC revisit all the Vote Center facilities to confirm the access.

She also suggested outreach to the disability community on voting options.

Mike suggested outreach to the disabled on the coastside in particular.

#### **Other business:**

Mike stated he had a problem during his November 2020 voting to share. The tablet told him he was on race one of 25, but one was not actually a race - it was the ballot head. He waited for help, but it took some time for it, so the Vote Center staff restarted the ballot for him and explained there was no race one. Other than that, he said his experience went smoothly. Michael said he will look into this matter.

#### **Next meeting:**

May 20, 2021, 10:30 a.m. - noon