

Summary of Comments on Napa County Draft Election Administration Plan – Last Updated 11/21/2019

Number: 1 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 3/29/19

Issue – Budget Transparency

Example – Registrar unable to provide specific information about the FY18/19 budget for the 2020 election cycle

Desired Outcome – Clear process and timeline for VCN to understand and provide input to resource allocation.

Action & Response:

Provided budget information at CLC/VNC meeting

Number: 2 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 3/29/19

Issue – Communication

Example 1 – Internal between Registrar office and VCN Committee: Registrar requested information on additional drop box sites and provided deadline. VCN committee provided information by the deadline and was told the decision had already been made.

Desired Outcome – Written timeline of deadlines for providing input that guides decisions for each election cycle.

Example 2 - External between Registrar office and community: Provide opportunity for residents to be more involved in VAAC and LAC.

Desired Outcome – Expand outreach to beyond the traditional posting of LAC and VAAC meetings. Ask community partners to engage their constituents in outreach and engagement.

Action & Response:

CLC recommends that we expand outreach beyond the LAAC and VAAC, and communicate directly with them when we need to make changes to VCA sites and drop boxes. ROV working closely with CLC/VCN on 2019 EAP revision timeline and meeting schedule, with meetings hosted by CLC/VCN. ROV also posting meeting information and EAP availability on his social media sites..

Number: 3 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 3/29/19

Issue – Incorporation of community input on drop box and vote center locations.

Example – Using UC Davis citing tool, VCN committee identified Napa Valley College as a prime location for a drop box, based on target audience in legislation (youth/young adults). NVC offered to pay for the drop box. Registrar's office did not consider/follow up on this offer.

Desired Outcome – Work in conjunction with NVC to have a drop box on Napa campus for 2020 elections.

Action & Response:

CLC recommends community input on drop box and vote center locations. We are looking into a location in the South Napa Area for an additional drop box.

Number: 4 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 3/29/19

Issue – Vote Center & Drop Box locations – input from VCN on locations, based on citing tool and feedback from voters/VCN committee members not considered for 2020 elections

Example – Registrar has drafted outreach materials with planned drop boxes and vote centers.

Desired Outcome - See list of recommendations sent to Registrar's office on August 27, 2018 for November 2018 elections.

Action & Response:

Additional drop box in southern part of City of Napa under consideration for March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary and future elections.

Number: 5 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 3/29/19

Issue – Lack of stated outcomes for voter engagement/registration/turnout for specific populations cited in the VCA legislation – How do we measure success?

Example – VCN requested data from Registrar's office on voter turnout rates/registration rates for target populations, was told that the information was not collected by the Registrar's office.

Desired Outcome – Registrar prioritizes outreach and data collection on target populations listed in the VCA legislation. Registrar will set outcome goals based on measurable indicators of success.

Action & Response:

It is requested that we provide data collection on voter turnout rates and target populations. The State is now working on collecting data; they will use mega tools to accomplish this. In the future, we can use the State's data. PDI is a source that can be used to collect this data, and there's a cost associated with collecting the data.

Number: 6 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 3/29/19

Issue – Development of EAP is not a user-friendly process.

Example – Timeline for Napa County was accelerated and process for incorporating input was not published in full, making it difficult to engage target populations on the EAP

Desired Outcome – Written timeline and process for updates/input provided in advance of each election cycle.

Action & Response:

ROV working closely with CLC/VCN on 2019 EAP revision with CLC/VCN assisting in scheduling and hosting meetings. Timeline developed in conjunction with CLC/VCN for 2019 EAP revision process.

Number: 7 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 3/29/19

Issue – EAP is not easy to understand and specifics about election administration are not clear.

Example – Formatting of EAP is difficult to read, additional details on how the election outreach is performed are lacking.

Desired Outcome – Improve accessibility of EAP by writing at level easy for all to understand. Comparable to news outlets using a 6th grade reading level.

Action & Response:

We looked at other formats used by other VCA counties and have come up with a more user friendly version.

Number: 8 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 3/29/19

Issue – Not enough bi-lingual workers for vote centers.

Example – Limited Filipino/Tagalog speaking vote center workers

Desired Outcome – Begin community outreach and recruitment for all bilingual workers earlier by involving them in VCN/LAAC/VAC meetings.

Action & Response:

We will continue community outreach and recruitment of bilingual workers. We are reaching out to Spanish and Filipino-Tagalog communities for assistance. Filipino-Tagalog community provided volunteer translator on November 6, 2019 at American Canyon vote center. Will work with CLC/VCN to increase yield of bilingual Spanish vote center workers through joint effort in recruitment process July 31, 2019 through November 2019.

Number: 9 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 3/29/19

Issue – Accessibility for people with disabilities – at Vote Centers, Registrar’s office, at home.

Example – Not enough outreach to disabled populations on voter access methods that met their needs.

Desired Outcome – Additional focus on vote from home and accessibility at all vote centers.

Action & Response:

We have rolled out RAVBM and are expanding promotion of RAVBM in all materials. Will work with CLC/VCN to promote access during March 3, 2020 election cycle.

Number: 10 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 8/5/19

Comment – VCN acknowledges the addition of three-day Vote Centers at both the Boys and Girls Club in American Canyon and Las Flores Community Center in Napa. Based on California Civic Engagement Project UC Davis citing tool and feedback from residents in those areas, we know that these will be welcomed locations that will serve underrepresented voters.

Action & Response:

No action needed, we thank the VCN and CLC for their continued support.

Number: 11 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 8/5/19

Issue – VCN formally requests the addition of five drop boxes and one ballot replacement kiosk to the following locations:

Napa Valley College Main Campus

American Canyon, east of Hwy 29 on American Canyon Road in front of Walgreens (210 American Canyon Road)

A Church location either Napa Valley Unitarian or Presbyterian of the Redwoods

Lake Berryessa area at Turtle Rock Bar and Café

Pope Valley at the Pope Valley Farm Center, 5800 Pope Valley/Chiles Road

Action & Response:

The Election Division, with the help of the American Canyon Mayor and the CLC, have identified a drop box location east of Hwy 29 behind Walgreens and are working with property owners to confirm the location.

The Election Division is considering a pilot Election Day drive thru ballot drop off location at the Napa Valley College Main Campus contingent on support from the college and its students for location and staffing.

We appreciate the input on additional ballot drop off locations.

Number: 12 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 8/5/19

Issue – As stated in the Poll Monitoring Report published by the Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus, Napa County has room to grow in its recruitment of bilingual poll workers as, “Spanish-speaking bilingual poll workers were missing in 50% and Filipino/Tagalog-speaking bilingual poll workers were missing in 75% of vote centers our poll monitors visited in the county.” Based on the findings of this report, VCN is requesting that the Registrar of Voters work with Voters Choice Napa partners to develop strategies to address these needs at vote centers to ensure:

- More emphasis is placed on the recruitment of bilingual poll workers in coordination with community-based organizations.
- Translators are provided at all vote center locations where bilingual workers are not available.

Action & Response:

We request help from the public and community groups to assist in providing bilingual assistance at Vote Centers.

Number: 13 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 8/5/19

Issue – The Poll Monitoring Report published by the Asian Americans Advancing Justice -Asian Law Caucus, also stated that, “67% (or six of eight) vote centers were missing a translated sign indicating bilingual poll worker language skills.” VCN requests that all vote centers have adequate signage in English, Spanish & Filipino/Tagalog stating the language skills of poll workers and/or translation services available.

Action & Response:

In addition to signage at the Vote Centers, each bilingual staff member will have a badge to identify the language they are able to assist in.

Number: 14 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 8/5/19

Comment – As stated in the Poll Monitoring Report published by the Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus, “Napa County performed strongly with respect to vote center accessibility. All vote centers visited were large enough to comfortably accommodate voters and voting equipment and only one vote center experienced a minor issue with accessibility.” VCN applauds the efforts of the Registrar of Voters in making vote centers accessible to all voters with functional needs.

Action & Response:

We will continue to ensure that all Vote Centers are accessible to all voters with disability needs.

Number: 15 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 8/5/19

Issue – There was no usage of the Remote Access Vote By Mail Ballot (RAVBM) website in the 2018 election. Feedback from agencies working with people with disabilities who would benefit from this technology indicated that it is in part due to the fact that people were not aware of the system and/or how to use it. VCN requests that the Registrar of Voters provide:

- At least one workshop/training for voters with disabilities and agencies serving people with disabilities demonstrating the RAVBM system.
- Coordination with local assisted living and senior centers for hosting RAVBM demonstrations.
- Written and visual materials with information about RAVBM that include clear instructions about saving ballot envelopes and steps on how to use the system. This information should be added as an appendix to the EAP as well as included separately on the Election Division’s website. Suggested language on basic instructions is provided at the end of this letter.
- There should be a toll-free number provided in the EAP and on the Napa County Election Division website for voters to call seeking more information about RAVBM.

Action & Response:

Registrar of Voters will work with CLC/VCN to create and disseminate RAVBM training and promotional material. We plan to publish the Disability Rights California hotline number in the Voter Information Guide both printed and web versions.

Number: 16 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 8/5/19

Issue – In an effort to better coordinate partnership and increase community engagement in VAAC/LAAC VCN requests that minimum requirements for VAAC/LAACs are included in the “Voter Education and Outreach” section and recommend the following language in regard to these minimum requirements:

- In partnership with community-based partners, an agenda will be developed that states clear purpose, outcomes and items to be discussed in VAAC/LAAC meetings.
- Geographical Representation - At least one meeting will take place in Napa, American Canyon and up valley during each election cycle.
- Underrepresented Voter Representation – Includes representatives from Spanish and Filipino/Tagalog speaking communities, youth and youth adults, seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Translation services will be available upon request at all scheduled VAAC/LAAC meetings.
- Meeting announcements will include an agenda and will be posted at least 10 days prior to VAAC/LAAC meetings.

Action & Response:

The Registrar of Voter will continue to work with the CLC in developing meeting information/agenda for upcoming VAAC/LAAC meetings.

Number: 17 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 8/5/19

Issue – In order for the public to provide input on allocation of resources that directly addresses the Voter’s Choice Act implementation goals, VCN requests further detail on the Budget (Annex X, pg 41):

- Provide a detailed breakdown of the cost of voter centers and drop boxes. For example, all costs associated with managing a vote center or managing a drop box to include installation, maintenance etc.
- Additionally, VCN requests that Annex X include a budget narrative in order to provide further clarification and context of costs so that VCN can maximize the potential to leverage resources from other sources. For example, in the 2018 election cycle, VCN was able to secure funding from philanthropic sources for outreach events and materials. With a better understanding the context of the ‘outreach’ line item in the budget, VCN can ensure that we are not duplicating efforts of the Registrar’s Office.
- In a concerted effort to reach underrepresented voters, VCN is requesting that the Registrar of Voters allocate \$25,000 for stipends for core partner agencies specifically dedicated to the outreach and education of underrepresented voters. Partner agencies, as part of the VCN committee, would build upon successful strategies implemented in the 2018 elections for engaging voters, including outreach, education, voter registration, and get-out-the-vote. VCN agencies have the approach and rapport required to mobilize and engage “hard-to-reach” populations. As cited in the California Civic Engagement Project Voters Choice Research Brief, “Collaborating with community organizations and coalitions can yield, among other advantages, voter education materials and implementation processes better suited to local populations.” During the 2018 VCA implementation, VCN agencies trained over 75 volunteers and staff from partner agencies on Voter’s Choice legislation, reached 12,521 people at 39 outreach events and through 1-on-1 visits and reached an audience of 13,209 through social media posts. The funds provided by the Registrar of Voters would be matched by resources provided by partner agencies.
- VCN is requesting that the Registrar of Voters allocate resources toward the collection, tracking and analysis of data if needed for the purpose of increasing voter turnout.

Action & Response:

We will add a budget addendum to the upcoming amended version of the EAP.

Number: 18 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 8/5/19

Comment – VCN looks forward to continuing our work with the Registrar of Voters to identify key data elements and collection measures for eligible voters. This information will allow VCN to work with researchers to analyze the data and inform the education and outreach strategies for underrepresented voters.

Action & Response:

No action needed, we thank the VCN and CLC for their continued support.

Number: 19 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 8/5/19

Issue – In a concerted effort to better reach underrepresented voters VCN requests the following data be provided:

- Drop box and vote center usage is tracked by day in both the 2020 primaries and general election.
- Voter turn-out is tracked by: 1) in-person ballot vote done at a vote center 2) vote by mail ballot dropped off at vote center 3) vote by mail ballot collected from drop box 4) vote by mail ballot via US postal service.

Action & Response:

The Election Division will further research these options.

Number: 20 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 8/5/19

Comment – VCN appreciates the time and effort put into making the EAP a more user-friendly document with improvements made to the layout and formatting.

Action & Response:

No action needed, we thank the VCN and CLC for their continued support.

Number: 21 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 8/5/19

Issue – VCN recommends simplifying language throughout the document by presenting information at a 5th grade reading level to ensure that information is accessible to underrepresented voters.

Action & Response:

Registrar of Voters would welcome specific suggestions on language simplification from CLC/VCN members.

Number: 22 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 8/5/19

Issue – To provide the opportunity for citizens to be more engaged in the development of the EAP and to better understand the process and timing VCN requests the publishing of the co-developed EAP timeline as link to the Registrar of Voters website with a reference to the link within the EAP.

Action & Response:

Registrar of Voters will provide a link to the EAP timeline during the next amendment cycle, which will be posted on the EAP webpage.

Number: 23 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 8/5/19

Issue – VCA information is important for voters to know and understand. VCN requests that mailers be designed to better maximize critical information and make mailers easier to understand. Feedback from voters regarding current mailers indicates that print and images are sometimes difficult to read and that there is unused space that could be better utilized. VCN requests that the Registrar of Voters invest resources in redesigning mailers and obtain feedback from VCN prior to printing and mailing new design.

Action & Response:

The Election Division will take these comments into consideration when designing the mailers for the upcoming election cycle.

Number: 24 Author: CLC Subject: Letter Date: 8/5/19

Issue – Suggested language for RAVBM instructions:

The Remote Accessible Vote-By-Mail allows voters to vote on their own assistive devices. To use RAVBM, a voter must first make a request for a RAVBM ballot from their County elections office either by postage paid application (required under the VCA), phone, email, or online. Once the request is received, an email with a link to the RAVBM will be sent to the voter. The voter must click on the link and enter their voter information (i.e. birthdate and address) in a secured portal. After entering their information, the voter must affirm they are a voter with a disability (type of disability is not asked). The voter will then download their ballot and any additional information and instructions on how to mark and return the ballot. The voter marks their ballot using their own assistive technology (jelly switches, screen readers, mouse keys, sip and puff, etc). Once the ballot is complete, the voter must print out the ballot with their selections and place it in an envelope. RAVBM voters should use the envelope that is mailed with their VBM ballots. Using the VBM envelope is encouraged as it is easier to use, has holes along the signature line, and will be easier for election staff to identify. The voter must sign the envelope and then can return the ballot by mail (postmarked and received within 3 days), drop box, or vote center by 8pm on Election Day.

Action & Response:

Registrar of Voters will review how to include desired language in RAVBM materials.

Number: 25 Author: Board Study Session Subject: Comments Date: 9/24/19

Issue – Supervisor Ramos – Wants to add more drop boxes; NVTA corridor, NVC area. Are we tracking mobility patterns? How are you receiving information as to suggestions?

Action & Response:

Registrar of Voters has reviewed the siting tool developed by Civic Engagement (Mindy Romero) and is open to further suggestions on drop box locations that meet accessibility and priority location criteria.

Number: 26 Author: Board Study Session Subject: Comments Date: 9/24/19

Issue – Supervisor Pedroza – How do we compare with other counties as far as the number of boxes?

Action & Response:

Napa County has a larger drop box turnout than other VCA counties and exceeds the number of drop boxes required by code.

Number: 27 Author: Board Study Session Subject: Comments Date: 9/24/19

Issue – Supervisor Dillon – There is 1 postal drop box on the east side of American Canyon. No drop boxes on east of Silverado Trail. Would like to see our drop boxes where postal drop boxes are unavailable.

Action & Response:

We are finalizing the drop box location on the east side of American Canyon near Walgreens. We will take the other recommendations under consideration.

Number: 28 Author: Board Study Session Subject: Comments Date: 9/24/19

Issue – Mayor Garcia – Likes the move to the Boys and Girls Club for second American Canyon Vote Center. Would like to add drop boxes to increase voter turnout; possible Walgreens location on east side of American Canyon.

Action & Response:

We are finalizing the drop box location on the east side of American Canyon near Walgreens with the help of Mayor Garcia and the CLC.

Number: 29 Author: Board Study Session Subject: Comments Date: 9/24/19

Issue – Robin Orsini – Rural areas need drop boxes. Suggested location; Lake Berryessa – Turtle Rock Bar, Pope Valley area. Solution for pick up is to hire a temp worker or a bonded security company.

Action & Response:

The Election Division will continue to keep rural areas under consideration for future drop box locations.

Number: 30 Author: Board Study Session Subject: Comments Date: 9/24/19

Issue – Bob Van Der Velde, NVC – Would like to have drop box at Napa Campus. TURBO VOTE is a website the college uses to reach out to students about voting: www.napavalley.turbovote.org

Action & Response:

The Election Division is considering a pilot Election Day drive thru ballot drop off location at the Napa Valley College Main Campus contingent on support from the college and its students for location and staffing.

Number: 31 Author: Board Study Session Subject: Comments Date: 9/24/19

Issue – Francesca Mejia – ASNVC – Supports having a drop box at the college for students.

Action & Response:

The Election Division is considering a pilot Election Day drive thru ballot drop off location at the Napa Valley College Main Campus contingent on support from the college and its students for location and staffing.

Number: 32 Author: Board Study Session Subject: Comments Date: 9/24/19

Issue – Stephanie Davis, On the Move – Comments on our In Person (possibly what we consider Live Ballots) Turnout being lower than other VCA counties, better tracking for Ballots mailed through USPS, Ballots dropped at a Vote Center and Ballots picked up at Vote Centers.

Action & Response:

The Election Division will further research these options.

Number: 33 Author: Board Study Session Subject: Comments Date: 9/24/19

Issue – Marlena García parents can – Would like to see training on how to use RAVBM with clear instructions and a video. Better information regarding RAVBM being available and a toll free number listed. Would like us to go out to agencies and senior faculties to train on RAVBM.

Action & Response:

Registrar of Voters will work with CLC/VCN to create and disseminate RAVBM training and promotional material. We plan to publish the Disability Rights California hotline number in the Voter Information Guide both printed and web versions.

Number: 34 Author: Board Study Session Subject: Comments Date: 9/24/19

Issue – Jesus Rosas – Happy with the Spanish language EAP. 50% Spanish assistance missing and 75% Tagalog assistance missing from Vote Centers per Asians Advancing Justice. Would like signage saying language assistance is available. Would like to see Spanish Assistance at all Vote Centers and Tagalog at all American Canyon Vote Centers on Election Day.

Action & Response:

Updates will be made to signage at each Vote Center. In addition, each bilingual staff member will have a badge to identify the language they are able to assist in.

Number: 35 Author: Board Study Session Subject: Comments Date: 9/24/19

Issue – Sharon Macklin – Would like to know why we wouldn't have drop box at the college.

Action & Response:

The Election Division is considering a pilot Election Day drive thru ballot drop off location at the Napa Valley College Main Campus contingent on support from the college and its students for location and staffing.

Number: 36 Author: Board Study Session Subject: Comments Date: 9/24/19

Issue – Brad Wagenknecht – Would like to see the college have a drive up drop box, or suggest we encourage use of USPS mailbox at the college.

Action & Response:

The Election Division is considering a pilot Election Day drive thru ballot drop off location at the Napa Valley College Main Campus contingent on support from the college and its students for location and staffing.

Number: 37 Author: Public Hearing Subject: Comments Date: 11/04/19

Issue – Margaret Wigger – Today, you will hear more about a drop box at Napa Valley College. I would like to reiterate some statistics to help you understand why we are here today continuing to advocate for a drop box.

- In the 2018 general election, less than 32% of eligible youth voters (defined as people 18-24) voted.
- The turnout rate among Napa County's eligible Latinos was only 39.9%, 20 percentage points lower than countywide voting rate in the same election.
- At Napa Valley College, over 40% of the students are Hispanic, making Napa Valley College officially recognized by the federal government as a Hispanic Serving Institution; we are also a "minority-majority" school, i.e. a majority of the students consider themselves to be in a minority demographic group.
- Over 60% of the 6,000 students are from Napa County.
- Additionally, Napa Valley College is one of our County's largest employers with over 1,500 employees. Please keep these important statistics in mind as you listen to speakers today.

Action & Response:

The Registrar of Voters will provide a drop box at the Napa Valley with the understanding that the Napa Valley College has offered to cover the cost of the box, installation and the cost to operate the drop box for the first year the box is in operation.

Number: 38 Author: Public Hearing Subject: Comments Date: 11/04/19

Issue – Bob Van der Veld, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Napa Valley College

Although we have been advocating for a drop box at Napa Valley College, we were disappointed to see that a drop box for Napa Valley College is not in the current version of the Election Administration Plan. We continue to be willing to financially support the installation.

As alternatives you have suggested placing ballot drop box flags at the USPS mailbox on the campus and establishing a drive-through voting site, but this does not meet the intent of why we are asking for a drop box. At your visit at the College, you shared that if a ballot arrives via mail, you have no way to determine which mailbox the ballot came from. While we appreciated that you acknowledged our concerns by asking people to mark their envelopes with a sticker, it is an unnecessary added element – the VCA was designed to make voting easier, not more complicated. NVC is the largest gathering spot of potential youth voters in all of Napa County, identified as the 5th most popular local destination with 7,000 daily trips. Youth are significantly underrepresented in voting, and a College drop box will make a statement to our youth that voting is important and will serve as a reminder for youth to engage.

I appreciate that you have suggested a drive-through voting location on Election Day and the day before the election at the College's Napa campus – staffed by paid students. While we welcome this drive-through location, drive-through voting on Election Day will only reinforce the notion to vote only on Election Day rather than promote the "more ways, more days" cultural shift that we want to see through the VCA. However, if you choose to implement this option, it should be advertised as widely as other locations, and we will help you do so. I should also mention that student staffing can be difficult. My staff recruits student workers for Performing Arts Center events—box office, ushers and front of house coordinators, and we pay up to \$15.83 per hour, but have difficulty recruiting from the student body. Most of our students are working, some juggling multiple jobs with their schooling (a benefit from a tight labor market). You should also not that a different set of students would be needed between the primary and general election, as many of the March students will graduate in May.

Finally, I want to thank you for supporting this group's advocacy for additional vote drop boxes in the last election cycle. As you have noted, Napa County has been a statewide leader in adoption of drop boxes – and it worked to increase voter participation! We ask that you do the same thing in the upcoming election cycle with the addition of a drop box at the College's Napa campus.

Action & Response:

In lieu of the drive thru voting the Registrar of Voters will provide a drop box at the Napa Valley with the understanding that the Napa Valley College has offered to cover the cost of the box, installation and the cost to operate the drop box for the first year the box is in operation.

Number: 39 Author: Public Hearing Subject: Comments Date: 11/04/19

Issue – Dr. Carmen Velazquez, community member

Hello. My name is Dr. Carmen Velazquez and I live at 4484 Jefferson St.

As a resident of Northeast Napa, I strongly feel that a drop box is needed in my neighborhood, in efforts to increase voter turnout of my neighbors.

I recently learned that last year, the Voters Choice Napa committee used a citing tool created by UC Davis to determine drop box locations throughout Napa County. I was not surprised to learn that the citing tool showed a need for a drop box in my neighborhood.

My neighborhood scores directly between a medium to a high, as a suitable area for a drop box, because of the high percentage of voting age citizens in our neighborhood.

I do not feel that the current drop box or vote center locations make voting easier for people living in my area. In fact, I feel that the lack of accessibility has made voting strenuous for me and my neighbors, especially the senior population.

I am here today to strongly urge the Registrar of Voters to not ignore our neighborhood and to provide a drop box at either Napa Valley Unitarian or Presbyterian of the Redwoods.

Thank you for your time and for making an effort to listen to the community.

Action & Response:

John Tuteur – We are opening a Vote Center at Las Flores and the drop box on Solano was installed in November of 2018, to address the needs of North Napa.

Number: 40 Author: Public Hearing Subject: Comments Date: 11/04/19

Issue – Leon Garcia, mayor of American Canyon (from notes)

Update on drop box. He found a location on the east side by Walgreens, it fronts Broadway and is at a 4 way intersection. He has talked with the city manager and the police chief, it is a low problem area in terms of crime but they have agreed to increase patrols. The city will help with installation; will reach out closer to election. Site is very accessible located on a traffic parking island with two accessible pathways.

Action & Response:

We are finalizing the drop box location on the east side of American Canyon near Walgreens.

Number: 41 Author: Public Hearing Subject: Comments Date: 11/04/19

Issue – Esmeralda Gil, Puertas Abiertas

We continue to encourage prioritizing the recruitment of bilingual poll workers in coordination with community-based organizations. We appreciate that you are open to working with the VCN and other community groups in identifying bilingual assistance volunteers for Vote Centers where there is need—we look forward to you taking a lead in this effort and turning to us when there are gaps.

Action & Response:

John Tuteur – We look forward to continued support from community based organizations to address the need for more bilingual workers at the voter centers. Bilingual workers working at vote centers for just Election Day will receive a stipend of \$80/day; we will reach out to the VCN to accept the offer of bilingual support. We are also still recruiting for 22 Vote center clerks, if anyone has any friends or family members they should apply on the web, position will be open until January.

Number: 42	Author: Public Hearing	Subject: Comments	Date: 11/04/19
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Issue – Victor Hurtado, Disability Service and Legal Center/VCN (from notes)
He would like to stress RAVBM to let voters vote at home. Want more publicity and training on RAVBM in coordination with DSLC/VCN. Elections should go to senior centers and assisted living facilities. A toll free number for technical assistance for RAVBM should be added.

Action & Response:

Registrar of Voters will review how to include desired language in RAVBM materials. We would appreciate input on suggested locations to hold workshops.

Number: 43	Author: Public Hearing	Subject: Comments	Date: 11/04/19
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Issue – Michele Grupe, Cope Family Center/VCN
In a concerted effort to reach underrepresented voters, VCN agencies have provided and continue to provide a significant amount of in-kind support for voter education and outreach. During the 2018 VCA implementation, VCN agencies trained over 75 volunteers and staff from partner agencies on Voter’s Choice legislation, reached 12,521 people at 39 outreach events and through 1-on-1 visits and reached an audience of 13,209 through social media posts. As the Registrar continues to build and implement the outreach portion of the budget, we encourage you to continue closely coordinating with community-based organizations to ensure that we are not duplicating efforts and to contribute resources when possible.

Action & Response:

John Tuteur – Funds were available, in 2018 we got VCA funds & Gasser funds. We can help print materials and/or we can cover printing costs. Will have 2 separate mailings 1st in January to warn of ballots going out 2nd mailer 10 days before the election to let voters know they have their ballot, details for CVR voting.

Number: 44	Author: Public Hearing	Subject: Comments	Date: 11/04/19
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Issue – Dorothee Stangle, CLC (from notes)
My comment is about data, we need to accurately capture data & information to inform how they do outreach. Currently in EAP, an electronic format an index of voters who register & vote or update their registration, received and voted a provisional ballot or replacement ballot, voted a ballot using equipment at the Vote Center. Who uses machine vs who drops a ballot--unsure how data is captured at the vote center. Need ability to distinguish where ballots come in. refine data, didn’t capture data the right way state data see how other counties track. Mindy Romero met with VCN. We need to know why Napa is not capturing the same data.

Action & Response:

John Tuteur – We currently have an index but it does not capture all the information requested. We are working with our vendor to update it. We will reach out to other counties to see how they are tracking information. We will revise our procedure to capture ballots dropped at a drive through vs inside the vote center. There will be another VAAC & LAAC meeting before March, he will talk to VCN to set a schedule, will split VAAC & LAAC into separate meetings.

Number: 45	Author: CLC-VCN	Subject: Letter	Date: 11/14/19
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Issue – We recommend that the Registrar restructure data collection on the four methods of voting to capture accurately the use of the vote centers. This includes capturing data on, 1) Vote center vote in-person; 2) Vote center to drop off of vote by mail ballot; 3) Vote by mail at drop box; 4) Mailed ballot through US Postal Service.
In 2018, voters visiting vote centers were given vote by mail ballots and therefore their votes were counted as dropping off a ballot at a vote center although they may have actually voted in-person. Napa County was the only county out of the 5 initial VCA counties that did not accurately capture data at vote centers. Meaning that data sent to the Secretary of State’s office showed that only 42 people had used a vote-center for in-person voting. VCN feels that this also skews state-wide data on the VCA which could have potential policy and funding implications in the future.

Action & Response:

We currently have an index but it does not capture all the information requested. We are working with our vendor to update it. We will reach out to other counties to see how they are tracking information. We will revise our procedure to capture ballots dropped at a drive through vs inside the vote center.

At a local level, we can produce a report that would give the in-person voting data.

Issue – VCN recommends the addition of five drop boxes at the following locations, with the Napa Valley College Main Campus as top priority. With the low cost of drop boxes, \$1,480 per election cycle to maintain and service, and the increased use by voters, this is an efficient and cost-effective way to ensure that we optimize access to voting and we are strongly advocating for additional drop boxes throughout the County. In the November 2018 election, 31% of voters utilized drop boxes. As the Registrar has stated publicly, Napa County's implementation of the VCA was successful in part because of the placement and use of drop boxes across our county. Our recommendations include:

- Napa Valley College Main Campus –
- At a Church location either Napa Valley Unitarian or Presbyterian of the Redwoods
- American Canyon, east of Hwy 29 on American Canyon Road in front of Walgreens
- Lake Berryessa area at Turtle Rock Bar and Café
- Pope Valley at the Pope Valley Farm Center, 5800 Pope Valley/Chiles Road

Action & Response:

We will be adding a drop box to the Napa Valley College and in American Canyon, east of Hwy 29, at Walgreens. As the VCA progresses we will revisit additional locations.

Issue – The VCN applauds the efforts of the Registrar's Office in making voting more accessible to Spanish and Filipino/Tagalog speakers. Throughout the implementation of the VCA in 2018 and the EAP process in 2019, the Registrar worked to better ensure that language accessibility was prioritized. As acknowledged in the current EAP, VCN in requesting that the Registrar of Voters take the lead in developing strategies to address these needs at vote centers, in partnership with the VCN to ensure:

- More emphasis is placed on the recruitment of bilingual poll workers in coordination with community-based organizations.
- Translators are provided at all vote center locations where bilingual workers are not available.

We were pleased that our comments regarding badges for vote center workers identifying languages spoken has been addressed in the current version of the EAP.

Action & Response:

We look forward to continued support from community based organizations to address the need for more bilingual workers at the voter centers. Bilingual workers working at vote centers for just Election Day will receive a stipend of \$80/day; we will reach out to the VCN to accept the offer of bilingual support. We are also still recruiting for 22 Vote center clerks, if anyone has any friends or family members they should apply on the web, position will be open until January.

Issue – There was no usage of the Remote Access Vote By Mail Ballot (RAVBM) website in the 2018 election. Feedback from agencies working with people with disabilities who would benefit from this technology indicated that it is in part due to the fact that people were not aware of the system and/or how to use it. This should be an easy fix and VCN recommends that the Registrar of Voters provide:

- At least one workshop/training for voters with disabilities and agencies serving people with disabilities demonstrating the RAVBM system. We acknowledge that in the current version of the EAP that the Registrar has agreed to conduct at least one training in partnership with VCN.
- Direct coordination with local assisted living and senior centers for hosting RAVBM demonstrations.
- We know that the Registrar is currently reviewing how to incorporate VCN recommendations of written instructions about RAVBM in an effort to ensure that they are clear. We encourage the Registrar to share written and visual instructions with VCN partners for feedback prior to publishing.

As per feedback from the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting in American Canyon on September 25, 2019 we request that the Registrar work directly with the Napa Valley Transit Authority (NVTA) to coordinate information of specific services for voters with disabilities via Paratransit services.

VCN also recommends purchasing advertisement space on NVTA and specifically Paratransit services vehicles to advertise RAVBM.

Action & Response:

Registrar of Voters will review how to include desired language in RAVBM materials. We will explore the options for holding these workshops.

Issue – In an effort to make mailers more effective, VCN recommends that mailers be re-designed to make information easier to understand. Feedback from voters regarding current mailers indicates that print and images are sometimes difficult to read and that there is unused space that could be utilized to provide more information. VCN suggests that the Registrar of Voters invest resources in redesigning mailers. Members of the VCN have experience in marketing and outreach and would be happy to provide feedback prior to printing and mailing new design.

In anticipation of printing deadlines and to help defray costs, VCN has reviewed mailers from numerous other counties who have or will be implementing the VCA. We have included some examples from San Mateo County that we feel do a good job of clearly articulating the where and how of voting.

Action & Response:

The Election Division will be redesigning the mailers to make them more user-friendly.

Number: 50 Author: CLC-VCN Subject: Letter Date: 11/14/19

Issue – It is encouraging to see that the EAP now includes information on the cost of voter centers as well as additional narrative on the overall budget. We suggest that the drop box cost, including the cost of purchase, maintenance, service and storing are also published in the EAP in Annex X to make this information available to the public.

In a concerted effort to reach underrepresented voters, VCN partners have provided and continue to provide a significant amount of in-kind support for voter education and outreach. During the 2018 VCA implementation, VCN agencies trained over 75 volunteers and staff from partner agencies on Voter’s Choice legislation, reached 12,521 people at 39 outreach events and through 1-on-1 visits and reached an audience of 13,209 through social media posts. As the Registrar continues to build and implement the outreach portion of the budget, we hope that there will continue to be close coordinating with community-based organizations to ensure that we are not duplicating efforts and to contribute resources to agencies when possible.

Action & Response:

The Registrar of Voters will look into ways of capturing this information in the future.

The Registrar of Voters will coordinate outreach efforts with the CLC and the VCN.

Number: 51 Author: Paul Gridley Subject: Email Date: 11/13/19

Issue – Please put a ballot drop box on the Napa Valley College campus when the next election occurs. let’s make it easy for the students to exercise their right to vote!

Action & Response:

In lieu of the drive thru voting the Registrar of Voters will provide a drop box at the Napa Valley with the understanding that the Napa Valley College has offered to cover the cost of the box, installation and the cost to operate the drop box for the first year the box is in operation.

Number: 52 Author: Anna Chouteau Subject: Email Date: 10/23/19

Issue – I have been attending CLC meetings and learned how important it is to have a drop box at Napa Valley College. I am emailing to respectfully ask that Registrar of Voters install a voting drop box at Napa Valley College. Here the compelling reasons why:

- The Voters Choice Act was designed not only to make voting more convenient but also for better reaching our voters and underrepresented voters, which includes youth. In the 2018 general election, less than 32% of eligible youth voters (defined as people 18-24) in Napa County voted.
- In the 2018 general election, 31% of voters utilized drop boxes throughout the County. Through the successful work of our community-based organizations and nationwide research focusing on voter engagement, we know that people are more likely to participate in civic activities if the activities occur in their home communities and in location that they frequent and feel comfortable. The College is a highly visible, accessible, and heavily trafficked location.
- Over 40% of NVC students are Hispanic, making Napa Valley College officially recognized by the federal government as a Hispanic Serving Institution; the College is also “minority-majority” school, i.e. a majority of our students consider themselves to be in a minority demographic group.
- For all of the reasons above, the Napa County community is requesting a drop box at Napa Valley College. While we understand that there is a cost involved, according to the figures for maintaining and servicing a drop box provided by the Registrar, the cost is minimal when considering the return on investment of supporting and increasing the youth and minority vote in our County.
- In the current version of the Election Administration Plan, the Registrar proposed placing a flag at the USPS mailbox in order to remind students to send their ballots and also a student-run drive-through voting location on election day, but this raises concerns about the security of ballots as well as increasing postage costs for the county.

Action & Response:

In lieu of the drive thru voting the Registrar of Voters will provide a drop box at the Napa Valley with the understanding that the Napa Valley College has offered to cover the cost of the box, installation and the cost to operate the drop box for the first year the box is in operation.

Number: 53 Author: Laura C Arisman Subject: Email Date: 11/20/19

Issue – I’m writing you today to request a drop box be placed at Napa Valley College to increase participation in our democracy. Our democracy is stronger when more people vote, and making it more convenient for our students to vote will help them cultivate the habit of civic participation and strengthen our republic.

Less than 32% of eligible young voters participated in Napa County in 2018. We can do better than that. While there will be a slight cost involved, I know the return will be well worth it.

Action & Response:

In lieu of the drive thru voting the Registrar of Voters will provide a drop box at the Napa Valley with the understanding that the Napa Valley College has offered to cover the cost of the box, installation and the cost to operate the drop box for the first year the box is in operation.

Number: 54 Author: Luisa Heymann Subject: Email Date: 11//11/19

Issue – Civic engagement is good for our community and our country and I believe it is your duty as the Registrar of Voters to make it as easy as possible for all voters to cast their ballots.

I urge you to place a drop box at Napa Valley College.

Action & Response:

In lieu of the drive thru voting the Registrar of Voters will provide a drop box at the Napa Valley with the understanding that the Napa Valley College has offered to cover the cost of the box, installation and the cost to operate the drop box for the first year the box is in operation.

Number: 55 Author: Jack & Loriane Stuart Subject: Email Date: 11/11/19

Issue – I hope you will consider the addition of a dropbox at NV College for the reasons listed below:

- The Voters Choice Act was designed not only to make voting more convenient but also for better reaching new and underrepresented voters, which includes youth. In the 2018 general election, less than 32% of eligible youth voters (defined as people 18-24) in Napa County voted.
- In the 2018 general election, 31% of voters utilized drop boxes throughout the County. Through the successful work of our community-based organizations and nationwide research focusing on voter engagement, we know that people are more likely to participate in civic activities if the activities occur in their home communities and in a location that they frequent and feel comfortable. The College is a highly visible, accessible, and heavily trafficked location.
- Over 40% of NVC students are Hispanic, making Napa Valley College officially recognized by the federal government as a Hispanic Serving Institution; the College is also “minority-majority” school, i.e. a majority of the students consider themselves to be in a minority demographic group.
- For all of the reasons above, the Napa County community is requesting a drop box at Napa Valley College. While we understand that there is a cost involved, according to the figures for maintaining and servicing a drop box provided by the Registrar, the cost is minimal when considering the return on investment of supporting and increasing the youth and minority vote in our County.

Your consideration is appreciated!

Action & Response:

In lieu of the drive thru voting the Registrar of Voters will provide a drop box at the Napa Valley with the understanding that the Napa Valley College has offered to cover the cost of the box, installation and the cost to operate the drop box for the first year the box is in operation.

Number: 56 Author: Fred Nisen Subject: Letter Date: 11/04/19

Issue – Accessible Voting Information on the Website

The Voter’s Choice Act (VCA) requires: “A description of the accessible information that will be publicly available on the accessible Internet Web site of the county election official.” Elec. Code §4005(a)(10)(l)(i)(IV). The draft updated EAP, page 6, reads: “The Elections Division’s website, www.countyofnapa.org/elections, provides information and resources for voters with disabilities, including details on ICX – Accessible Units; the RAVBM [Remote Accessible Vote-by Mail] Accessible System; ADA Accessibility requirements for Vote Centers; and the VAAC. However, the Elections Division’s website, as of November 1, 2019, does not provide information for voters with disabilities on accessible voting. The Elections Division should update its website to include the information regarding accessible voting options for voters with disabilities that is listed in the draft updated EAP.

Action & Response:

The Registrar of Voters office is working on adding accessible resources to our website.

Number: 57 Author: Fred Nisen Subject: Letter Date: 11/04/19

Issue – Accessible Vote-by-Mail Outreach

The updated EAP needs to include a description of how media will be used to inform the public about the availability of an accessible vote-by-mail system. Elec. Code §4005(a)(10)(l)(i)(II). Currently, the draft updated EAP only includes information on using media to inform voters about the upcoming election and the toll-free hotline. The Elections Division should also incorporate accessible vote-by-mail outreach into the Voter Education and Outreach Plan, including a more detailed explanation of RAVBM, making it clear that the ballot can be downloaded and must be returned using a postage paid envelope which they must sign.

Action & Response:

The verbiage below was added to the EAP under the Voters with Disabilities sections. We will be adding samples to the EAP appendixes once they are created.

Details regarding this system will be included in the Local Voter Information Guide. A RAVBM/Language Preference postcard will also be included with all vote by mail ballots. This postcard will remind voters to retain their postage paid return envelope for returning the ballot.

Number: 58 Author: Fred Nisen Subject: Letter Date: 11/04/19

Issue – Mobile Vote Centers

The VCA requires counties to consider the need for a mobile vote center. Elec. Code § 4005(a)(10)(B)(VI)(xiv). The updated EAP should provide an analysis of whether mobile vote centers are needed in Napa County. Mobile vote centers might be necessary to provide meaningful access to in-person voting for some Napa County voters. Nevada County successfully set up a one-day voter center in a community building in an isolated small town in 2018. Napa County likely has similar communities that are a long drive or bus ride from a vote center. The County might also consider a mobile vote center in areas with high concentrations of voters with disabilities such as senior

centers.

Action & Response:

The Registrar of Voter will consider conducting an analysis on the need for a Mobile Vote Center for future election cycles. At this point we do not have the resources to implement a Mobile Vote Center.

Number: 59

Author:

Subject:

Date:

Issue –

Action & Response: