



**OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER**

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**Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)**

Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

Registrar of Voters Office (ROV)

Karie Lew, Disability Rights California

Kholoud Rashid, DRAIL

Blanca Candelario, West Modesto Community Collaborative

1) Introduction

*Attendees introduced themselves to the group.*

2) Office Updates

*ROV provided updates on upcoming Elections extra-help recruitments opening and the needs for bilingual poll workers in various languages.*

*ROV discussed the addition of new required languages including Chinese, Korean, and Tagalog. ROV and Kholoud discussed community outreach for language support and how they could assist.*

3) Member Updates

*Karie provided data from the Disability Rights California voting hotline and highlighted common issues voters face, including confusion about voting methods and accessibility barriers. Not county specific, but general statewide. More discussed in open discussion.*

*Blanca provided an update on the temporary location of the West Modesto Community Collaborative.*

*Kholoud shared details about upcoming events at DRAIL, including a disability awareness event for partner agencies and the launch of a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) group.*

4) Next Elections:

- Gubernatorial Primary Election - Tuesday, June 2, 2026
- Gubernatorial General Election – Tuesday, November 3, 2026

5) ASL Services for 2026 Elections

- Looking at options for 2026 Elections

*The group expressed the importance of continuing to engage with NorCal Center.*

*Kholoud stated she sent an email to Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) to attempt to connect further with ASL resources and recruitment to our VAAC. She will include ROV in future emails and is waiting for a response.*

*ROV discussed ongoing efforts to explore ASL options for upcoming elections with connectivity and budget considerations to be evaluated. They will be receiving a demonstration soon of the MVP system, a multilingual virtual system that includes ASL.*

*ROV provided updates on adding ASL and captions to videos already on the website, noting ongoing discussions with the county public information officer about implementing challenges.*

6) Vote Centers being used in 2026

- Will be requesting feedback on a couple sites at the April meeting

*ROV discussed the possibility of having to use a couple sites that may not be completely accessible due to no other options being available. If these sites are chosen, ROV will reach out to VAAC via email to discuss mitigation ideas and strategies. Karie suggested enhancing curbside voting option at those particular sites beyond what is already offered.*

*ROV noted a couple areas of the county where they are looking for vote centers still for June. The Self-Help Credit Union on Crowslanding was suggested as a location to reach out to.*

*Stanislaus reported that no disability-related accessibility issues were brought to their attention during the November Special Election. Karie inquired about the tracking of curbside voting usage. ROV noted no formal tracking is done but any requests are communicated by the vote centers. Kholoud suggested creating a sheet to track the usage of various services, including curbside voting, RAVBM, and mail-in ballots to support advocacy efforts.*

7) 2026 proposed meeting dates and times:

- January 7, 2026
- April 8, 2026
- July 22, 2026
- October 7, 2026

8) Open Discussion

*Karie shared data from Disability Rights California's voting hotline, highlighting that 57% of calls were from or on behalf of people with disabilities, and 40% related to disability-specific voting issues. She detailed common questions and challenges voters faced, including voting by mail, assistance with ballots, in-person voting logistics, and accessibility concerns. ROV and Kholoud discussed the efforts made by Stanislaus County to provide clear information to voters, acknowledging some disconnect despite thorough communication.*