



## **Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)**

### **Agenda**

**November 7, 2017**

**2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**City Hall, Room 305**

- I. Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail System
  - A. Representatives from Democracy Live will present their remote accessible vote-by-mail system.
  - B. Questions and answer period.

#### Notes:

1. The City cannot make changes to the Democracy Live system since the system has undergone testing and has been approved by the California Secretary of State's Office for use in California as the system is currently designed.
2. San Mateo selected a remote accessible vote-by-mail system from Democracy Live and voters are currently using the system.
3. VAAC to provide input and suggestions on how to inform people that this tool is available.

4. Department may need to include a notice on the application to receive a vote-by-mail ballot. These ballots will require the Department to determine voter intent and manually “remake” the voters’ cards onto new ballot cards that the voting system can process.
5. The Department will need to provide notice on the applications to receive a vote-by-mail ballot, such as permanent and one-time requests, that the Department also provides vote-by-mail ballots via the remote system.
6. Unlike all other returned vote-by-mail ballots mailed within the U.S. and for which the City pays for the return postage, the Department may not be able to pay return postage for ballots cast using the remote accessible system

## II. City Possibly Developing Open Source Voting System

- A. The City has contracted with a consultant, Slalom, to prepare a business case assessing the feasibility of the City’s options to develop a highly accessible, open source voting system
- B. Representatives from Slalom will attend this VAAC meeting.

- C. Slalom's representatives will provide an explanation of their processes to gather information and to provide the VAAC an update of their progress towards preparing the business case.
- III. Initiatives of the Mayor's Office on Disability and related information
- A. Co-chair Nicole Bohn will update the VAAC on initiatives and other information associated with her office's efforts.
  - B. Update on the next Mayor's Disability Council meetings.

## **Topics for Future Meetings**

- IV. Consider how VAAC can best support San Francisco voters and also identify the barriers/obstacles to accessible voting in San Francisco.
- A. The VAAC can consider evaluative tools to measure the level of access that new technologies and services provide voters.
  - B. Identify barriers to accessibility in relation to voting.
    - 1. Voting equipment
    - 2. Polling places

3. Vote-by-mail
  4. Remote Accessible Voting
  5. Election-related processes
- C. Identify content the Department can provide groups in line with their messages and purposes, and consider the possibility of developing election-related content for groups to use for non-election purposes.
  - D. Comment on the Department's efforts to set guidelines regarding accessible content posted on the Department's website and emailed in messages.
  - E. Consider election services and voting relative to San Francisco which has one of the highest population/concentration of seniors and people with disabilities and determine possible outcomes/issues.
- V. Consider how the VAAC can provide feedback to the Department.
    - A. Establish more frequent meetings, such as monthly or bi-weekly, of smaller numbers of VAAC members to discuss specific issues.
    - B. Determine the issues and concerns that the VAAC members consider important for the whole committee or a smaller group to consider.

- C. Determine the best methods that the VAAC can provide feedback to the Department on materials, services, and voting.

## VI. Rutgers Report

- A. The report highlight election-related issues for people that are present in all jurisdictions.

1. Transportation to polls.
2. Level of mobility
3. Status of mental capacity

- B. The report indicated that under 10% of voters register online whereas in SF the number is higher.

1. Do voters with disabilities in SF have more access to computers compared to a national average?
2. Do SF voters have greater skill sets for using computers, which increases their ability to interact with election processes such as online registration?

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