



Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)

Agenda

Thursday, March 24, 2022

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4651587042>

Meeting ID: 465 158 7042

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions

1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

II. Update on ballot drop-off boxes San Francisco installed before the February 2022 election.

- A. Based on VAAC's input, the opening to insert ballot envelopes was modified.
- B. Also based on VAAC's comments, braille placed above and below opening.
- C. San Francisco installed 34 ballot drop-off boxes and will seek to install 17 more in the next year.

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

III. Discussion on Senate Bill 1480

- A. Disability Rights California requested SB 1480 to be included in the VAAC agenda and also provided the attached fact sheet (Attachment 1) that explains the proposed legislation.
- B. **SB 1480** would allow people with a "qualifying disability" to return ballots electronically that were voted using a remote accessible vote-by-mail system.
 - 1. The legislation indicates that a "qualifying disability" means a disability that prevents a voter from reading, marking, holding, handling, or manipulating a ballot, including blindness, visual impairment, an

intellectual or developmental disability, or impairment in dexterity, such that the voter is unable to return a ballot privately and independently.”

C. SB 1480 would allow people with qualifying disabilities to return their ballots without having to physically sign the return envelopes.

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

IV. Information on April 19, 2022, Special General Election

A. All voters registered by April 4, 2022, will receive ballots in the mail.

B. After April 4, people may register in person at the City Hall Voting Center, or at a polling place on Election Day.

C. State elections law allows for the consolidation of voting precincts for local, special or consolidated elections. The Department will organize 183 polling places for the upcoming election, while ensuring that newly formed consolidated precincts are equitably located across the City.

D. Between March 21 and Election Day, any voter will be able to use the accessible vote-by-mail system (AVBM) with screen readable ballots compatible with personal devices at sfelections.org/access

E. Voter Information Pamphlets

1. Voters will begin receiving their voter information pamphlets during the week of March 14.
2. Large print information pamphlets currently available.
3. Audio versions of information pamphlets are currently available from the Department and the Library’s Talking Book and Braille Center.
4. Accessible digital versions of information pamphlet are currently available on the Department’s website: sfelections.org/vip.

F. Accessible In-person Voting

1. City Hall Voting Center opens March 21, each weekday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and is also open the two weekends before Election Day, April 9 and 10; April 16 and 17, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
2. Curbside voting available at the City Hall Voting Center and at polling places upon request.

3. Emergency ballots: The Department can deliver ballots to people who are unable to receive and vote their ballots by Election Day, including those in care facilities or who are homebound.

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

V. **Summary and Next Meeting**

A. Questions or comments regarding meeting topics

B. Suggestions for future agenda items.

C. Schedule for upcoming VAAC meetings.

1. Ongoing VAAC will meet nearly every other month.
2. Meetings will occur on Thursdays, 1:30 p.m.– 3:00 p.m.
3. The next VAAC meetings will occur on the following dates:
 - a. May 12, 2022
 - b. July 14, 2022
 - c. September 15, 2022
 - d. December 8, 2022