



**Voting Accessibility Committee (VAAC) Meeting Minutes**

**September 19, 2019**

**1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**City Hall, Room 305**

**Meeting Attendance:**

John Arntz, Director Department of Elections  
Jerry Wagoner, Dominion Voting Services  
Brendan Sebern, Dominion Voting Services  
Bill Hershon, Disability Rights California  
Derek Czajka  
Elizabeth Ann Dunlap  
Fiona Hinze, Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC)  
Fred Nisen, Disability Rights California  
Heather Kittel, CCSF - Mayor's Office on Disability  
Hillary Brown  
Jane Ferguson Flout, Catholic Charities San Francisco (via phone)  
Jane Glasby, SFPL - Library for the Blind and Print Disabled  
John Arntz, SF Dept. of Elections  
Sascha Bittner, State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Jonathan Aaberg, Department of Elections  
Mayank Patel, Department of Elections

**Meeting Minutes:**

Questions from VAAC

1. What are some of the ways in which this is different vs Democracy Live
  - a. John answered- they are very similar
2. Could a demo version of Democracy Live be provided
  - a. John answered- ballot still being developed, but perhaps
3. What accessibility guidelines were used when creating the software
  - a. Jerry answered - 2.0, maybe A level. State and Federal standard is 2.0 AA. New guidelines to move to eventually is 2.1 guidelines

4. What documents do you download
  - a. Jerry answered - Depends on the county process, but at least always a ballot. Usually instructions, envelope, polling place locations, etc.
5. What is the QR code document
  - a. Jerry answered - that is the marked ballot
6. RAVBM and UOCAVA self-declaration is really confusing?
  - a. Jerry answered - this feedback has been mentioned before and it's something we're going to work on
7. Has the ballot PDF been tested for screen reader accessibility
  - a. Jerry answered- let's try it now! Result: seemed to worked fine, no issues mentioned
8. Is it Mac, Tablet, phone friendly
  - a. Jerry answered- yes

#### Election Project Feedback

1. Language of the instructions was a little too technical
2. Add information at end of QR ballot for screen reader to read "end of ballot"
  - a. Ballot footer template for print content
3. In RCV review screen, warning message about unused ranks, can this message read the specific number of unused ranks
  - a. This would be changed in the localizations, not sure if there's backend functionality to do this though.
4. In Review screen, screen reader repeats header/contest header information every contest.
  - a. Look at SF Demo project, lots of high level election information that displays in each contest review title

#### RAVBM (Remote Access Vote By Mail) Software Feedback

1. Vote for ONE should be Radio buttons, more intuitive than check boxes. Vote for more than ONE could be checkboxes
  - a. DVS Engineering update: Radio buttons are non-compliant with EAC Federal law. Law states that the voter must make active deselection of choice, automatic deselection is not allowed. Radio button makes automatic deselection upon selecting a different choice.
2. For RCV contests, have more descriptive information regarding how many choices voter has. The intuition also is to go down the list of candidates top to bottom and number 1-9. Not clear that if the candidate at the bottom is your first choice, that would be labeled 1 etc.
3. Would be more intuitive to type in a number instead of clicking and adding a 1-9 label. Additionally, a combo box/drop down box list may be the optimal method
4. When downloading documents, it auto saves items to an unseen location. (Derek says this could be because he's using an unfamiliar laptop).
  - a. Preference is to automatically open PDF when saved instead of having to navigate to where it saved
5. Look at incorporating Accessibility 2.1 guidelines
6. Instead of downloading zip file, have UI to download and extract documents to external media

- a. This was mentioned as a reference to what the VAAC was familiar with and liked: National Library Service for the blind and print disabled - Library Congress - **BARD** and **BARD EXPRESS** cartridge is proprietary but can be used with flashdrives
7. Contrast needs to be adjusted for toolbar buttons, it's OK when you scroll over it but it's poor when page focus is not on it
8. Language Abbreviations in toolbar - have a whole button for each language. Abbreviations are confusing
  - a. Make language change buttons display in its language
    - i. DVS Engineering update: Language buttons can be changed in ICX localization file
9. Change text size options to be Small (add this option), Standard, Large. Or add a - and + option - this is preferred.
  - a. DVS Engineering update: Button labels are changeable in the admin site localizations
10. Change "View" button to "Contrast"
  - a. DVS Engineering update: Button labels are changeable in the admin site localizations
11. Have undervoted warning message appear while voting instead of at review screen.
12. Voter should not have to self-declare voter group
  - a. DVS Engineering update: This will be addressed in a future version of ICR
13. Derek voting on iPhone - iPhone didn't know what to do with .zip file. When he went back to download individual PDFs it went to voter login screen
14. Make auto download .zip optional, or disable completely. Disable might be preferable
  - a. DVS Engineering update: This will be addressed in a future version of ICR

Below is a table to list the priority level of the suggestions from the VAAC. Members of the VAAC are welcome to fill out this table and submit their responses. Priority Level 1 is highest priority and Level 11 is lowest priority.

<b>Recommendations from VAAC Members</b>	
Priority Level	Incorporate Accessibility 2.1 guidelines
Priority Level	Voter does not self-declare the voting group
Priority Level	Disable or make optional the zip file automatic download
Priority Level	Undervoted contest warning message should appear before continuing to next contest
Priority Level	Label text size options "Small", "Standard", and "Large". And/or have plus (+) and minus (-) magnification options
Priority Level	Change "View" drop-down label to "Contrast"
Priority Level	Language select options should be labeled as such in the respective language
Priority Level	Instead of language abbreviations, have whole language select buttons
Priority Level	In review screen for an RCV contest, the warning message regarding unused ranks should list the specific number of unused ranks
Priority Level	In an RCV contest, a combo box/drop-down box with list of ranks would be more intuitive than adding a number label to choices
Priority Level	Radio button for a vote for one contest is more intuitive than a checkbox