



Orange County Registrar of Voters

**COMMUNITY ELECTION WORKING GROUP
FEBRUARY 16, 2012
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA**

Neal Kelley, Registrar of Voters called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

Present:

CEW Vice Chair, Linda Andal, City Clerk, City of Anaheim
CEW Chair, Eugene Lee, Voting Rights Project Director, Asian Pacific American Legal Center
Carl Petersen for Sharie Apodaca, City Clerk, City of Irvine
Tim Cheng, Commissioner, Irvine Community Services
Norm Dickinson, Republican Party
Richard Ybarra, Executive Director, CREER Comunidad Y Familia
Nick Anas, Democratic Party
Gladys Negrete, Data Analyst, Civic Engagement, NALEO (Alternate)
Hillary Sklar, Attorney, Disability Rights California
Judy Barnes, Senior Community representative
Anna Jimenez Plank, Poll Worker
Wanda Shaffer, Representative, League of Women Voters, Orange County
Lyle Brakob, Veterans Affairs Representative
Steven Spillman, At-large representative
Brett Rowley, Community Outreach Manager, Registrar of Voters
Imelda Carrillo, Election Services Manager, Registrar of Voters
Beth Beckett, Community Engagement Manager, Registrar of Voters
Neal Kelley, Registrar of Voters

WELCOME / APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 13, 2011 CEW MINUTES / OTHER HOUSEKEEPING

Neal Kelley welcomed the group, followed by self-introductions.

Chair Eugene Lee called for review and approval of minutes from the October 13, 2011 meeting. Linda Andal made the MOTION to approve, which was seconded by Lyle Brakob and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Eugene Lee next discussed a review of membership assignments. He called attention to a list of the current members of the group and announced that the group would be re-doing the listed terms for an additional period of time. Neal Kelley stated that a few

seats were not listed: representatives for the senior community, Democratic Party, Republican Party, Alternative Parties, League of Women Voters, and Veterans Affairs. Chair Eugene Lee said we would take those up at the next meeting. Judy Barnes made the MOTION to approve the membership, which was seconded by Wanda Shaffer, and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. Chair Eugene Lee then suggested we discuss the nomination of the Chair and Vice Chair at the end of the meeting.

LANGUAGE SUPPORT / 2012 OUTREACH PLAN / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Neal Kelley explained that with in our last meeting we had discussed going over numbers for recruiting bilingual needs. He introduced Rosa Vizcarra, who represents the Latino community for the department.

Rosa Vizcarra presented the Registrar of Voters' work with the Latino community. She spoke about the increase in Spanish-language poll workers in recent years and the areas in the County that have the highest Latino populations. The Registrar of Voters targets polling places and precincts in the County by voter language requests and by a list from the Secretary of State. The department expects to need about 500 Spanish-language poll workers at polling places, with most of the needs in Central Orange County. Rosa Vizcarra explained that the department works with community organizations and marketing to enlist Spanish-language poll worker volunteers. Gladys Negrete asked where the department saw growth in the Latino community in South Orange County. Rosa Vizcarra responded that growth has occurred in San Juan Capistrano and Lake Forest. Nick Anas asked Rosa Vizcarra how many voters in Orange County are eligible for voter registration but have not registered. Rosa Vizcarra responded that she did not know.

Ben Hamatake led a discussion on the Registrar of Voters' work in the Orange County Vietnamese community. The Vietnamese community in Orange County is still growing but not growing at the same rate it was 20 years ago because of the changed political situation in Vietnam. One of notable characteristics of the County's Vietnamese community is that a larger number of this group vote by mail than other communities. The department does not have the required 2012 poll worker numbers yet, and bases its recruitment on language requests from voters and the Secretary of State list. The department is working with community groups in recruiting Vietnamese-speaking poll workers.

Jayoon Koo presented the Registrar of Voters' work with the County's Korean community. Koreans show the highest rate of growth among the Asian community in the County, with most of the Korean community in Irvine, Fullerton, Buena Park, Anaheim, and Garden Grove. In recent years, there has been a substantial increase in registered Korean voters. Neal Kelley asked why the increase occurred. Jayoon Koo explained that the Korean community, particularly Korean churches, have been involved in efforts to fight SB 48 and have had large voter registration drives in the community. The department expects to see another increase of Korean voter registrations in 2012, as Korean associations are going to be involved in trying to get a measure on the November ballot. Jayoon Koo explained that the department is expecting to require over 450 bilingual Korean-language poll workers this year and will use more active and innovative recruitment strategies to recruit these volunteers. Chair Eugene Lee thanked Jayoon Koo for the presentation and asked

what kind of data the Registrar of Voters uses to target Korean language assistance needs. Jayoon Koo responded that the department uses language requests and information from the Secretary of State. Wanda Shaffer asked for clarification on why there was a big increase in voter registrations in the Korean community in recent months. Jayoon Koo responded that the governor signed SB 48 into law, which requires that California public schools incorporate the contributions of gays and lesbians in their lessons. The County is home to more than 400 Korean churches, who have been actively working to register voters and get voters to sign a referendum on this law for the November ballot.

Delicia Hsu then presented an update on the County's Chinese voting community. The number of Chinese language requests has increased but the percentage of Chinese voters who need language assistance has not changed. The department takes differences in the place of birth of Chinese citizens into consideration when conducting voter outreach. The number of Chinese voters voting by mail is smaller than other language communities, but voting by mail is still a preferred option for many Chinese voters. The department has always had one of the highest voter to poll worker ratios for Chinese voters among the language communities, and the number of Chinese-language poll worker requirements has been increasing over the years. The office has always found it challenging to recruit poll workers for the June election, so it plans to begin recruitment early and find creative ways to expand its volunteer pool.

Neal Kelley then explained that he increased Orange County's in-language poll worker requirements 20 percent above Department of Justice and Secretary of State in 2006. This was done to show the Department of Justice that the department is being proactive in meeting requirements, and also provides padding when cancellations occur. Neal Kelley noted that registration drives like in the Korean community increases the number of in-language poll workers needed.

TOUR OF NEW WEBSITE

Neal Kelley previewed the new Registrar of Voters' website. He stated that the new website was created entirely in-house, which saved hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars but did require a lot of staff time to develop. He asked the group to take a look at the new site independently as well.

Norm Dickinson asked if on the new website, if someone knows the last name and four digits of a person's social security number, it would be possible to obtain the voter registration information of someone else. Neal Kelley responded that this would be possible, as the data is considered public information. Norm Dickinson asked if the media section would be open to everyone or just members of the media. Neal Kelley responded that the media section could be accessed by everyone.

Richard Ybarra asked if the language community information presented in the meeting would be available on the new website and if the findings hold true for other counties. Neal Kelley responded that the information would not be on the website but would be emailed to the group and that the information was likely similar to some counties, like San Diego, but was unique to Orange County because of the diversity between counties.

OVERVIEW OF ADA EQUIPMENT ORDER FOR 2012 / REVIEW OF UPCOMING ADA ISSUES / POLLING PLACE ASSESSMENT

Imelda Carrillo led a discussion on the purchase of new ADA equipment using funds from a HAVA grant last year. The department worked with Hillary Sklar and used feedback from her. The department set a goal in 2010 of re-assessing any polling places assessed prior to 2007 and is working on this. The department has cross-trained members within the department to train more staff to help with the surveying and plans on doing a large number of assessments in the summer of 2012. Imelda Carrillo highlighted the difficulties in assessing residences that are polling places and opened a discussion to the group about assessing residences, as some counties do not assess residences but it is a service the Registrar of Voters wants to provide to the community.

Neal Kelley stated that other counties do not assess residences sometimes out of liability concerns over residences which in some cases are difficult, if not impossible, to make compliant.

Hillary Sklar asked what the result is of not surveying residences. Imelda Carrillo responded that the department uses residences as a last polling place alternative. Hillary Sklar discussed voter accessibility needs with Imelda Carrillo. Hillary Sklar asked what are other options were available for voters needed accessibility and how many residences are not accessible. Imelda Carrillo stated that voters needing accessibility can vote by mail or use a drop box, which also might not be accessible. Neal Kelley stated that 16% of polling places in the County are residences. Imelda Carrillo explained that the office does not have difficulty in creating accessible parking areas but that driveway slopes at residences could be an issue. She said the office does not have exact numbers on how many residences might not be accessible.

Neal Kelley stated that the department does not have a desire to lean in the direction of not assessing, but wanted to discuss with the group. Hillary Sklar asked how much of a barrier not assessing these residences would be to the disabled community and what outreach would be done to let the disabled community know. Neal Kelley responded that the office is able to make most residences compliant based on the ADA tools purchased but in areas like South Orange County where residences have large slopes, it is a challenge. Imelda Carrillo stated that office has people offering their residences as polling places but often it's up on a hill and that would not be accessible. This is occurring in scattered areas and that surrounding counties like San Diego and Riverside have had big issues trying to make residences compliant.

Neal Kelley stated that the Registrar of Voters is committed to this and wants community feedback to make this right. Hillary Sklar thanked Neal and stated that in her experience, the assessment and ordering of equipment is only as good as the training poll worker receive on where the equipment is placed on Election Day. Neal Kelley responded that the department has addressed this by taking accessibility out of the poll workers' hands. Ramps, thresholds, etc. are installed by Registrar of Voters' staff. Hillary Sklar stated that it is known that the County instructs poll workers where to place cones, but that she finds cones are not placed where they should be and poll workers say they didn't really know

where to put it. She stated that this underscores that even with solid training, poll workers still don't always know but they want to know. Imelda Carrillo explained that the Inspectors receive ADA instructions on an envelope and Coordinators have responsibilities to check that polling places have set up things correctly. Hillary Sklar stated that Disability Rights has a hotline for voters as well to report accessibility problems at polling places. Neal Kelley explained that the office has an online tool that provides photos of locations for accessibility materials to the poll workers so they can see visually. The department also has an accessibility checklist for election supervisors.

Imelda Carrillo explained that the department's goal is to complete as many assessments as possible this year. The office is working on going paperless and using iPads for accessibility surveys, and is looking to implement an access plan on how to address accessibility, and what the office plans to do in a good faith effort to make sure sites are accessible and poll workers trained. Hillary Sklar expressed interest in learning more about this and thought the iPads were great tools for storing and accessing information. Imelda Carrillo said she would contact Hillary Sklar and others in community about this and that the department's surveyors find the iPads to be a big improvement over the old method.

Richard Ybarra asked if arrangements are made to have someone from inside walk out to driveways. Imelda Carrillo responded that every polling place has a DAU so they can bring the disabled access unit to the voter. Hillary Sklar explained that it takes disabled voters a lot of time and effort to get to a polling place, so anything we can do to make the process easy for all voters should be done.

PROPOSITION 14 / "TOP 2 PRIMARY" / PLANS FOR EDUCATION / OUTREACH / POTENTIAL VOTER ISSUES

Neal Kelley led a discussion on Proposition 14, which was passed in 2010 and splits the ways people are nominated into three categories: party nominated, non-partisan, and voter-nominated. Candidate filing opened on February 14 and will close March 9. Neal Kelley explained that signature checking has changed and that voters who sign petition forms for candidates for voter-nominated offices do not need to be in the same party. Sample ballots need to be modified because voters need to be informed of the changes, and declaration of candidacy has changed, with candidates now required to state their party preference. Candidates must be registered with the party of their preference at the time they file their declaration of candidacy, and anyone can sign signatures in lieu, not just members of the same party.

Neal Kelley explained that central committees, while still under the party nominated system, are now near the top of the ballot near President and Vice President instead of at the bottom of the ballot. The parties can provide a list of endorsed candidates, but they can no longer ask the office to print a contribution letter for parties in the sample ballot after a San Diego lawsuit caused this law to be repealed.

Neal Kelley presented a chart that showed what the voter nominated offices are. For party-nominated and non-partisan offices, nothing has changed and voters still need to be a member of the party to vote. For voter-nominated office, party doesn't matter and the top two vote-getters advance to the General Election, regardless of party. He explained that the Republican party has opted out of allowing no party preference voters to vote for party-

nominated offices in the Primary Election. This is difficult from an administrative standpoint because it creates confusion at the polls. Neal Kelley stated that the office is going to enhance its voter education and include more instructions on the ballot.

Neal Kelley discussed the Governor's signing of a law that puts all propositions on the November ballot, which will increase the length of the November ballot. Two propositions will be on the June ballot because they qualified before the law was signed.

Neal Kelley stated that the Registrar of Voters will put the new ballot languages on the website and explain what it means to voters. The office also will include instructions on the ballot directly.

Neal Kelley introduced the Registrar of Voters new 2012 brochure, which describes all the services the office offers. The brochure is translated in all 4 languages and will be sent to city clerks to display on counters as well as libraries and community facilities. Hillary Sklar asked if there is a plan dedicated to ADA outreach. Neal Kelley responded yes and directed Hillary Sklar to work with Beth Beckett, the Community Engagement Manager for the department.

Carl Petersen asked if Neal Kelley had any updates on online voter registration. Neal responded that the Governor signed a bill requiring online voter registration and that the office has been working with the Secretary of State on this. The office has worked through technical issues with the DMV and will be one of three counties participating as a bridge to the DMV. The biggest hurdle in online registration has been capturing signatures from the DMV, which will be applied to voter records online. The office needs signatures from the DMV to compare to vote by mail ballots. The DMV has a big challenge on their hands to make this happen, and the plan is for this to happen statewide in May or June. Neal Kelley explained that the Orange County Registrar of Voters took advantage of a state law that said offices that had an online voter registration form in place by December 31, 2011, they could use that form in 2012. The Registrar of Voters worked hard to get the form online by then so voters in Orange County can register online using their form.

Carl Peterson asked if there was anything cities can do or focus on when we do our outreach. Neal: Kelley responded that the Registrar of Voters will be meeting with city clerks in April and will talk about targeting efforts, including areas with strong needs for bilingual poll workers and areas with the highest cancellation rates. Wanda Shaffer asked if there would be education on the Top 2 Primary system. Neal Kelley responded that the office will be doing voter education on this issue.

Linda Andal stated she was not familiar with Anaheim polling places and asked the office to provide her with a list of those. Imelda Carrillo said the office would provide her that.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chair Eugene Lee opened the discussion for nominations for chair and vice chair. He stated that he has been happy to serve as chair for the past few years and was willing to do it again if people but also was content to step down and let someone else assume the position.

Linda Andal said that Chair Eugene Lee has proven to be a knowledgeable chair and has carried the group and done an exceptional job. Linda Andal made the MOTION to nominate Chair Eugene Lee as Chair and Wanda Shaffer seconded.

Steven Spillman requested a discussion on motions, as he was unfamiliar with responsibilities of chair and vice chair and wanted to know what the qualifications for the positions are. Chair Eugene Lee explained that there is nothing in the bylaws about qualifications other than being a member of the group, but that generally, the chair should have good knowledge of voting rights issues and elections. The responsibilities of the chair are to oversee meetings quarterly and the vice chair assumes this responsibility in the chair's absence. The chair also works with the Registrar of Voters staff to identify candidates for vacancies on the group.

Norm Dickinson asked if the bylaws were available. Neal Kelley responded that the bylaws are online at ocvote.com/cew.

Judy Barnes called to question. Chair Eugene Lee called for a vote, and the MOTION to approve Chair Eugene Lee was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Eugene Lee opened the group to discussion on selection of the vice chair. Linda Andal stated that Chair Eugene Lee is a great chair and she has appreciated serving the group, but is open to anyone who wants to serve as vice chair. Wanda Shaffer made the MOTION to nominate Linda Andal as vice chair, which was seconded by Richard Ybarra and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Neal Kelley congratulated the Chair and Vice Chair and thanked them for their involvement and commitment to their offices. He welcomed Norm Dickinson, Richard Ybarra, Tim Cheng, Nick Anas, and Steven Spillman. He reminded that the next meeting is scheduled for May 17th at 9:30 a.m.

TOUR / PREVIEW OF 2012 OUTDOOR / INDOOR DISPLAYS

Neal Kelley led a tour of the Registrar of Voters' new outreach and engagement materials before the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Beckett, acting as Secretary