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**LANGUAGE  
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

TULARE/AKERS  
PROFESSIONAL CENTER  
5300 W Tulare Ave, Ste 105  
Visalia, CA 93277  
(559) 839-2100

**MINUTES**

**Present: Members Woitalla, Mendez, Calonge  
and Paredes**

**Staff Present: Suzette Machado and Patricia Samaniego**

**Absent: Member Rodriguez**

**November 9, 2023**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Registrar of Voters Office, Conference Room  
5300 W. Tulare Ave, Suite 105  
Visalia, CA 93277**

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC  
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Committee at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for Committee consideration. Any person addressing the Committee will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes so that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak with a total of fifteen (15) minutes allotted for the Public Comment Period. At all times, state your name and address for the record.

1. Approve September 14, 2023 Minutes.

**The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.  
Woitalla-Paredes, 4-0 Approved September 14, 2023 Minutes.  
Resolution No. 2023-006**

2. Public Comments.

**None.**

3. Discuss Voter Outreach Turnout.

**Staff discussed the Outreach Events that took place from the end of September to end of October. The first event was a Pop-Up Event at Earlimart Rotary Park, prior to the day of the originally planned event in early September, Staff spoke with the President of the Rotary Club and she had originally planned more vendors to appear at the event. However,**

due to threats of a school shooting near the location of the Pop-Up Event, the President and Club decided to postpone the event and as a result many of the original vendors dropped out due to scheduling conflicts. Including the ROV's informational booth, there were seven other county offices present with booths of their own at the event. In the end, the office came away with two poll worker applications. The next event was the thirty-first annual Tulare County Job Fair at the Visalia Convention Center, we came away with fifteen poll worker applications. Porterville held Pioneer Days and staff received one application that day. The ROV informational booth was held in a solitary location and none of the neighboring vendors that were supposed to show up, did. It was easy for members of the public to bypass the booth and they did just that. The last event was the Springville Apple Festival, and zero applications were received that day. The Principal for Golden West High School contacted the ROV office to schedule a visit during the students' lunch time. However, there hasn't been any communication from the principal regarding the details of the visit since the last time that staff spoke with him. Member Weitalla recalled her time visiting the campus that the specific day she chose to visit, the school had provided pizza in the quad while military personnel were also present to recruit students, it had provided kids a chance to engage more with the booths. If there weren't other activities going on, she said that the kids would walk right past her. Vice Chair Paredes said that the College of the Sequoias held a job fair, and she would notify staff if there was another to take place in the future so that a booth could be present at the event. She was curious to know if there were other Outreach Events planned.

#### 4. Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act Toolkit.

Staff explained that this toolkit was provided during a California Students Vote Project meeting and that it could prove useful when providing outreach opportunities to students who in a position to enroll in college even though this toolkit has a college-aged demographic. The toolkit has an academic calendar that guides campuses on the holidays most relevant to voter registration. The office can use the calendar to post on social media for the younger demographic to pre-register or even a link to the SOS's website to register to vote. Staff have updated the Student Poll Worker Application and have drafted up a Parent Information Letter, to better explain the job description and duties that their child will take when submitting a poll worker application. It is a good way for students to add to their resume if there isn't any community service or job experience present. Chairperson Mendez and Vice Chairperson Paredes suggested that adding a student's poll work experience would add to a college application and not only to a job application. Mendez asked about staff connecting to the local civics teachers around town and Suzette said that the teachers themselves come and contact the office and wouldn't want to step on anyone's toes. In the past, the ROV office had been contacted by the schools themselves to visit, but when COVID-19 happened, a lot of things within the school had changed. Mendez suggested that if staff were ever invited as guest speakers that we could take photos of the ballot tabulator to show classes where the ballots are collected on Election Day. Suzette said other counties may have flow-charts that show the whole process, and we can borrow from there to fit our own needs when guest-speaking. Member Weitalla said that election information should be coming from the ROV office rather than third parties. Mendez stated that the collective feeling of the phrase, "My vote doesn't matter" counts most when in a local election because one vote truly can matter in a race. Weitalla and Calogne stated that the one vote does matter and depending on the conversations had with people, it may produce a ripple effect that can encourage one person and their circle of influence to register to vote.

#### 5. Ballot Language Requirements & Multi-Lingual Precincts.

Staff gathered a snippet of data from the Secretary of State's Website relating to Tulare County's ballot language requirements, if five percent of a given language is spoken in that county that, that language must be translated in the ballot as well. Spanish is a given in Tulare County, same goes for Tagalog, but the other languages that are being reported in CALSAWS are Burmese and Laotian as well. Staff was looking into the Visalia Laotian Buddhist Temple and on social media to find some folks that would like to contribute their time into translating these languages. Staff had difficulty locating a specific community, local to Tulare County for Burmese or finding the specific precinct where Burmese was being reported as a language that was being spoken. Suzette said that the data recorded on the precinct report from EIMS will change, this is from the data the office had last election because consolidation will run in December from the poll site precincts. First Baptist in Porterville stated that they were unavailable to use for the March 5, 2024, Election. The Tulare/Akers building will be the headquarters. Government Plaza's lobby is no longer an option, but the ballot drop box will be staying there. The main issue when using the lobby at Government Plaza was that people would barge through the voting area if they weren't planning on voting. Paredes asked about the mall, but staff said the Sequoia Mall is not an option either considering all the new shops that moved in.

6. Simpler English Wording on Ballots, AB1219.

The California Ballot Design Advisory Committee, AB1219 aims to make translations easier by simplifying language and having the ballots with the same size and same font. In instances where there isn't sufficient space for candidate's names, the name may be adjusted to a size close to the designated font size. Recommended text and ink coloring is also included in the specifications. Mendez asked if there was ever an instance in which there had been differing ink color about names, to which staff said they haven't witnessed it in their time with the office because everything is in black and white for neutrality's purpose. There isn't much change to be had with the Tulare ROV ballots because the county has been two-card ballots for some time but depending on the amount of information and contests in the November Election, there is speculative potential to have three-card ballot for that election alone with these new implementations.

7. Adjournment to January 11, 2024 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.