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COMMITTEE**

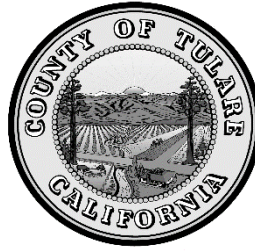
REBECCA A. DONABED  
Chairman

TINA SHILLINGLAW  
Vice Chairman

MICHAEL ESQUIBEL  
Member

RON SHILLINGLAW  
Member

ELLEN WOITALLA  
Member



SUZETTE MACHADO  
Elections Program Coordinator

PATRICIA SAMANIEGO  
Clerk

**VOTING ACCESSIBILITY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**MINUTES**

**Present: Members Donabed, T. Shillinglaw, R. Shillinglaw, Woitalla, and Esquibel**

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

**Absent: None**

**September 28, 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 July 27, 2023 Minutes.

**The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.  
Woitalla- Shillinglaw,4-0 Approved July 27, 2023 Minutes.  
Resolution No. 2023-011.**

2. Public Comments.

**Staff commented that when drafting the agenda, the meeting may be better arranged with the tour as the last item of the meeting until the next recess, the committee agreed it was best.**

3. Poll Worker Training suggestions with Resources for Independence Central Valley.

**Chairman Donabed works as the Community Organizer for Resources for Independence Central Valley. Staff reached out to Sarah Harris, Donabed's boss, about the kind of training she would like the poll workers to have when assisting disabled folks on Election Day. Basic Disability Etiquette is what she had in mind. The ROV office offers curb-side voting, and the Ballot Marking Device to help disabled folks vote as an accessibility aid. Sarah would like to see a regular ballot be offered, offering all voting options to all people, that RAVBM (Remote Accessible Vote- By-Mail) be offered as well. RAVBM is not to confused with voting through the internet. Per the California Secretary of State's Website, people can download their own ballot and use their own personal assistive device to make their preferred choice and return it to their own county**

elections office. Woitalla offered a resource as an extension as an accessibility tool: Voter'sEdge.org. The website publishes candidate statements and can be used with a text-to-voice application for all elections. Once on the website, a voter can enter their street address and populate a personalized ballot to keep track of choices and use them to vote on Election Day. Staff do not know when the training will be fleshed out. Donabed said she and ROV staff will talk more once we are closer to Election Day. The new building affords staff flexibility when determining the training dates because the office has its own reserved training room. Shillinglaw has a friend that has used the BMD in elections, she wasn't sure if when he used the device if it was the machine or user error. Clerks are asked to stay nearby when voters use the BMD if there are any issues. Voters that use the BMD to vote may have different needs, may need the volume low or highest depending on hearing ability. It was suggested that Clerks monitor volume level in between voters.

4. Poll Sites surveyed and Poll Sites to be surveyed.

A. Parkside Chapel

Staff did not find any accessibility issues present during the survey but did notice that the van and car accessible car accessible parking didn't have the necessary ISA signs. The poll site entrance and the main voting area (fellowship room) are separated from one another so directional signage is needed to guide voters. There isn't any bus stop nearby, nor one that would be considered accessible because the area surrounding is a dirt road. The nearest bus stop is beside CalFire, the area is wide but not an accessible route. All accessible parking is level and non-sloped. The door to the voting area is too heavy and it is a lever, the door must be propped open on Election Day. The door is wide enough for anyone using a wheelchair to use. Inside the voting area, near the door there is a projector/tv that can't be moved, we will use cones to block off the path of travel near the projector.

B. Doe Complex, Office of Education.

No accessibility issues present at the survey, the main voting area is large and spacious. The doors to the voting area will be propped open on Election Day. There is a bus stop near Doe Avenue with a paved sidewalk that happens to be further away from the busy traffic. All accessible parking slopes were within normal range, under 2.0 slope.

Member Esquibel asked about using St. Charles as a potential poll site, but Suzette said that the church was using their hall for their parishioners.

5. Bylaws and suggested amendments update.

Regarding the previous meeting on July 27, 2023, the updated meeting place with regards to the Bylaws has been approved. Removal of closed sessions and allowance of teleconferencing have not been approved for amendment of the Bylaws. Donabed had a question regarding an act passed, but the Bylaws are approved by the Board of Supervisors, the LAAC and VAAC follow what has been outlined by the Board.

6. Request items for future agendas.

Donabed proposed a possible meeting with a transit provider, Suzette asked if it would help because she would like to know how and why bus stops are located and where the notifications of the signal lights are located. T. Shillinglaw said that bus stops are not marked with low visibility in mind. Some bus stops have a small shelter, but aside from that, there aren't other obvious indicators for bus stops. Shillinglaw said that when she was growing up in San Francisco, there was yellow-orange numbering that informed riders what buses were stopping at that bus stop. Esquibel said that the Visalia Transit Center likes riders to use the app to search bus routes.

7. New Office Tour.
8. Adjournment to January 25, 2024 meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:01 A.M**