

Election Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes - April 11, 2024

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Amador at 6 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carol Hadley.
- II. Committee Members Present: Chairman Tony Amador, Vice Chair David Cushman, Christian Santos, Carol Hadley, Janese Vermuelen, Supervisor Steve Ding.
- III. Christian made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, motion was seconded by Janese. The motion was approved unanimously.
- IV. Consent Items
 - A. The Committee discussed the EAC Amended Plan for Formation.
 1. It was clarified that members from even-numbered districts serve extended terms.
- V. Presentations/Reports
 - A. Holly Moore, San Joaquin County GOP Election Integrity Officer, presented a report on drop boxes which was received by the Committee
 1. Primary points of presentation:
 - a) Concerns about the prohibitive cost for the drop boxes
 - b) Many more voters mailed in their ballots via USPS as opposed to using drop boxes, questioning need for more drop boxes throughout the county than required
 - c) Some drop boxes had the wrong address publicized
 - d) One drop box was vandalized plus two of the cameras monitoring the drop boxes were vandalized. In addition, the live stream of the cameras monitoring the drop boxes failed.
 - e) Concerns about trafficked ballots or fake ballots being deposited inside the boxes, main concern is there not same legal penalty for dropping trafficked ballots inside drop boxes as opposed to sending them in the mail
 - f) Concerns about some drop boxes being filled far over the known capacity of the drop box
 - g) Potential solutions related to drop box effectiveness and security:
 - (1) Only install minimum number of drop boxes as required by law

- (2) Drop boxes are not required to open 24 hours per day, possibly only have them open during business hours
- (3) Personally staff each drop box
- (4) Place drop boxes in secure locations such as police and fire stations
- (5) People who retrieve ballots must be from different political parties

2. The following comments were made by Committee members:

- a) Supervisor Ding: The EAC is intended to be an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors. He would like to see comments that are more productive, and would like to see proactive recommendations from the EAC.
- b) Carol: Would like to see bigger drop boxes.
- c) Christian: Focus on drop box security, asked about which drop boxes were vandalized and how the camera feed on the boxes failed.

3. The ROV will at the next meeting have comments/response to the presentation.

B. Melanie Knott gave a report on polling locations.

1. She believed the training for poll workers was insufficient and lacking.
2. The assigned devices weren't working at the polling place.
3. Her assigned polling place opened at 8:20, an hour and twenty minutes late.
4. It was dark by 6 PM and there was not enough light at the polling place.
5. The polling inspector wanted to close early.
6. She encountered voters whose registered party was changed without their knowledge.

VI. Several members of the audience participated in public comment.

VII. ROV Comments

A. Working Group Topics

1. Election officer training
2. Community outreach

VIII. Committee Comments

A. Supervisor Ding: Would like to see research from David Robb on fraudulent voters in the county. Also questioned what is the exact process when a voter enters a polling place to vote, they are supposed to be asked their name and address.

- B. Chairman Amador: Thank you to County Counsel for advice regarding email that was sent to committee members.
- IX. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2024.
- X. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.