

Santa Cruz County

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

(Excerpts from Secretary of State Guidelines, 2010)

Pursuant to the Secretary of State Guidelines, each County Clerk or Registrar of Voters shall establish a Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC).

Committee Functions:

- a. Assisting and advising county elections officials in outreach programs to organizations of elderly individuals and people with disabilities.
- b. Advising county elections officials on the placement of voting equipment, recognition of barriers to participation by elderly voters and voters with disabilities, and mechanisms to eliminate or mitigate the impact of these barriers to accessibility.
- c. Assisting county elections officials in surveying polling place accessibility in compliance with these guidelines.
- d. Evaluating an inaccessible polling place or voting area to:
 - i. Determine that an inaccessible polling place, with the use of temporary modifying equipment or measures, can be modified to permit its use by elderly voters and voters with disabilities.
 - ii. Determine that the polling place is not accessible, and cannot be modified, regardless of the application of temporary equipment or measures.
- e. Assisting and advising county elections officials in training of precinct workers relative to accessibility of elderly voters or precinct officials with disabilities.
- f. Assisting in the recruitment of elderly voters or precinct officials with disabilities.
- g. Undertaking other activities relative to accessibility of the voting process.

Committee Composition:

- 1. Committees in counties with as many as 50,000 registered voters shall have a minimum of 3 members.

2. Committees in counties with more than 50,000 and as many as 500,000 registered voters shall have a minimum of 5 members.
3. Committees in counties with more than 500,000 and as many as 1,000,000 registered voters shall have a minimum of 7 members.
4. Committees in counties with more than 1,000,000 registered voters shall have a minimum of 9 members.
5. Existing county boards or committees that meet the representational requirements of (1), (2), (3) or (4) above, as appropriate, may assume the functions of the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Inaccessible Sites:

When an accessible polling place cannot be located, county elections officials may attempt to modify an inaccessible polling site for use on Election Day by applying temporary measures to provide accessible features or to minimize physical barriers at that polling place. Equipment or measures used to modify areas of a polling place may be placed at arrival points, on the paths of travel, at entryways, or within a voting area.