



Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711
commissions@santacruzcounty.us
www.scccod.net

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

DATE: Thursday May 12, 2022
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM

IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF AB 361 AND CAL. GOV. CODE 54953, THIS WILL BE A REMOTE MEETING. NO PHYSICAL LOCATION WILL BE AVAILABLE, BUT ACCESS TO THE MEETING AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT WILL BE PROVIDED.

VIDEO CONFERENCE INFORMATION

TO JOIN BY VIDEO: <https://zoom.us/join>

OR TO JOIN BY PHONE: +1 (669) 219-2599 (dial *6 to mute/unmute, dial *9 to raise your hand)

Meeting ID: 495-687-4858

Passcode: 192244

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Approve *April 14, 2022 Minutes*
5. Public Comment: *Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed five minutes on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission.*
6. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:
 - 6.1. Voting Center Transition Update – Tricia Webber (*Santa Cruz County Clerk*)
 - 6.2. Consider Assembly Bill 361 Statement of Findings
7. Commission Reports
 - 7.1. Cabrillo Accessibility Support Center Report
 - 7.2. History Report
 - 7.2.1. Commission History Project
8. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports
 - 8.1. Recreation Subcommittee
 - 8.1.1. Adaptive Swim Program Report
9. Staff Report
10. Emerging Matters
11. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, June 9, 2022 from 12:30 – 2:00 PM

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact 454-2772 or TDD/711 at least 72 hours in advance to make arrangements.



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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, April 14, 2022
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Remote Meeting
PRESENT: Stacie Grijalva (2nd District), Fay Levinson (2nd District), Becky Taylor (3rd District), Brenda Gutierrez Baeza (Vice Chair - 4th District), Michael Leimbach (4th District), Lynn Stipes (5th District), David Molina (Chair - 5th District)
EXCUSED: John Daugherty (1st District), Richard Gubash (3rd District)
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Manager)
GUESTS: 1 member of the public were present.

1. Call to Order
Meeting convened at 12:32 PM.
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Approve March 10, 2022 Minutes
Motion to Approve Minutes
Motion/Second: Taylor/Stipes
Motion passed unanimously.
5. Public Comment:
Stipes will invite the County Clerk's office to present on the new voting center transition during the May meeting.
6. New/Continuing Business:
 - 6.1. Election of Officers
Motion to re-elect Chair Molina and Vice Chair Gutierrez-Baeza.
Motion/Second: Stipes/Grijalva
Motion passed unanimously.
 - 6.2. Assembly Bill 361 Statement of Findings
Commission considered whether adopt a statement of findings authorizing them to hold their next meeting remotely under the provisions of Assembly Bill 361.
Motion to approve statement of findings authorizing the Commission to hold their next meeting remotely if allowable under the provisions of AB 361
Motion/Second: Molina/Gutierrez Baeza
Motion passed unanimously.

7. Commission Reports:
 - 7.1. Cabrillo Accessibility Support Center Advisory Committee Report: No Report
 - 7.2. History Report: No Report
 - 7.2.1. Commission History Project: No Report
 - 7.3. Legislation Report:

Commission established the Ad Hoc Legislation Subcommittee to review and prioritize 2022 State and Federal bills that would impact the disabilities community as identified by the California Senior Legislature (CSL) and Disability Rights California (DRC). Molina appointed himself, Taylor and Grijalva to the subcommittee. They will identify the five most locally relevant and important bills for consideration at the next meeting.
8. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Updates:
 - 8.1. Recreation Subcommittee

Gutierrez Baeza summarized upcoming activities including a wheelchair dance, a wheelchair basketball demo and barbeque, and a screening of Crip Camp. Daugherty and Gutierrez Baeza are both participating as panelists for the screening.

Motion to formally support the Crip Camp screening and the Shared Adventures annual day at the beach with community outreach.

Motion/Second: Molina/Taylor

Motional passed unanimously.

 - 8.1.1. Adaptive Swim Program Report: No Report
9. Staff Report

Staff reported the *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Employee Survey* has been completed and data analysis is underway. Aggregate results will be shared at a future meeting.
10. Emerging Matters:

Levinson advised the Commission that a member of the public had concerns about Paracruz. Levinson was encouraged to reach out to Daugherty for some background and refer the public to the Commission email address or the next meeting.
11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:22 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*



What is the Voter's Choice Act?

The Voter's Choice Act (VCA) was enacted in 2016 and has been successfully implemented in many California Counties. VCA offers voters more ways, and more days to vote.

What changes under the Voter's Choice Act?

- ✓ Every active registered voter will be mailed a ballot 29 days before Election Day
- ✓ Voters can go to any of the Voter Service Centers (VSCs) in Santa Cruz County
- ✓ 2 VSCs will be open for 29 days, including Election Day
- ✓ 5 VSCs will be open 11 days, including Election Day
- ✓ 13 additional VSCs will be open for 4 days, including Election Day
- ✓ 17 Drop Boxes will be available for 29 days, including Election Day

What is a Voter Service Center?

VSCs offer a full-service voting experience:

- ✓ Vote using an accessible ballot marking device
- ✓ Receive voting assistance
- ✓ Register to vote or update your registration and vote on the same day
- ✓ Request a replacement ballot

Election Administration Plan Implementation Input:

We are looking for public input on the upcoming Draft Election Administration Plan (EAP) from

- ✓ interested residents
- ✓ representatives from the disability community
- ✓ representatives from the language community
- ✓ community organizations providing services to individuals with disabilities and language needs

Election Administration Plan Consultation Meetings:

Your input is needed to help develop the EAP, please attend:

- ✓ [Monday, April 18, 2022](#), 5:30pm to 7:30pm or
- ✓ [Tuesday, April 19, 2022](#), 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Attend in person at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, 5th floor, Santa Cruz or online.

The meeting links are posted on www.votescount.us, or click the dates above for meeting information.



Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections

701 Ocean St., Room 310

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

- 831-454-2060 or 866-282-5900: toll-free
- TDD: 711 FAX: 831-454-2445
- info@votescount.us www.votescount.us



¿Qué es la Ley de Opción del Votante?

La Ley de Opción del Votante (VCA) se promulgó en 2016 y se ha implementado con éxito en muchos condados de California. VCA ofrece a los votantes más formas y más días para votar.

¿Qué cambia bajo la Ley de Opción del Votante?

- ✓ A cada votante registrado activo se le enviará una boleta por correo 29 días antes del día de las elecciones.
- ✓ Los votantes pueden ir a cualquiera de los Centros de Servicio al Votante (VSC) en el Condado de Santa Cruz
- ✓ 2 VSC estarán abiertos durante 29 días, incluyendo el día de las elecciones
- ✓ 5 VSC estarán abiertos 11 días, incluyendo el día de las elecciones
- ✓ 13 VSC adicionales estarán abiertos durante 4 días, incluyendo el día de las elecciones
- ✓ 17 buzones estarán disponibles durante 29 días, incluyendo el día de las elecciones

¿Qué es un Centro de Servicio al Votante?

Los VSC ofrecen una experiencia de votación de servicio completo:

- ✓ Vote usando un dispositivo de marcado de boleta accesible
- ✓ Recibir asistencia para votar
- ✓ Regístrese para votar o actualice su registro y vote el mismo día
- ✓ Solicitar una boleta de reemplazo

Aporte para la implementación del plan de administración electoral:

Estamos buscando la opinión pública sobre el próximo Borrador del Plan de Administración Electoral (EAP) de

- ✓ residentes interesados
- ✓ representantes de la comunidad de discapacitados
- ✓ representantes de la comunidad lingüística
- ✓ organizaciones comunitarias que brindan servicios a personas con discapacidades y necesidades lingüísticas

Reuniones de Consulta del Plan de Administración Electoral:

Su aporte es necesario para ayudar a desarrollar el EAP, por favor asista:

- ✓ [Lunes 18 de abril de 2022](#), de 5:30pm a 7:30pm o
- ✓ [Martes 19 de abril de 2022](#), de 2:00pm a 4:00pm

Asista en persona a las cámaras de la Junta de Supervisores del Condado de Santa Cruz, 701 Ocean Street, 5to piso, Santa Cruz o en línea. Los enlaces de la reunión se publican en www.votescount.us.



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Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections

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- 831-454-2060 o 866-282-5900: llamada gratuita
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Services for Voters with Disabilities

§4005(a)(10)(I)(vi)(X)

The Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department is committed to supporting voters with disabilities throughout the transition to the vote center model. The County Clerk/Elections office will expand and update services for voters with disabilities through a collaborative process of community and advisory committee input and by using an updated comprehensive accessibility survey.

The County Clerk/Elections office supports voters with disabilities by:

- Ensuring all vote centers meet accessibility requirements
- Using ballot marking devices with current accessibility supported technology
- Providing the ability to cast a ballot independently from home through the county's remote accessible vote by mail (RAVBM) system
- Providing audio and large print versions of voting materials

Updated Accessibility Survey

§4005(a)(4)(C)

To comply with accessibility requirements, the Secretary of State Accessibility Checklist was reviewed to ensure the existing Voting Location Accessibility Survey was current and correct. The Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department survey contained all the current codes and regulations. Items that are included in the survey are paths of travel from public transportation to all entrances to the voting location, accessible parking spaces, thresholds, and various types of ramps.

Information for Services for Voters with Disabilities included in County Voter Information Guide and VBM Instructions

§4005(a)(8)(B)(i)(IV)

The Voter Information Guide will include information on how voters with disabilities can request assistance, Disability Rights California's Voting Hotline phone number, and how to contact the County Clerk/Elections office for any general questions. Additionally, the guide will specify that a voter unable to mark a ballot may bring up to two individuals to assist with voting. The guide will also include a include information for voters to request a remote accessible vote by mail ballot (RAVBM).

Accessible Information Posted to Website

§4005(a)(10)(I)(i)(IV), §4005(a)(8)(B)(ii)

The County Clerk/Elections website provides information to all voters in an accessible format. Special attention has been given to the design of the website to facilitate compatibility with screen readers and easy navigation.

The website provides voters with information relating to the election process, registering to vote, VCA legislation, and the Election Administration Plan (EAP). The website also has a dedicated [Accessible voting](#) webpage that will provide information about services available to voters with disabilities, including:

- Vote center and ballot drop box accessibility
- Ballot marking device description and instructions
- Resources for voters with disabilities
- Requesting a remote accessible vote by mail ballot ([RAVBM](#))

The website will include information on the types of services available to voters with disabilities, what services can be accessed at vote centers, and more. It will also include a list of vote centers and ballot drop boxes in an accessible format.

How a Voter with Disabilities may request a Mail Ballot, RAVBM, or Replacement Ballot

§4005(a)(5), §4005(a)(10)(I)(ii)

With the move to vote centers, a person with a disability can request a mail ballot, RAVBM, or replacement ballot via the website, through email, over the phone, in written form, or in person at the County Clerk/Elections office. In addition to these options, voters will also be able to request a replacement ballot and vote in- person at any vote center.

Remote Accessible Vote-By-Mail (RAVBM)

§4005(a)(8)(B)(i)(IV)

Santa Cruz County registered voters may request a downloadable ballot by contacting the County Clerk/Elections office. The voter will receive an access code used to connect to the remote accessible vote-by-mail (RAVBM) system. RAVBM provides voters with disabilities the ability to request access to a mail ballot electronically. The ballot can be downloaded to the voter's computer, marked using the voter's own assistive technology and then printed. Instructions are provided in the RAVBM system.

As with any mail ballot, RAVBM ballots must be sealed inside a return envelope as provided in the system's instructions, signed and returned by mail or at any vote center or official ballot drop box location.

Return instructions are also available in the voter information guide sent to every voter's mailing or email address.

Type and Number of Accessible Ballot Marking Devices

§4005(a)(2)(B), §4005(a)(4)(D), §4005(a)(10)(I)(vi)(X)

All Santa Cruz County vote centers will be equipped with a minimum of four fully accessible ballot marking devices and may expand the number of devices dependent on the voting room size and voter needs. All voters are offered the use of these accessible ballot marking devices.

A voter can mark their ballot using the tablet display, audio tactile device, or their own assistive technology. The ballot marking devices provide voters with disabilities an autonomous voting experience. Ballot marking devices will be arranged to allow all voters the opportunity to cast their ballot privately and independently.

Type and Number of Reasonable Modifications at Vote Centers

§4005(a)(6)(D), §4005(a)(10)(I)(vi)(X)

There are multiple types of reasonable modifications that will be offered inside vote centers. A minimum standard of four accessible ballot marking devices, and physical modifications will be in place to support voters with disabilities.

Magnifiers and signature guides are available and prominently displayed at each check-in station. Chairs will be available if needed at check-in stations and at the accessible voting units. If a voter needs additional assistance, vote center officers will be available to assist a voter as a visual guide through the voting room, or to read out any information they may not be able to see.

In addition to the modifications mentioned above, each vote center will be surveyed for accessibility. If needed, facilities may be provided with threshold ramps for short rises to enter rooms, cones to identify hazards, and mats to cover slipping hazards. Most facilities will be asked to leave doors to the voting room open for accessibility.

Each vote center will have election officers in the parking lot to greet voters, answer questions, have a secure ballot drop box and to be available if a voter requests curbside voting.

Mobile Voting

The County Clerk/Elections office will continue to provide mobile voting with the VoteMobile to bring voting to voters in unique locations and geographic areas where voters might otherwise have limited access to in-person voting options. The VoteMobile's locations will be posted on the County Clerk/Elections [website](#) by May 9.

The County Clerk/Elections office is also researching the potential of a second VoteMobile as well as "pop up" voting locations.

Toll-Free Voter Phone Line

§4005(a)(10)(I)(vii)

The public will be provided a toll-free voter phone number to direct voters to the accessibility features in order to ask questions and receive voting and election-related information. The toll-free phone number will be published on the County Clerk/Elections Department website and provided in media outreach and direct voter contact information including the Voter Information Guide.

Voters who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-disabled may use the California Relay Service (CRS) by dialing 711 to use the telephone system via a text telephone (TTY) or other device to call the County Clerk/Elections office toll-free voter phone number. CRS supports the following modes of communication: TTY, VCO, 2LVCO, HCO, STS, VASTS, ASCII, or Voice.

Language Assistance Services

The County Clerk/Elections office provides comprehensive language assistance services to voters. From having dedicated bilingual staff prepare culturally appropriate translations and maintaining an event calendar, the Registrar's office is committed to providing opportunities for language communities to learn about the transition vote centers.

The County Clerk/Elections office has full-time bilingual employees for each of the county's state covered languages and during each countywide election cycle we make effort to recruit bilingual election officers.

Translated Reference Ballots and Language Assistance

§13400

Per California Elections Code §14201, the County Clerk/Elections office is required to provide translated reference ballots in Spanish for specific precincts and information indicating that



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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES' FINDINGS PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361 AUTHORIZING TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUING COVID-19 PANDEMIC STATE OF EMERGENCY AND HEALTH OFFICER RECOMMENDATION FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

WHEREAS, The Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities is a legislative body under the Brown Act as defined under Cal. Gov. Code section 54952(b) and Santa Cruz County Code Section 2.38.110; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 361 ("AB 361"), urgency legislation effective immediately, that amended Government Code section 54953 to permit legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act to continue to meet under modified teleconferencing rules provided that they comply with specific requirements set forth in the statute; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to AB 361 and Cal. Gov. Code section 54953(e)(1)(A), a legislative body may meet under the modified teleconferencing rules during a proclaimed state of emergency, and where local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and which remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2021, Santa Cruz County Public Health Officer Dr. Gail Newel strongly recommended that legislative bodies in Santa Cruz County continue to engage in physical/social distancing by meeting via teleconference as allowed by AB 361 and confirmed that she will regularly review and reconsider this recommendation and notify the public when it is no longer recommended; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to AB 361 and Cal. Gov. Code section 54953(e)(3), within 30 days of the date the legislative body first holding a teleconferenced meeting under the modified rules, and every 30 days thereafter, a legislative body can continue to hold such teleconference meetings provided it has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and determined either that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person or that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2022, The Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities held a teleconference meeting under AB 361; and

WHEREAS, this Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities has reconsidered the circumstances of the current state of emergency and finds that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to directly impact the ability of members of the public to participate safely in person and further finds that the Santa Cruz County Public Health Officer continues to recommend measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health and safety, and due to the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities deems it necessary to utilize the modified teleconferencing rules set forth in AB 361;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities makes the following findings by a majority vote:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct, and adopted as findings of the Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities.

Section 2. Effective immediately, and for the next 30 days, the Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities will meet via teleconference as authorized under AB 361 and Government Code section 54953(e)(3).

Section 3. No later than thirty (30) days from making today's findings, or at the next scheduled meeting, the Commission will reconsider the circumstances of the COVID-19 state of emergency and, if necessary, adopt subsequent findings to continue holding teleconference meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities in Santa Cruz, State of California, this 12th day of May, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

David Molina

Chair, Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

ATTEST:

Department Staff

Approved as to Form:

Office of the County Counsel



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Scheduled Meetings

Unless otherwise specified below, regularly scheduled Commission on Disability meetings are generally held as follows:

DAY: Second (2nd) Thursday*
MONTH: Every month except July and December
TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Fifth Floor - Redwood Conference Room
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 **unless held remotely**

***Unless noted otherwise below**

Changes to the schedule, including special meetings, changes of location, or meeting cancellations, will be listed on the website at www.scccod.net as soon as information becomes available.

2022 MEETING DATES		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 13, 2022	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Remote
February 10, 2022	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Remote
March 10, 2022	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Remote
April 14, 2022	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Remote
May 12, 2022	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Remote
June 9, 2022	12:30 – 2:00 PM	To Be Determined
August 11, 2022	12:30 – 2:00 PM	To Be Determined
September 8, 2022	12:30 – 2:00 PM	To Be Determined
October 13, 2022	12:30 – 2:00 PM	To Be Determined
November 10, 2022	12:30 – 2:00 PM	To Be Determined