

VAAC Meeting Minutes September 22, 2016

In attendance

From the VAAC: Patty McDonald, Berl Colley, Denise Colley

From the Auditor's Office: Mary Hall, Diana Benson, Carrie Wack, Tillie Naputi-Pullar, Lynnette Thornton, Valerie Walston

Announcements

None.

Old Business

AutoMARK Usage

- The VAAC reviewed the AutoMARK usage from the Presidential and August Primary Elections. (Totals: 27 total use in the Presidential Primary; 18 in the August Primary.)
- The VAAC reviewed E1C usage in the August Primary. (Total: 207 ballots downloaded by 194 voters.) Valerie noted that most of those voters were domestic and women, and the survey results indicated most of those voters learned about E1C online.

The Future of the AutoMARK

- Mary raised the issue whether we should consider using E1C in lieu of the aging, bulky AutoMARK.
- There was significant discussion about how E1C works, levels of secrecy, and alternative types of online ballot marking tools.
- Lynnette noted that we lack the screen reading software for a laptop during this election.
- Tillie suggested bringing E1C and envelopes to one of the AutoMARK Roadshow locations; Berl recommended doing so at Capital City Council for the Blind so that they can market E1C.
- Denise expressed concern about totally eliminating the option of the AutoMARK for voters who have no access to or familiarity with computers. Lynnette agreed and suggested compiling a list of AutoMARK users and then focusing an event for those users.
- Mary wants to look around to see what emerging options may be available and thanked the VAAC for beginning the discussion.

Voting in the jails

- Mary cited Disability Rights Washington's study about accessible voting in jail. Mary noted her meeting with the undersheriff went well and hopes to make ballots accessible in the jail. She also noted the voter registration deadline was coming up, and that the jail had the ability to date stamp any registration forms.

Expansion of VAAC scope

- An expanded scope would give us access to grant money but redirect the focus from voting to all things in the county (parking, etc.). The VAAC wants to know more about what kind of governance the expanded scope VAAC would look like (e.g. would there be a committee chair,

would the Auditor's Office continue to play a role, etc). The VAAC enthusiastically decided to invite Toby Olsen from the Governor's Office to attend the next VAAC meeting to learn more about an expanded scope VAAC.

Other AutoMARK activity

- The AutoMARK was on display in the Elections lobby so those visiting the Division could become familiar with the device.
- Yelm Cinemas: ad production in progress.
- Earned media: planned op ed in Senior News.
- Events: due to lack of resources, the Office of the Secretary of State canceled Get Out the Disability Vote Day, instead opting to turn the efforts on the counties with Get Out the Disability Vote Week.
- People First Conference: planning to attend and demo the AutoMARK, and promote accessible voting.

2016 Plan

- Valerie noted the plan is unchanged from the 2015 plan, which is unchanged from 2014; she asked whether the plan needs to be adopted every year or if it can just be the VAAC Plan. Lynnette has a call into the OSOS about this. The 2016 plan was adopted.

TTY Line

- Valerie informed the VAAC that due to the VAAC's recommendations, the county decided to keep the TTY line through the November 2016 election. Following the election, the county will reevaluate the future of the TTY line. Tillie noted there was no requirement to include a TTY line. Patty noted 711 Washington Relay would be a sufficient backup and will forward information to the Auditor's Office.

National Voter Registration Day

- Valerie asked the VAAC for communications ideas at voter registration events. The VAAC suggested having AutoMARK brochures present. Berl inquired about outreach at the local colleges. Valerie noted that we will have registration events at each college.

Audio Voters' Pamphlet

- Valerie noted that producing the audio voters' pamphlet is time-consuming for staff but produces little web traffic; she asked the VAAC whether it was worth it to continue this program. Denise noted difficulty in accessibly navigating to the voters' pamphlet. The VAAC decided to wait until the next meeting, when they would discuss the future of the VAAC, to make any decisions.

Meeting adjourned