



Registrar Bob Page called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

CEW Chair, Theresa Bass, City Clerk, City of Anaheim
CEW Vice-Chair, Lucinda Williams, City Clerk, City of Fullerton
Jennifer Hall, City Clerk, City of Santa Ana
Adria Jimenez, City Clerk, City of Buena Park
Mike Chen, Asian Community
Tim Cheng, Asian Community
Justine Chen, Asian Community
Marisol Ramirez, Latino Community
Gabriel Taylor, Disabled Community
BreeAnna Adner, Disabled Community
Beck Levin, Disabled Community
Gracie Doran, Disabled Community
Barbara Barish, Senior Community
Jeffrey Cardenas, Organizing Director, Democratic Party of Orange County
Randall Avila, Republican Party
Susan Guilford, League of Women Voters
Garrett Fahy, At Large
Bob Page, Registrar of Voters
Jose Macedo, IT Services Manager, Registrar of Voters
Adrian Gabriel, Community Program Specialist, Election Services, Registrar of Voters
Aimara Freeman, Public Information Officer, Community Outreach, Registrar of Voters
David Goulding, Warehouse Manager, Registrar of Voters
Enequina Chhim, Community Outreach Manager, Registrar of Voters
Heather McDaniel, Community Program Specialist, Community Outreach, Registrar of Voters
Imelda Carrillo, Election Services Manager, Registrar of Voters
Justin Berardino, Deputy Director, Operations, Registrar of Voters
Julianna Mailhot, Candidate and Voter Services Manager, Registrar of Voters
Kim Hostler, Deputy Director, Administration, Registrar of Voters
Kristy Chen, Community Program Specialist, Community Outreach, Registrar of Voters
Lora El Amatory, Staff Specialist, Administration, Registrar of Voters
Thu-Mai Tran, Community Program Specialist, Election Services, Registrar of Voters
Martin Lopez, Community Program Specialist, Community Outreach, Registrar of Voters
Matthew Craven, Community Program Specialist, Election Services, Registrar of Voters
Min Hong, Community Program Specialist, Community Outreach, Registrar of Voters
Phoebe Bui, Community Program Specialist, Community Outreach, Registrar of Voters
Rosa Vizcarra, Community Program Specialist, Community Outreach, Registrar of Voters
Janlus Chou, Fiscal Administrator, Administration, Registrar of Voters
Roxana Castro, Community Program Specialist, Election Services, Registrar of Voters
Stephen Barteau, Technology Services Manager, Registrar of Voters
Tonya Pearce, Training and Special Projects Manager, Registrar of Voters

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Registrar Page welcomed and went over meeting rules.

The members of the ROV team introduced themselves. Registrar Page turned the meeting to CEW Chair, Theresa Bass.

ROLL CALL:

ROV Admin Staff Specialist, Lora El Amatory, confirmed the attendees for the meeting and that a quorum was present.

APPROVE 9/17/25 MINUTES:

CEW Chair Theresa Bass requested a motion to approve the minutes from September 17, 2025. Approval of September 17, 2025, minutes moved by Jennifer Hall and seconded by CEW Vice Lucinda Williams. CEW Chair Theresa Bass asked for any objections. No objections, minutes approved.

CEW Chair Theresa Bass introduced new CEW members and offered opportunity to say few words:

- Justine Chen – Asian Community
- Garcie Doran – Disability Community
- Joseph R. Lloren Jr. – At Large
- Susan Guilford – League of Women Voters

Registrar Page also welcomes new members.

CEW Chair Theresa Bass provided a CEW membership status update and thanked everyone for their service:

- Members who have renewed their terms and are set to expire December 31, 2027:
 - o Theresa Bass, Lucinda Williams, Mike Chen, Gabriel Taylor, BreAnna Adner, Barbara Barish and Garrett Fahy
- Members whose contract expired on December 31, 2025, and will not be renewing membership:
 - o Long Nguyen, Sergio Contreras, Russia Chavez Cardenas and Jan Urban
- Current vacancies:
 - o Asian Community, Latino Community, Vote Center CSRs and Youth (18-25)
 - o Actively engaging and recruiting to fill the positions
 - o If you know anyone, please have them contact ROV

Registrar Page added that ROV would like to find someone in the Youth Community that would make the commitment and participate in the meetings.

CEW member Marisol Ramirez asked how many vacancies in each of the categories are vacant?

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo confirmed one vacancy from each category.

CEW member Adria Jimenez asking if Youth and Vote Center CSR representatives must be 25 years or older or can they also be 18; voting age?

Registrar Page confirmed the CEW Bylaws require the Youth representative must be 18 to 25 years old.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR:

CEW Chair Theresa Bass called for Chair and Vice Chair nominations.

CEW member Adria Jimenez nominated Lucinda Williams for Chair, Lucinda accepted.

CEW Chair Theresa Bass nominates Adria Jimenez as Vice Chair, Adria accepted.

CEW Chair Theresa Bass asked whether there were any additional nominations or objections on the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. No objections, move forward with the following nominations.

OPEN FORUM:

Registrar Page asked members to raise any issues and/or urgent matters that were not included on the agenda.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas expressed his interest in discussing the 2025 November Special Election, specific issues identified at particular Vote Center in terms of staffing levels; whether he should wait or bring them up during open forum.

Registrar Page added if there are specific issues they can be discussed now.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas explained that they were informed that during the 2025 Special Election there was a vote center in Garden Grove, and they had to close the parking lot. Cars interfered with parking and fire trucks; street parking was not available so there wasn't any parking at the entire vote center. Also, it was reported concerns from the community in terms of lack in staffing which resulted in long lines and voters were not advised to go to different vote centers. I would like to get details regarding staffing, especially since some of our community members applied but were told staffing was completed.

Registrar Page added that he was not aware of any staffing shortages and asked Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo, to confirm if we had many callouts and shortages.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo confirmed that there were a few call outs, but we had our A-Team to supplement the busy sites.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo added that we move staff around to busier sites when needed.

Registrar Page confirmed that we had filled our positions and did not have any shortages. Long lines may have caused by voters that decided to go out and vote after 5 p.m. on Election Day.

Registrar Page asked Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo if there were any reports of the parking lot closure in Garden Grove?

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo confirmed that it was reported on Election Day towards the end of the day and we tried to work with the facility to try to mitigate the issue. We are currently in talks with the city about a different location due to the concerns.

Registrar Page added that due to it being a special election, the State did not provide sufficient time to plan for it. ROV had approximately two weeks to secure the number of Vote Centers required – 64. State only provided us with 75 days to prepare for the election. Election was called on 8/21 and by 9/8 we had to have Vote Centers secured to get them into our Voter Information Guides. Despite that, we exceeded the requirement by two Vote Centers. It being a Special Election, the number of Vote Centers required was only 1/3 of the number required during a regular election.

The lower number of Vote Centers combined with a surge in voters late on Election Day resulted in voter check-in lines. Eight Vote Centers checked in its last voter before 8 p.m., All voters in line at the 58 remaining Vote Centers at 8 p.m. were allowed to vote.

Registrar Page also added that there were some locations with parking issues due to construction, and our team worked through them. Hoping when we go back to regular elections with more vote centers we will not have some of these issues. With the

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas added another issue some members have expressed. Members who are part of School Boards and School districts were concerned that they were not contacted for VC locations as they were in the past. The concern was alternate locations to fulfil the needs where they could've provided more parking etc. one example is Ocean View location.

Registrar Page confirmed that ROV reached out to Vote Center previously used.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo confirmed that it depended on what the requirements are for the specific election. We tried to balance and make sure we had adequate coverage throughout the county. She added that she doesn't have notes specific to Ocean View.

Registrar Page added that we typically start with City Clerks to make sure we get a list of all facilities available.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo confirmed we always start with our city partners, we start with anything public first, these are known locations and then we check what is available based on needs.

Also, she added that, unfortunately, sometimes with cities, there were a lot of schedule conflicts and prescheduled events. Some cities were able to move stuff around; however, some were unable to.

Finally, Carrillo said that given the limited amount of time to secure Vote Centers, we had to focus on trying to meet the required number of facilities for each community. Once we secured the required number for a community, we had to shift focus on recruiting facilities in communities where we hadn't met the requirement yet. That may explain why some community partners were not contacted for their facilities this election.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas added that considering how stressful that Election was, he thanked everyone for all the hard work they did.

Registrar Page encouraged CEW Members, if they hear anything during an election, to bring it to our attention right away so we can address the issues.

Registrar Page added that he would like to share and provide an update as part of the open forum the litigation filed against him by the USDOJ. Once DOJ filed a suit against State of California and both cases were assigned to Judge Carter, the case against the State proceeded first and my case was temporarily stayed. Last week, Judge Carter dismissed the case against the State, but DOJ has time to potentially appeal. I expect the stay in my case will continue until an appeal is filed and then resolved. We are on hold for the near future.

CEW member Randall Avila added to echo CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas point, received reports of similar Vote Center lines in Newport Beach, Tustin and Yorba Linda, which I expressed the night of. In Tustin, there were parking situations where I had to park few blocks down and walk to observe. Newport Beach had only three staff members. And when I asked voters, they said they have been waiting for two hours. Not sure if it is a perception or actual low staffing, but visually saw voters turn around and leave due to long lines. Hope we can get more staffing next election .

Registrar Page thanked CEW members.

CEW member Lucinda Williams added that despite their effort to recommend voters to go to a close-by location to vote instead of waiting in lines; voters still prefer specific vote centers despite the lines.

Registrar Page agreed and added that there are some locations that are popular despite size limitations. In planning for the Primary Election, with the increased number of Vote Centers, there will be increased number of staff; but with the County's budget we are not expecting to get more money to increase staff levels. We will have to do our best and communicate that our Vote Centers are open for 11 days.

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION PLAN 2026-2029 AND VEOP:

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo provided an update that the Election Administration Plan 2026-2029 is now available on our website ocvote.gov/eap and is available in our Federal and State Languages that were required last year.

Thanking everyone who participated and attended the workshops and specifically to the City Clerks who assisted with spreading the word and assist with securing locations.

Quick recap:

- 240 individuals attended 30 small groups
- More than 740 attended the 15 community workshops
- 90 individuals attended the public hearing in Irvine
- Total of 790 comments received

Changes:

- Vote Centers hours update: E-10 – E-1 hours will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Election Day stays the same from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

We need support to get the word out and promote new Vote Center hours to the public.

CEW member Randall Avila asked how we got to the hours?

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo added that voter behavior data – historic turnout of voters from 2020 to present and trends of busiest times for voters – were reviewed, in addition to feedback from workshops and public on our website.

Registrar Page also added that the State Law requires that Vote Centers be open for at least eight hours on early voting days. We also had to consider the County's budget challenges by evaluating what service we provide that are mandated and what services are discretionary.

CEW member Lucinda Williams added a suggestion to add a sign at Vote Centers that share where the next closest Voter Centers and Ballot Drop Boxes are located.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo thanked Lucinda and added that we have a working group focusing on signage.

CEW member Lucinda Williams added that even messaging on not having to wait in line can also drop off their ballots.

Registrar Page added that they had the experience that some voters, despite having their mail in ballot in hand, still want to vote in person. We have to accommodate voters' preferences in voting.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo encouraged members to either add to the chat or email her any suggestions.

VOTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PLAN

Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim, explained that the Voter Education and Outreach Plan (VEOP) is an extension of the Election Administration Plan (EAP), which outlines the plan for outreach efforts. It was the part of the EAP approved by the Secretary of State in December 2025.

The five key VEOP goals were outlined in addition to the objectives such as engaging with voters and making contact with voters that might not have access to information and platforms. In addition to leverage partnerships with colleges/universities to create opportunities for voter education. Also, building trust and transparency.

Voter Education and Outreach Plan (VEOP) is also available on our website ocvote.gov/veop which outlines our objective and goals to provide the necessary voter education and information to our community.

VOTER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS:

Public Information Officer, Aimara Freeman introduced herself and went over the communication tool kit, resources available for the 2026 Primary Election. Encouraged members to check it out and get themselves familiar with it.

Registrar Page added that Aimara started the day before the November 2025 Special Election. She is reviewing all the communications we have in our multimedia campaign and developing those tools. The communication tool kit is something she started looking at.

Public Information Officer, Aimara Freeman continued to share the Voter Education Partnerships with colleges, high schools, and citizenship ceremonies etc.

Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim added we are working on several events such as citizenship ceremonies, High School Voter Education week in April, planning is on their way, and we will continue to move through as we get ready for the Election.

Public Information Officer, Aimara Freeman asked members to help amplify ROV's social media posts. We also have many media relations efforts and provide tours with reporters. We also work with a vendor to put together paid advertising campaigns such as billboards, radio ads and video/graphic work. In addition, we have an email newsletter which is very robust with lots of information, twice a week. In addition to our community open house, if you do not follow us on social media please do.

Registrar Page added as a reminder that the open houses will happen before Statewide Elections, after we mail ballots out. They usually happen on Tuesday or Wednesday the week we mail ballots (27 or 28 days prior to an election).

Public Information Officer, Aimara Freeman continued to explain the interviews that Bob is scheduled for. We try to get Bob scheduled for as many interviews we can.

Registrar Page added that if CEW members have any suggestions on any SoCal and OC Specific podcasts, they or know anyone that listens to, to let us know and we can reach out to schedule ahead of Primary 2026 Election. Have previously been a guest on podcasts at UCI and Saddleback College.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas asked if Bob will be willing to attend their podcast.

Registrar Page asked CEW member Randall Avila if they have a podcast.

CEW member Randall Avila confirmed they do not, but will look into it

CEW member Beck Levin added a question in chat asking if we are only doing OC podcasts?

Registrar Page explained that it is not only OC but want to reach voters in Orange County. Willing to do State if popular and well listened to.

CEW member Justine Chen added a suggestion in the chat to look at LAist, it covers Orange County as well

Public Information Officer, Aimara Freeman acknowledged the message and confirmed we will look at it.

Registrar Page added if anything else members of CEW when reviewing VEOP or any ideas please to share them with him, Enedina and/or Aimara so we can expand our reach and impact on information we get out. Not giving up on positive and truth out there. Any ideas, please advise us on our Voter Education and Outreach program. Please continue to come to us with ideas.

NEW STATE LANGUAGES REQUIREMENTS:

Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim explained requirements for languages. Currently, the Voting Rights Act (VRA) requires us to translate all election materials into Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese.

There are also our Election Code 14201 State mandated language requirements. They have different requirements where voters will receive an English ballot but have access to a reference ballot as a guide.

Registrar Page clarified unlike Federal VRA languages that are countywide, the State mandated languages are precinct based. The State looks at voting age population in each precinct; if 3% of adults in a precinct predominantly speak a language other than English, the State determines we need to provide language services in that language in that precinct. Doesn't mean all ballots need to be translated; it is precinct specific.

Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim reviewed the slide with the updated EC14201 State language determinations and explained the requirements:

- Facsimile ballots and instructions
- Do our best effort to staff Vote Centers with languages for support
- Public Service Announcements provided in VRA and State languages
- Ballot Drop Box Instructions and Warnings

Goal is to make sure we are in compliance with the new language requirements.

Registrar Page asked the members if there are any questions regarding our obligations under EC14201 and to implement the new languages prior to the Primary 2026 Election. He added that we work closely with our language accessibility community.

Registrar Page move ahead in the agenda to the summary of the VAAC meeting since Gabe must leave early.

UPDATES FROM CEW VAAC AND CEW LAAC:

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo provided updates on last week's VAAC meeting, noting it was good conversation and engagement in addition to great participation. Reminding the CEW members that these meetings focus on disability and accessibility for the entire County, making sure to provide support to our voters for in person and mail voting.

Summary of topics discussed:

- Marketing for new hours
- Discussion looking at outreach and increase opportunities for ASL support, specifically adding ASL videos and instructions to support voters to vote more independently
 - o Suggestions for QR Code on VBM envelope for ASL, we are currently exploring currently if feasible
- Continuing our partnership outreach and education
 - o Going to high school in south county that has a deaf program and doing outreach to that group.
- Closed it with Vote Center and pop-up voting
 - o Needs for Vote Center numbers increased so we are looking for suggestions on locations as well as well as pop-up voting, goal is to target communities that are underserved such as disabled communities and/or language communities.

CEW member, Gabe Taylor added that the conversations particularly how to engage with hard-to-reach communities. Example with Disability Community is constant 'think outside the box' because the solutions are not always automatic. Ideas on how we could bring pop-up locations to different centers/areas and partner with colleges and various centers to get more visibility, getting high turnaround while reaching communities hard to get to. Also touched on ways for hybrid for call for Vote Center Staff, reaching out to organizations that provide ASL interpreters; not only online interpreters but have some on the ground.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo, thanked Gabe for great feedback.

Registrar Page reminded Training & Special Projects Manager, Tonya Pearce to engage/connect with CEW member Gabe Taylor prior to training our facilitators to make sure we are training our CSRs to serve voters with specific needs.

Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim shared updates on last week's LAAC meeting which resulted in great participation and attendance. Robust conversations and suggestions.

Recap of the discussion:

- Colleges and universities, there was a thought regarding reaching out to Law Schools or courses targeted through civic engagements. Can get in front of students can be beneficial and get help from professors to push information.
- Vote Centers: ensure we have a way to push information about Vote Centers, not only hours and locations. Avoiding misinformation about voting, Vote Center or pop-up VC from certain community
- Marketing and multilingual: How to get information out, how do we ensure everyone gets the information. Ideas such as: Flyers, radio, newspapers, TV and social media; maximizing and diversifying the reach
- Continuing partnerships with Cities and community organizations

Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim invited Tim Cheng, Co-Chair for LAAC to speak.

CEW Member, Tim Cheng thanked Enedina for her recap. Also added that as a language committee group, welcome adding 5 new languages. New members joined LAAC, and OC ROV has been great at ensuring there is bilingual support of materials.

It was reported that one of the LAAC members served as a Vote Center CSR in the Special Election, based on personal experience, the first eight days were light traffic in the morning and busy after 4 p.m. There were lots of parents taking children to the community center Vote Center to join the city-wide program; so, the new Vote Center hours are beneficial. Also, partnership with each city community service department and advertise these programs, so parents will pay attention to it.

Registrar Page thanked the VAAC and LAAC for the update.

INSTANT CONDITIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION PILOT:

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino explained that when a voter comes in to vote and is not registered, they traditionally fill out a same day registration and are issued a provisional ballot. We must then confirm they are eligible to vote and that they haven't voted somewhere else.

We processed provisional ballots slightly differently in November 2025 Special Election. We continued to process online registration until Election Day. So, for those not registered, they were able to register online and then go in and vote. We did not advertise it. If voters called in, we directed them to register online, process the registration and then vote at a Vote Center.

Registrar Page added, we did not do a paid advertising campaign, but we included it in the biweekly newsletter and recommended voters who are not registered to register online before they go.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino, shared the result of the pilot approach – reduced Provisional ballots by 20% countywide without advertising it. On the back end, it reduced workload. In the future we are looking to expand the pilot program, adding Vote Centers and informing voters. We believe with piloting in June 2026; we can reduce Provisionals even more.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas asked if it was the same pilot program used at UCI?

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino, confirmed it is different. This is anyone in the County that was not registered by the 15 days close who called our office were instructed to go online and register. There is a part used at UCI, but it is on my next slide.

Registrar Page shared a question in the chat if this approach was used by other counties?

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino, I think some small counties have done it in small amounts. We are the only large county to do it. Since we are all connected, we hope more counties implement it to reduce Provisionals.

CEW member, BreeAnna Adner, asked a question for clarification. Is there a timeline to register online; if not then you can register on E-Day?

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino, that is what we did differently this election, voters can register online at any time.

Registrar Page explained that there is a 15-day registration deadline before an election to be able to vote a normal process, be mailed ballot. After 15-day close you must do what is called conditional voter registration, can come to our office or once the Vote Centers open you can visit any Vote Center. We would give them a registration affidavit, and they put their ballot in an envelope. After Election Day, we review and make sure they didn't vote anywhere in the state. What we had them do during the pilot was rather than requiring someone to fill out paper affidavit, we recommended they register online, we made sure they hadn't voted somewhere else in the state and allowed them to vote with a normal non-provisional ballot.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino, will go over UCI specifically that majority of voters at UCI are not registered to vote which causes long lines. It was approached it a bit different in the Special Election.

- We would look up voters to see if they are registered
 - o If registered, they will stay in line to vote

- If not registered, we send them to the registration tent where they registered online and then could vote non-provisionally once their registration was processed and voting history was reviewed
- We informed the students in person, it took about six minutes before the newly registered student showed up on the pollbook
 - Result it flipped numbers for UCI, reduced provisional voting by 75% and wait times.
- It was a successful pilot and will continue to do it in future elections and continue to update as we become more familiar with it.
- Cal State Fullerton has similar situations; they will not be in session for June 2026 Primary but will use it for future elections.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas asked if the delay at UCI in the past was not having online registration available for students.

Registrar Page clarified that many students were registering online after the close of 15 days, we had them fill out the paper affidavit. How we addressed it is by continuing to process the online registration and making sure they haven't voted in the election and add them to the roster to vote nonprovisional.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas, we had observers that noted that wait times delay between registration and voting was more than six minutes. Is there any evidence that people registered but did not wait to cast a ballot?

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino, added that he is not sure about registering and not casting a ballot. Specifically for UCI, there were some students who registered online but were not added to the roster. Examples would be they registered with a residential address outside of Orange County.

Registrar Page added that if they do not have a signature on file with the DMV then they must fill out a paper affidavit.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino, circled back to CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas comments. There are two issues we are dealing with, wait time and high number of Provisionals. Doing the instant CVS will not reduce waiting times, it will reduce the number of Provisionals. Change in workflow helped with wait time especially with voters who are already registered. Agree that there were lines on UCI on Election Day but nothing like the past.

Registrar Page added it cannot be immediate because we must confirm that the voter did not vote in another county before adding them to the roster.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas added did other Vote Centers outside of UCI were not given the option to register online.

Registrar Page clarified that employees at Vote Centers were not messaging voters about the options, but if they called us or read our newsletter it was messaged. Our plan is to pilot by choosing Vote Centers that have history with high provisional ballots and train our staff to message voters. What will be different is with UCI we had double the staff than we normally would in a Vote Center. However, due to budget we will increase messaging but will not increase staff and separate stations like UCI. In the November 2026 Election when students at Cal State Fullerton return, we are looking at same model as UCI. But financially we cannot afford same setup at all our Vote Centers.

CEW member Adria Jimenez added that it is a great pilot program. Reducing it by 75% is huge step that helps with County's program. What was the feedback from the students who participated in the program? Where there any confusion, frustration or appreciation?

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino, added that when he observed, he did not see any feedback from students. They were all first-time voters, and they were doing as they were told.

Community Program Specialist, Roxana Castro added the post-election feedback staff and observers received was that students appreciated that they were able to vote. ROV created special signage with QR codes with specific instructions and students followed instructions. No negative reactions to the process. It was observed that when students did registration, they did not leave the premise, it was very social. As an observer, it looked busy, but they stayed with their friends.

CEW member Adria Jimenez added that it seemed more like an experience.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino, added to set reasonable expectations. For example, if there are 1,000 students at UCI and majority are not registered; you will see lots of students but hopefully they will not need to wait in long lines to vote.

CEW member Adria Jimenez added hopefully students are also there who have already registered and do not need to re-register and go through the Provisionals.

CEW member Tim Cheng wanted to share his experience being a Vote Center CSR. Usually, check-in is the most time consuming. Agree with Justin to the change in workflow and can utilize greeter to check if a voter is not registered so they can be instructed to register online.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino, agreed with the good observation. This is what we want our Vote Center CSRs to do, and when we have unexpected waiting times, we send staff to support with organizing lines.

Registrar Page added that due to time the slide deck will be shared, and members can review the statistics on the 2025 Statewide Special Election.

NEW CALIFORNIA ELECTION LAWS

Registrar Page added that he will be sending the link for the California law report for CEW members to review. The report highlights laws that went into effect January 1st:

- AB 1392: Secretary of State working on cleanup language, but it is related to the shooting on legislation in Minnesota which resulted in death of a legislator and her spouse.
 - o This bill has been rushed to allow elected officials and candidates to be confidential voters
 - Letters have been sent to notify elected officials and city clerks of new law.
 - Candidates will automatically become confidential voters, but can opt out
 - Cannot be on any roster being confidential voter, so cannot vote in person

CEW member Lucinda Williams clarified that any confidential voter will need to bring their ballot to the Vote Center and drop it off.

Registrar Page said the Secretary of State is still working on the cleanup bill language.

CEW members Adria Jimenez asked if candidates want to file as confidential voter, is the same form as used previously.

Candidate and Voter Services Manager, Julianna Mailhot, confirmed that forms will be provided to city clerks, but it is basically the same form.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas will this affect our ability to see what party affiliation the candidates are? Can we still search for them?

Registrar Page confirmed that the candidates' phone, email or address will not be found.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas asked, how about party affiliation?

Registrar Page clarifies that yes, however not their contact information.

Registrar Page moves to next bill AB 827 and explained that it creates a new universal cure deadline of 22 days after Election Day. Special elections will remain two days before certification. Going forward for regular elections Primary and General it is 22 days after Election Day. Meaning, we will not be able to certify the Primary Election, until 24 days after Election Day. General Election is close to our typical certification, Primary has lower turnout, and we have previously able to certify before 24 days.

Registrar Page shared that the New California laws report can be found on our website, in our Election Library.

Registrar Page added that there has been news that USPS changed how they postmarked mail.

- Definition that was posted in December was more honest on what their process is:
 - o The process changed in February 2025; past practice of USPS individual post office received two visits from regional center (morning and afternoon). The change is that the regional center now is making one visit a day to local USPS post offices. As a result:
 - If voters live more than 50 miles from a regional USPS center, the postmark on ballot will likely be applied the next day.
 - We did not experience a delay because of the proximity to the regional centers. We still communicated to voters about the USPS change in our newsletter and social media posts
 - Voters have many options: If they want to use USPS on Election Day, we recommend that voter ask an employee in their local post office to hand stamps their ballot. Voters can also use one of our drop boxes that doesn't require a postmark; we do not lock them until 8 p.m. on Election Day. Or they can visit our Vote Centers and do not need to check in.
 - During the November 2025 Special Election, 88% of the ballots cast were Vote-By-Mail ballots. It is still the preferred method for a lot of our voters; we need to continue to remind them.

FUTURE BUSINESS ITEMS:

Registrar Page invited members to share any topics they would like to discuss in future meetings, in addition to when the next CEW meeting will take place. Election is in June, and ballots are mailed out early May, we would like to avoid that.

Will also schedule meetings with City Clerks and Districts to discuss candidate filing for the November 2026 Election. We will also try to have a webinar available for anyone who is interested in running for local offices during the 2026 General Election.

Registrar Page would like to schedule the meeting ahead of the Primary Election and would like to send a poll once we have other items scheduled.

CEW member Lucinda Williams added that the OC Clerks are trying to get a meeting together. Nominating Adria Jimenez to help coordinate the next meeting as well. Also on the webinar, will the clerks get an invite?

Registrar Page expressed support on the idea of City Clerks attending the webinar.

CEW member Adria Jimenez supported the idea as well and expressed that it will be helpful and consistent.

Registrar Page added one of the topics for the next CEW meeting will be issuing ballots for overseas and military. Ahead of the last election, the Federal government got rid of fax service so now they must find private provider. Lots of changes and concerns about mail service not being sent from certain countries to the US due to international issues; just wanted to share the challenges we face.

CEW member Lucinda Williams, maybe we can also add something on how Prop 50 will affect this year's Election.

Registrar Page added that it is on one of the slides we sped through. We completed the re-precincting for the new congressional map; first large county to finalize. If any of the legal challenges to the approval of Prop 50 are successful, we are required by State to maintain our historic boundaries so restoring them would be possible.

Registrar Page thanked the members and reiterated invitation for members to review the 2024 communication toolkit and provide feedback to help improve outreach.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo read question in chat regarding next meeting being in person or zoom.

Registrar Page answered that in the past tried in person and had less turnout than zoom. If there is a desire to try in person, we did have good turnout in March at the visioning meeting for EAP. Open for in-person but want to ensure we have a lot of participation.

Registrar Page added we can include in poll if preference in person or virtual or at least have one meeting be in person in the upcoming year.

Newly appointed CEW Chair Lucinda Williams, thanks everyone for joining.

Registrar Page reminder that ROV's office will be closed on February 12th and February 16th.

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.