

Registrar Bob Page called the



meeting to order at 2:05 PM

ATTENDEES:

CEW Chair, Lucinda Williams, City Clerk, City of Fullerton
CEW Vice-Chair, Adria Jimenez, City Clerk, City of Buena Park
Theresa Bass, City Clerk, City of Anaheim
Jennifer Hall, City Clerk, City of Santa Ana
Mike Chen, Asian Community
Justine Chen, Asian Community
Cevande Lee, Asian Community
Alba Ramiro, Latino Community
Marisol Ramirez, Latino Community
Maritza Bermudez, Latino Community
Gabriel Taylor, Disabled Community
Gracie Doran, Disabled Community
Barbara Barish, Senior Community
Lisa Tarlton, Vote Center CSRs
Jeffrey Cardenas, Democratic Party
Randall Avila, Republican Party
Susan Guilford, League of Women Voters
Lyle Brakob, Veterans Affairs
Garrett M. Fahy, At Large Community
Joseph Lloren, At Large Community
Bob Page, Registrar of Voters
Jose Macedo, IT Services Manager, Registrar of Voters
Aimara Freeman, Public Information Officer, Community Outreach, Registrar of Voters
David Goulding, Warehouse Manager, Registrar of Voters
Enedina 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
Janlus Chou, Fiscal Administrator, Administration, 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
Mariana Guerrero, Community Program Specialist, Election Services, 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
Monica Pascua, Staff Specialist, Administration, Registrar of Voters
Martin Lopez, Community Program Specialist, Community Outreach, Registrar of Voters
Roxana Castro, Community Program Specialist, Election Services, Registrar of Voters
Stephen Barteau, Technology Services Manager, Registrar of Voters
Adele Tagaloa, Staff Specialist, Election Services, Registrar of Voters

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Registrar Page welcomed and went over meeting rules.

The members of the ROV team introduced themselves

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVE 1/21/26 MINUTES:

CEW Chair Lucinda Williams requested a motion to approve the minutes from January 21, 2026. Approval of January 21, 2026, minutes moved by Jeffrey Cardenas and seconded by Gracie Doran. Chair Lucinda Williams asked for any objections. No objections, minutes approved at 2:15 PM.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo introduced two new CEW members and offered opportunity to say few words:

- Maritza Bermudez – Latino Community
- Cevadne Lee – Asian Community

Registrar Page provided an update on CEW members recruitment efforts and stated that recruitment is ongoing for two vacant positions representing Vote Centers CSRs and Youth (18 – 25).

OPEN FORUM:

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

CEW Chair Lucinda Williams asked whether redistricting efforts had impacted member communities. Registrar Page shared his understanding that Proposition 50 did not create additional majority-minority districts.

Susan Guilford raised questions regarding recent changes to candidate contact information disclosure laws and shared concerns that the changes may make outreach efforts more difficult.

Registrar Page thanked members for raising the issue and stated that the ROV consulted with the Secretary of State regarding the new law. He explained that candidate information is now confidential, with limited exceptions for journalists and government agencies. Registrar Page acknowledged concerns regarding impact of the law and noted that the office is unable to provide candidate addresses, email addresses, or phone numbers.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas asked whether confidentiality protections are automatically applied or require candidates to opt in.

Registrar Page explained that confidentiality protections are automatically applied unless candidates choose to opt out through the declaration of candidacy process under AB 1392. He further shared that the law was enacted in response to safety concerns involving elected officials and noted that the changes create additional challenges for candidates and election administration.

Registrar Page also discussed how confidential candidates may experience limitations related to in-person voting and may instead need to vote by mail, use ballot drop boxes, or vote provisionally.

Adria asked whether the law also applies to congressional candidates

Registrar Page shared that the law applies to all candidates for elective office.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas asked whether political parties are exempt from the confidentiality restrictions. Registrar Page stated there are no exceptions for political parties.

Registrar Page thanked members for the discussion and noted that the topic had also been discussed during previous meeting.

2026 STATEWIDE DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION

Registrar Page provided updates regarding 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election and reviewed key election dates. He shared that mailed ballots were picked up by USPS on Saturday and are expected to be received by voters this week. Registrar Page also noted that in-person voting will begin on May 23 and discussed five planned pop-up voting events during the vote center period.

Registrar Page also reviewed updates related to cure deadlines and election certification timelines for future statewide elections. He explained that in prior statewide elections, they were prohibited from certifying elections before 28 days after Election Day. Under the updated law, officials are now prohibited from certifying results before 24 days after Election Day, while the certification deadline remains 30 days after the election. Registrar Page stated that expected certification date for the election is June 26.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino discussed operational impacts related to the 61 candidates appearing on the ballot and shared that in January, staff did not anticipate that 61 candidates would be running in the election. He stated that the ballot could not fit within the traditional 14-inch format, creating several unknowns and operational concerns related to paper usage, ballot scanning, mailing, and in-person voting operations.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino explained that staff developed approximately 90 tasks to address operational changes associated with the longer ballot format and noted that some tasks are still in progress as in-person voting has not yet begun. He shared that all the ballots have been mailed and that the office adjusted several internal processes in preparation for the election.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino stated that the 17-inch ballot significantly slowed ballot processing speeds to approximately one-third of the normal rate, resulting in operational changes including split shifts, additional staffing hours, and earlier processing schedules. He noted that although slower processing reduced ballot jams and equipment issues, the system continued operating below normal speed expectations.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino also discussed updated training for changes to in-person procedures. He shared that additional preparation time has been required for vote-by-mail ballot processing due to ballots being folded in different ways before scanning and uploading. Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino stated that operations have proceeded without major issues so far.

Registrar Page asked how many screens voters would need to scroll through on voting devices due to the length of the ballot.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino stated that the process had not been fully tested but estimated voters may need to scroll up to ten times to review all 61 candidates.

CEW member, Gabriel Taylor raised concerns regarding accessibility for voters using audio navigation tools and asked whether testing had been completed to evaluate navigation through multiple ballot screens using audio functions.

Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim shared that audio ballot recordings are reviewed and proofed by multiple staff members to verify accuracy and accessibility.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino stated that accessibility testing remains part of the ongoing preparation process and asked Candidate and Voter Services Manager, Julianna Mailhot whether there were additional concerns.

Julianna Mailhot, Candidate and Voter Services Manager stated there were no areas of concern related to the audio ballot recording process. She shared that recordings are reviewed to ensure candidate names are in the correct order and that all offices and contests are properly accounted for.

Registrar Page asked Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino, to conduct an additional review and discussed concerns regarding voters navigating through a large number of candidate names on the ballot.

CEW member, Gabriel Taylor stated that concerns were raised to ensure voters using audio features are aware that they may need to continue scrolling through a longer list of candidates in order to locate a specific name.

Registrar Page thanked members for bringing forward their concerns.

Registrar Page asked Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino whether unofficial election night results procedures would change.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino stated that the process for releasing unofficial election results would remain the same.

Registrar Page presented information regarding OC Ballot Express system and ongoing coordination with the Secretary of State. Registrar Page shared that voters may track ballot status and receive notifications through email, phone, and text message using the Secretary of State's ballot tracking system. Registrar Page explained that the County elected to utilize the State's existing notification platform rather than duplicate services already provided.

Registrar Page also reviewed updates regarding ballot drop boxes and shared that 128 ballot drop boxes will be available, including six new locations. Vote Center hours for early voting days will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Election Day will continue following statutory requirements of 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Social media and newsletter reminders regarding drop box availability and hours will also be provided.

Registrar Page then turned the discussion over to Julianna Mailhot, Candidate and Voter Services Manager, regarding military and overseas voters.

Candidate and Voter Services Manager, Julianna Mailhot shared that USPS issued notices on March 3rd regarding suspended mail services affecting 18 countries. She stated that outreach was conducted through email and mail to affected military and overseas voters to determine whether they were open to

receiving ballots electronically. Julianna shared that all contacted voters agreed to receive ballots through email.

Candidate and Voter Services Manager, Julianna Mailhot also discussed outreach efforts encouraging military and overseas voters to return ballots early to allow sufficient mailing time. She stated that ballots may be returned by fax or mail, but not by email. She shared that approximately 9,800 military and overseas ballots were issued, including approximately 8,500 distributed electronically, 1,300 mailed ballots, and five ballots returned by fax.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino discussed Non-Provisional Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) Ballot Pilot Program. He explained that under current law, voters who register within 15 days of Election Day typically vote provisionally; however, the pilot program allows eligible voters to cast a regular non-provisional ballot if voter eligibility can be confirmed.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino shared that a 2025 special election pilot was conducted at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). The process was successful and significantly reduced provisional voting rates. He stated that the pilot shifted voting from approximately 75% provisional ballots to 25% provisional ballots.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino stated that for the upcoming election, the Registrar of Voters plans to continue offering same-day registration and non-provisional voting through the pilot program at five vote centers. He shared that the office would evaluate whether the process can be expanded and scaled to additional vote centers in future elections.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino explained that the pilot program allows eligible voters to cast ballots immediately without waiting for provisional ballot processing, which may help reduce provisional ballot volume and shorten election counting timelines.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas asked whether voters at other vote centers would follow the same process.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino stated that voters at the designated pilot locations would be able to vote normally at the vote center once eligibility is confirmed. He noted that the Registrar of Voters does not plan to broadly advertise the pilot program while testing operational capacity.

Registrar Page discussed encouraging voters to register online before appearing at vote centers and emphasized the importance of registering prior to the 15-day deadline to allow ballots to be mailed to voters.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas asked how long the same-day registration and verification process takes.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino stated that the process currently takes approximately 20 minutes from registration completion to voter appearance in the electronic poll book. He noted that the pilot program remains critical in determining whether the process can successfully scale across all vote centers.

Registrar Page discussed operational safeguards to ensure voters have not already voted elsewhere before being added to the roster and issued a non-provisional ballot.

CEW Member, Alba Ramiro asked whether the pilot process could face legal challenges and whether additional pilot locations had been identified.

Registrar Page stated that California's Conditional Voter Registration law permits counties to issue non-provisional ballots if election officials confirm the voter has not previously voted. He emphasized that additional verification occurs before voters are added to the roster.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino stated that he did not have a list available of the pilot vote center locations with the highest volume of provisional voters and indicated that Imelda may have that information.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo identified the five pilot vote center locations as Irvine Civic Center, Newport Beach Civic Center, Fullerton Public Library, Westminster, and the UCI Palo Verde community housing location.

CEW member, Gabriel Taylor asked whether voter registration deadlines and pilot program information would be highlighted through ongoing social media outreach efforts, particularly voters with disabilities who receive election information through social media channels.

Registrar Page shared that voter outreach efforts include social media posts, email communications, and other public information campaigns designed to notify voters of important election deadlines in advance.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas asked whether outreach efforts were being coordinated with student organizations, including UCI student groups and community partners.

Registrar Page stated that the Registrar of Voters has been meeting with student organizations and community stakeholders.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo discussed planning efforts related to the UCI Vote Center location. She shared that staff have been working with university departments and obtaining necessary approvals, including fire and safety clearances. Imelda also discussed plans for line management, outdoor voter triage, tent placement, and ongoing coordination with campus stakeholders.

Registrar Page encouraged continued collaboration with student organizations and community leaders to help promote voter participation and awareness.

VOTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Registrar Page introduced the Voter Education and Outreach update and turned the presentation over to Enedina who then introduced Public Information Officer, Aimara Freeman.

Public Information Officer, Aimara Freeman discussed the Registrar of Voters' Voter Education Toolkit and encouraged CEW members to share election resources through their respective organizations and community networks. She shared that the toolkit contains digital content designed to support voter outreach and is available on the Registrar of Voters website.

Public Information Officer, Aimara Freeman stated that the toolkit materials are available in multiple languages and will be distributed through email communications. She encouraged community partners to share election resources and educational materials to help increase voter awareness and participation.

Public Information Officer, Aimara Freeman thanked Jennifer and the city of Santa Ana for sharing election graphics and supporting voter outreach efforts.

Public Information Officer, Aimara Freeman also provided an update regarding the Election Security and Accuracy campaign. She shared that the campaign highlights the numerous security measures implemented to ensure election integrity and includes short educational videos and social media content designed to inform the public about election security practices.

Community Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim provided an update on the Registrar of Voters' public outreach and observation efforts. She shared that the office hosted an Open House event the previous day to provide members of the public with an opportunity to tour the facility, observe election operations, and learn more about the ballot processing process.

Community Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim reported that approximately 65 members of the public attended the event. Participants visited various stations throughout the office, engaged with staff, and asked questions regarding election operations and observation opportunities.

Community Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim noted that many attendees were not aware of the Registrar of Voters' Observation Program. She encouraged CEW members to share the information about the program through their networks and highlighted that election observation activities began on May 4 and will continue through election certification.

Community Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim reviewed resources available on the Registrar of Voters website, including observation guidelines, a handbook outlining observation rules and expectations, informational brochures, livestream access, and a calendar of election activities. She encouraged members of the public to participate in election observation opportunities, including ballot processing and post-election audits.

Registrar Page emphasized the importance of transparency and public participation in the election process. He noted the members of the public and media frequently ask about opportunities to observe election activities and stated that the Registrar of Voters makes a concerted effort to provide observation opportunities, public audits, livestreams, and other transparency measures designed to increase public confidence in election administration.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas asked about logic and accuracy testing and the post-election random draw process.

Registrar Page explained that the one percent manual tally and random draw activities occur following Election Day and are conducted in accordance with established election procedures. He noted that information regarding scheduled election activities, observation opportunities, and key election dates is available on the website.

POSSIBLE ELECTION LAW CHANGES

Registrar Page provided an update regarding potential election law changes and recent federal executive orders related to elections.

Registrar Page stated that executive orders issued by the President on March 25 do not supersede existing federal or state election laws. He explained that executive orders cannot create or amend laws and that any changes to federal election law must be enacted by Congress.

Registrar Page further stated that county election officials will continue to administer elections in accordance with existing state and federal law and are not directed by executive orders to act contrary to those legal requirements.

Registrar Page discussed the SAVE America Act, noting that similar legislation has been introduced in Congress in prior years and has passed the House of Representatives but hasn't advanced through the Senate.

Registrar Page explained that if enacted, the legislation would require individuals registering to vote to provide proof of citizenship in person. He further noted that the proposal includes additional voter identification and citizenship verification requirements for both voter registration and voting activities.

Registrar Page stated that implementation of such requirements would likely have significant operations impacts on election administration, including increased staffing, additional office space needs, expanded voter registration services, and increased cost to counties.

Registrar Page provided an overview of a proposed California voter identification initiative that has qualified for the ballot.

He explained that the proposal would require voters to present identification when voting in person and would establish identification requirements for vote-by-mail voters. He noted that implementation would require modification to election systems, voter databases, and polling place procedures.

Registrar Page stated the election officials would evaluate how any implementing requirements adopted by the Legislature could be incorporated into existing voter check-in and election administration processes should the measure be approved by voters.

Registrar Page discussed the ongoing litigation that could affect the deadline for receiving vote-by-mail ballots in federal elections.

He noted that the case could result in changes to ballot receipt deadlines and election procedures for future elections. Registrar Page emphasized the importance of receiving timely guidance to allow election officials sufficient time to update voter communications, instructional materials, and election procedures.

Registrar Page stated that there is currently no impact on the ongoing primary election but noted that any future changes would affect administration of the November election.

Registrar Page provided an update on Senate Bill 73, noting that the legislation has been amended several times and was introduced in response to events that occurred in Riverside County.

He stated that the bill addresses procedures involving election officials, election facilities, and access to election materials. Registrar Page noted that portions of the proposed legislation continue to be revised and that election officials are awaiting additional guidance from the California Secretary of State and the Attorney General's office.

Registrar Page emphasized the importance of ensuring that election administration activities are not disrupted and that election workers remain safe while carrying out their duties.

Registrar Page noted that election officials are awaiting additional guidance from the California Secretary of State and Attorney General's Office regarding implementation and compliance requirements.

Registrar Page stated that election officials must balance compliance with election laws while responding appropriately to court-issued orders and warrants. He noted that election security remains a significant consideration and that additional guidance would assist counties in navigating potential legal and operational requirements should the legislation become law.

UPDATES FROM CEW VAAC AND CEW LAAC:

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo provided an update on the recent Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) meeting and recognized Professional Municipal Clerks Week, acknowledging the participation of several city clerks.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo reported that committee discussions focused on improving voter education and communication for voters with disabilities. Topics included expanding resources, increasing awareness of available vote options, and ensuring voters understand that voting services are available without barriers.

The committee discussed opportunities to enhance website resources and provide additional guidance for voters who may need assistance completing and returning their ballots. Suggestions included adding a QR code to vote-by-mail instructions that would direct voters to accessible online resources and information regarding next steps in the voting process.

CEW member, Gabriel Taylor shared that he and Gracie had discussed potential collaboration with OCTA to provide additional information regarding vote center locations, operating dates, and transportation options. He suggested that OCTA resources could help voters plan transportation to vote centers and access election information more easily.

CEW member, Gabriel Taylor also expressed appreciation for the collaborative discussions taking place through the committee and encouraged continued participation from individuals representing the disability community to ensure accessibility perspectives remain part of future conversations.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo welcomed the suggestions and stated that staff would continue discussions with OCTA and other community partners, including organizations serving the deaf community and local colleges, to expand outreach and engagement efforts.

Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim provided an update on recent Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) discussions.

Committee members discussed public engagement and transparency efforts, emphasizing the importance of continuing over outreach and education efforts amid ongoing election-related news coverage.

Members highlighted the importance of providing trusted voter information through resources such as open house events, social media outreach, and voter education materials.

The committee also discussed language accessibility efforts, including translation resources, voter toolkits, and informational guides designed to help multilingual voters access election information and services.

Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim noted that LAAC members continue to use these materials as resources to assist voters and support voter education within their communities.

Committee members discussed additional outreach opportunities and methods increasing voter awareness of available election resources. Discussion included promoting website resources, QR codes, and other tools that can connect voters directly to election information and assistance.

Members emphasized the importance of continuing outreach partnerships and identifying opportunities to participate in community events. Staff encouraged members to share information regarding upcoming events and community gatherings that may provide opportunities for voter education and engagement.

CEW Member Marisol Ramirez asked who organizations should contact if they are interested in participating in outreach events.

Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim responded that organizations may contact any member of the Outreach team. Registrar Page added that the Registrar of Voters website includes a Community Outreach Request Form that organizations may use to request participation at community events.

Registrar Page noted that the Registrar of Voters carefully evaluates event participation opportunities and generally avoids participating in events sponsored by candidates or individuals appearing on the ballot in order to maintain neutrality.

FUTURE BUSINESS ITEMS:

Registrar Page reported that the next meetings of the VAAC and LAAC are scheduled for October 8.

Registrar Page stated that staff will distribute a survey following the October 8 meetings to gather member availability and assist in scheduling the next CEW meeting.

Registrar Page noted that staff will also be meeting with city clerks and district representatives and are considering scheduling the next CEW meeting later in the month following the June election.

Registrar Page shared that the Registrar of Voters is planning educational webinars for local elected officials and prospective candidates in advance of the candidate filing period. He encouraged members to identify topics they would like to include in future presentations and discussions.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas reiterated the importance of continuing voter education efforts that encourage voters to take advantage of early voting opportunities.

Registrar Page acknowledged the suggestion and stated that the Registrar of Voters remains committed to serving all voters regardless of when, where, or how they choose to vote. He noted that voter education efforts include regular communications highlighting available voting options and key election dates throughout the voting period.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas asked whether the Registrar of Voters is providing guidance regarding vote-by-mail ballot return deadlines and mailing timelines.

Registrar Page responded that voter education efforts continue to emphasize timely ballot return and awareness of available voting options. He noted that voters who wait until Election Day have additional ballot return options available and that related information will continue to be included in voter outreach and education materials.

Registrar Page referenced recent media reports indicating an increase in vote-by-mail ballots arriving after Election Day, particularly in rural communities. He noted that voter behavior and mailing patterns may have changed over time and emphasized the importance of continuing to educate voters about ballot return deadlines and available voting options.

Committee members discussed the importance of continued voter education regarding vote-by-mail return methods and timelines.

Registrar Page encouraged members to share future discussion topics and agenda suggestions with staff to assist in planning upcoming CEW meetings.

Staff indicated that a survey regarding member availability will be distributed to assist with scheduling future meetings.

CEW member Jeffrey Cardenas asked whether the Registrar of Voters plans to analyze delayed vote-by-mail ballot returns.

Registrar Page responded that additional information regarding late-arriving ballots may be available following the election certification process and could be reviewed at a future meeting.

CEW Vice-Chair Lucinda Williams suggested including information regarding confidential voter and candidate projections at a future city clerks meeting.

Registrar Page agreed that the topic would be appropriate for future discussion and noted that staff could prepare presentation materials regarding confidential voter programs and related requirements. He further clarified that candidate names continue to be publicly available while certain personal contact information is protected under current law.

CEW Vice-Chair Lucinda Williams noted the value of candidate education webinars and asked that information provided to candidates also be shared with city clerks.

Registrar Page stated that staff will share available information and updates with city clerks as materials become available.

Registrar Page thanked committee members for their participation, feedback, and continued partnership. He acknowledged the value of member perspectives in helping the Registrar of Voters better understand and serve Orange County voters.

Chair Williams adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.