



Registrar Bob Page called the meeting to order at 2:02 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
Tim Cheng, Asian Community
Gabriel Taylor, Disabled Community
BreeAnna Adner, Disabled Community
Beck Levin, Disabled Community
Barbara Barish, Senior Community
Jeffrey Cardenas, Organizing Director, Democratic Party of Orange County
Bob Page, Registrar of Voters
Adele Lopez Tagaloa, Vote Center Operations Lead, Election Services, Registrar of Voters
Adrian Gabriel, Community Program Specialist, Election Services, 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
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
Marianna 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
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. CEW Chair, Theresa Bass also welcomed everyone.

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

CEW Chair Theresa Bass congratulated Julianna Mailhot on her new role/promotion as Candidate and Voter Services Manager and requested a meeting roll call.

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVE 5/14/25 MINUTES:

CEW Chair Theresa Bass requested a motion to approve the minutes from May 14, 2025.

Approval of May 14, 2025, minutes moved by CEW Vice Lucinda Williams and seconded by Jennifer Hall. CEW Chair Theresa Bass asked for any objections. No objections, minutes approved.

OPEN FORUM:

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

Vice-Chair Lucinda Williams asked whether the recent news headlines would be addressed later during the discussion on voter file management topic?

Registrar page then summarized the headlines:

- US DOJ civil lawsuit against Registrar Page is scheduled for the end of March 2026
 - o Lots of processes will take place before it goes forward.
 - o The County answered a complaint disagreeing with what is alleged, as the voter file program is in compliance with State and Federal Laws.
- Criminal case has been filed by district attorney nine and a half weeks ago against the Costa Mesa Voter who created a registration for a fictitious person and cast 2 ballots.
 - o 2021 cast ballot was counted
 - o 2022 Primary ballot was not counted because Federal Law ID requirement was applied
 - o Details regarding the case cannot be disclosed at this time, as the case is ongoing, and the voter has not yet entered a plea. The incident was initially reported in October and referred to the District Attorney for further investigation

CEW member, Jeffrey Cardenas asked for specific date of the DOJ civil case.

Registrar Page confirmed the date is March 31, 2026.

REGISTRATION AND VOTER FILE MAINTENANCE:

Registrar Page explained that Orange County (OC) maintains its voter roll on a daily basis. Data supports that the voter file is well maintained. With 1.9 million active registered voters, only 0.1% are required to provide proof of identification before the next federal election.

Requirements regarding proof of citizenship are:

- Federal law allows voters to self-attest their citizenship by checking a box on the registration form, no documentation required.
- California state law also accepts self-attestation

If a new law is enacted requiring proof of citizenship, then, the Registrar of Voters (ROV) will implement it accordingly.

ROV updates records using information received from voters and official government sources. In 2024, an average of 81,000 transactions were processed each month.

After each general election, as per requirements by federal law, the ROV sends cancellation notices to voters flagged as inactive before the prior general election. Following the November 2024 Presidential Election, over 176,000 inactive voters were cancelled in 2025 who were made inactive prior to the November 2022 General Election.

Official government sources include:

- USPS National change of address
- Social Security Administration
- Secretary of State (DMV, Department of Corrections and Superior Court)
- OC Health Care Agency

- Other CA counties if voter re-registers

In addition, we use third-party sources such as:

- Consumer credit reporting agencies
- Direct marketing list brokers for national death records
- Family members, other voters or the public.

Third-party data is verified with the voter or official government sources. Any suspicious activity or potential fraud is referred to the Orange County District Attorney (OCDA) and/or Secretary of State (SOS).

Registrar Page added that the program is highly effective. When compared to the national average for all undelivered first-class mail, Orange County's voter database is well-maintained. Weekly reports from the SOS show that Orange County has the lowest rates of unresolved data – just 0.0008%.

Before moving to the next agenda item, Registrar Page asked if there were any questions about the voter file maintenance program.

Vice-Chair Lucinda Williams asked whether the county and state use the same database.

Registrar Page clarified that it is maintained by two separate databases.

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino added that the way the system is described and referred to is "bottom-up". Counties input voter registration data, which is immediately shared with the state. The state then pushes potential record matches.

Registrar Page emphasized that voters must provide proof of identity before their ballots can be processed if their records are flagged because they did not prove their identity when registering.

Vice-Chair Lucinda Williams clarified that the County and state systems operate in real time, sharing the same voter information.

Registrar Page added that voters who have not provided proof of identification remain on the voter rolls, but they are only eligible to vote in state elections, not federal ones, in accordance with current law.

2025 STATEWIDE SPECIAL ELECTION:

Deputy Director of Operations, Justin Berardino, provided an update on the upcoming 2025 Statewide Special Election, which is confirmed for November 4, 2025. He explained how there is a short time to prepare for this election.

There will only be one contest on the ballot, which is Proposition 50, no local contests will be on OC Ballots.

Some key dates for the 205 Statewide Special Election are the following:

- Thursday, September 11th: Printing of the Voter Information Guide (VIG) and ballots begins
- Saturday, September 20th: Deadline for issuing ballots to military and overseas voters
- Monday, October 6th:
 - o Mailing of VIG and ballots will begin
 - o VIG will be included with the ballots rather than mailed out separately, as there is only one state measure.
 - o Ballot drop boxes open
- There is a total of 66 Vote Centers
 - o 32 Vote Centers will open Saturday, October 25th

- Additional 34 Vote Centers will open Saturday, November 1st

This election will be fully reimbursed by the state under Senate Bill 280, covering \$15.4 million of County costs.

Although ROV will likely be prepared to certify results earlier, state law requires a waiting period for Vote-by-Mail (VBM) signature cures, with a deadline of Sunday, November 30th. As a result, certification results cannot occur before Tuesday, December 2nd.

Registrar Page noted that as of today, October 6th is just 19 days away.

2026 STATEWIDE ELECTIONS:

Registrar Page noted that preparations were already underway for the 2026 election cycle before the 2025 Special Statewide Election was announced.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo shared that, based on current number registered voters, we will be required to increase the number of Vote Centers and Ballot Drop Boxes:

- Increase seven Vote Centers to a total of 192 (39 11-day and 153 4-day)
 - Approximately 66 locations have been confirmed and reserved as a space for Vote Centers
- Actively recruiting new sites for Ballot Drop Boxes (need additional four)
 - Ballot boxes are being finalized for installation
 - Actively looking for locations based on voter registration numbers. We are looking for locations in Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, San Juan Capistrano
 - Priority are Community Colleges with 10,000 registered students

Pop-Up Voting Partnership:

We are looking for partners for the 2026 election cycle and we will continue to collaborate with organizations to help promote events. At least five pop-up voting opportunities to meet the needs of the community.

Vice-Chair Lucinda Williams asked in pop-ups are both in the General and Primary Elections or only one election.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo confirmed that they will be at both the General and Primary Elections with five for each election. However, there will not be a pop-up during the 2025 Special Statewide Election.

Pop-up voting sites will be fully operational Vote Centers, offering all the services found available at a traditional Vote Center. In 2024 we partnered with organizations focused on language and accessibility groups such as: AgeWell, Alta Med, Braille Institute, Easterseals and Leisure World.

- These partnerships helped serve diverse language communities and included bilingual staff to assist.
- If you are interested and/or know an organization that is interested in partnering, encourage them to reach out to Imelda and/or Adrian who oversee the recruitment efforts in coordination with the Outreach Department.

Registrar Page highlighted a major challenge with the short timeline for securing Vote Center locations. The team had only 2-3 weeks to finalize everything, and many preferred locations were not available.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo added that due to the short time frame, some locations were already booked for other events. As a result, the final list of Vote Centers might show gaps in certain

areas, despite efforts to fill those needs. For example, we are using a new hotel in Anaheim and a retail site in Brea.

CEW Member, Jeffrey Cardenas asked whether there would be additional information on UCI Vote Center.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo responded that we are working on organizing a 1-day registration and voting event at UCI.

2025 ELECTION ADMINISTRATION PLAN REVIEW/UPDATE:

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo shared the timeline for the 2025 Election Administration Plan (EAP), covering activities by the Election Services and Outreach Departments.

- July and August: 15 community workshops were held
- September 4th: Draft EAP was published, with a 21-day public review period
- September 25th: A public hearing will be held. Details on location and time will be shared, and the hearing will be livestreamed for remote viewing from home or work.
- October: the revised EAP will be published
- December: Final EAP must be submitted to the Secretary of State

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo thanked the city clerks for helping promote the events and some of them.

There were 30 small group meetings held with community organizations, over 400 individuals attended the 15 community workshops and received 750 individual comments.

Community feedback included:

- Vote Center equipment and staffing
- Creating diagrams to guide placement of tools for voters and Vote Center Customer Service Representatives (CSRs)
- Producing a marketing Video
- Pursuing partnership with transportation which is an ongoing effort by Gabe Taylor and Registrar Page; however, we have not been successful
- Expanding curbside voting options

A diagram outlining the EAP decision-making process was shared again to help the community understand how decisions are made.

Draft EAP 2026-29 is available at ocvote.gov/eap. It is published in both Federal and State Languages:

- Federal: Chinese, English, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- State: which are: Farsi, Gujarati, Hindi, Japanese and Tagalog.

The comment period is open from now through the close of the public hearing.

The public hearing details:

- Date: September 25th
- Time: 6 p.m.
- Location: Irvine City Hall, Council Chambers.
- Accessibility: Language interpretation and American Sign Language (ASL) services will be available.

What is the EAP and what does it include:

- Details on Vote Centers and Ballot Drop Boxes
- Big update, which is the Vote Centers operating hours

- First 10 days from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Election Day will remain the same operating hours from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Note: these hours do not apply to the upcoming 2025 Special Election
- It also includes language access, accessibility, security and contingency, and voter education and outreach.

There are several ways public can submit a comment.

- Online using the public input form at ocvote.gov/eap
- Email to ocvoter@ocvote.gov
- Mail to Orange County Registrar of Voters, P.O. Box 11298 Santa Ana, CA 92711-1298
- In person during the public hearing on September 25th

VOTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM (VEOP):

Community Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim explained that the Voter Outreach Plan (VOP) is connected to the Election Administration Plan (EAP) and is a component that is submitted to the Secretary of State.

The plan outlines several key objectives:

- Expanded and sustained outreach events and activities by partnering with diverse organizations to ensure broad community engagement. The plan includes an analysis of outreach.
- Increase the engagement among new voters, particularly those who are newly eligible
- Collaborating with community partners which is a key
- Pop-up voting partnerships to ensure voters can access to vote
- Launching a multimedia campaign, such as newsletters, voter education videos on YouTube to provide an overview of the plan

Based on the input gathered through the EAP process, the following topics were brought up ensuring that we are continuing to have a community presence and continue our events.

- Partnerships
- Good mixture of local and smaller events, in addition to large multi-day events
- Simple, clear and trusted messengers to ensure information gets out
 - Such as flyers or social media to understand what we are conveying to them
- Focus on youth education to continue to get the information out to youth who are about to become eligible voters or just became eligible voters.

Important items as we try to achieve these goals are the following Voter Education and Outreach Plan objectives:

- Engage with low-prosperity voters (those who prefer to receive information in-person)
- Leverage partnerships with colleges and universities to create opportunities for voter education initiatives
- Building trust and transparency by combatting misinformation/disinformation

Community Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim noted that these engagement discussions are intended to guide the development of effective strategies.

We would like to hear others input on an effective strategy to reach communities, strategies, techniques; a lens to look through to ensure we are achieving these goals.

Registrar Page added that some members might not have had the chance to look at the document yet, and we understand if they are unable to share any thoughts for today; but we encourage members to review the document and share their input to ensure we are setting a successful path.

CEW member, Gabe Taylor suggested that an idea that has been brought up numerous occasions is the outreach to high school students. Example homecoming weeks and events. This way reaching out to high schools to piggyback on the events that already exist.

Community Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim added, we are exploring this idea, and we are currently exploring attending the games.

Vice-Chair Lucinda Williams added cities have youth commissions, youth and government days; ROV can come and make a presentation.

Community Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim, we will have our Community Program Specialist reach out and set an appointment/on the agenda.

Community Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim continued with a recap of events that are happening. Voter Education and Outreach is an all year round regardless of if an election is on the calendar. It is a good indication of ongoing efforts to ensure voters are informed.

She also shared upcoming outreach events throughout the county. Any event we come across voters, we ensure we are there and ready to provide support.

CEW Chair, Theresa Bass added that she will reach out to ROV's outreach team as their office is working closely with the City Manager's Office. They are hosting district meeting for the community and ROV can attend and have pop-up and be involved with the city. Idea is instead of meeting in City Hall in Anaheim, we go to the community.

Community Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim confirmed that they will add this to the calendar to ensure proper staffing to cover.

High School Voter Education Week is scheduled for the last two weeks of September (9/15-9/26) which involve multiple teams daily to conduct presentations. The goal is to attend and educate young voters and soon to be voters, on the proper information with a focus on ensuring their signature on file matches their actual signature.

Community Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim opened the floor for any questions.

CEW member Gabe Taylor asked whether ROV is currently recruiting Vote Center Workers?

Registrar Page responded that we are now focused on hiring bilingual Vote Center CSRs. So far, 500 CSRs have been hired and are entering training.

CEW member Gabe Taylor added that October is Disability Employment Awareness Month, suggesting it's a great opportunity not only for outreach but also to recruit individuals with disabilities to serve as Vote Center Staff.

Registrar Page agreed, noting that due to the short timeline for the upcoming election, ROV has reached out to returning extra help VC CSRs to check availability.

CEW member Gabe Taylor recommended that ROV partners with BreAnna at Dayle McIntosh Center to explore additional recruitment opportunities for individuals interested in serving in the Vote Centers.

UPDATES FROM CEW VAAC AND CEW LAAC:

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo provided updates on last weeks' VAAC meeting, noting it was highly engaging and covered several important topics.

Meeting highlights:

- Improvements for the 2025 elections such as upgraded electioneering signage. We are always trying to update and make sure we ensure a good experience to our voters.
- 2026 Election and pop-up voting opportunities and locations
- The revised EAP will be effective next election not for this upcoming one
- Voter Education and Outreach
 - o A standing agenda item that consistently received positive feedback.
 - o Partnering with Gabe Taylor on an upcoming summit scheduled for next Tuesday

CEW member Gabe Taylor elaborated on the summit and thanked Imelda, Roxana and Adrian for their availability to attend.

Background of the Summit:

- It is hosted by Ventura County
- First Disability and Government summit
 - Idea to showcase different counties across the state can collaborate on ongoing projects and initiatives
 - Recognizing that resources are different, depending on the county
 - See what things works in each county
 - Importance of community collaboration with Election Staff
- Orange County does it much better than other counites which needs to be highlighted and hearing it will be beneficial for staff in other counties.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo expressed her excitement and said she's looking forward to attending the summit next Tuesday.

In the chat, CEW Member Beck Levin wrote: 'Something I just considered: Dayle McIntosh Center also works with the county and is their Veteran Service Organization (VSO). I know that being discharged from military can be difficult especially with finding a job. Could be another avenue into employing folks with disabilities!'

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo replied 'great feedback, will look into it and get back to you'.

Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim shared updates on last week's LAAC meeting and how there are many similarities to the VAAC meeting with only a few differences. There were numerous discussions especially on pop-up voting opportunities, encouraging members to suggest potential locations.

During the LAAC meeting, the EAP update was discussed. It was a good discussion; especially on the languages of the EAP which will be offered in Federal and State languages in addition to English. Future changes to the languages will be based on State Review.

Another point of discussion was Voter Education and Outreach and specifically effort in engaging the youth group and population.

Outreach Manager, Enedina Chhim also asked Tim Cheng (Co-Chair LAAC) if he had anything he would like to add.

CEW Member Tim Cheng added two items. First, he appreciates the staff on doing a great job. Orange County has 1.9 million voter population, and the EAP is translated in State and Federal languages and the website is a great job.

CEW Member Tim Cheng had the following questions regarding the EAP September hearing. Is it encouraged to attend in person, what will the format of the public hearing be and what if someone wants to speak?

Registrar Page clarified that there is no need to register to attend the EAP hearing in September and anyone can show up. If an individual would like to speak, they will fill out a request form. The time allocated for each speaker will be determined during the hearing.

CEW Member Tim Cheng raised a concern regarding the impact of federal directives on the EAP review process, referencing past statement from President Trump about eliminating aspects of the voting process?

Registrar Page responded that he views the statements in the President's executive order as policy positions for elections. State sets rules for elections and Congress can enact changes into law. Until such changes are legally mandated, Orange County will continue to follow existing guidelines for administering elections.

FUTURE BUSINESS ITEMS:

Registrar Page invited members to share any topics they would like to discuss in future meetings.

Election Services Manager, Imelda Carrillo added that no decisions have been made yet regarding the next VAAC/LAAC meetings, but they are considering holding them in person in January.

Registrar Page added that the 2025 Statewide Special Election cannot be certified until first week of December. As a result, the proposed timeframe for the next VAAC/LAAC meeting is second or third week of January 2026.

Registrar Page also recommended conducting a scheduling poll for the next CEW meeting and asked Lora El Amatory to send out a poll after the meeting.

Additionally, Registrar Page mentioned that if Proposition 50 passes in November for Congressional redistricting, the team will provide an update on the new district maps.

Meeting adjourned by Registrar Page at 3:41 PM.