



**Joint Clallam-Jefferson County
Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee
(VAAC)**
Per RCW 29A.04.223



Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2021 9:00 a.m.
Zoom Meeting

Members (Members in attendance noted next to name):

Representing Clallam County:

Shoona Riggs, Auditor – Present
Sherry Price, Voter Registration Coordinator – Present
Susan Johnson, Elections Manager – Present

Representing Jefferson County:

Rose Ann Carroll, Auditor – Absent
Quinn Grewell, Election Coordinator – Present
Brenda Huntingford, Chief Deputy Auditor – Present
Sandi Eldridge, Voter Registration Coordinator – Present

Representing the Community:

John Ammetere – Present
Angela Gyurko, League of Women Voters Jefferson County President – Present
Karen Pierce, Clallam Employment Services – Present
Carina Robinson, DSHS – Present
Nancy Johnson, DASH – Present
Kelly Lawrence, Developmental Disabilities Program Coordinator – Present

The meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Committee's role:

- ✓ Accessibility – Advise the Auditor's Office on how to make voting more accessible to the disabled community
- ✓ Outreach – Assist the Auditor's Office in communicating with voters in the disabled community

- ✓ Education – Help the Auditor’s Office to inform voters in the disabled community and educate staff on disability issues.

Old Business

Approve May 12, 2021 meeting minutes.

Motion to approve made by Quinn Grewell.

Motion 2nd by Sherry Price.

All in favor – unanimous

New Business:

Item 1: Clallam and Jefferson reported on election accessibility within their perspective Counties. Clallam County has two AVUs (Accessible Voting Units) available to voters 20 days before each election. Clallam posts election related accessible information on their website; links to the Secretary of State Office’s options for alternative forms to access the Voter’s Pamphlet, hours of operation and contact information. Clallam conducts outreach with the Braille Library by producing and sending a flyer; it contains information on the AVU, how to receive accessible formats of the voter’s pamphlet, resources, Drop box locations, business hours and contact information. Clallam also produces and emails an informational flyer to over 70 businesses and organizations with the current election information on what will be on the ballot, important dates/times, and Ballot Drop Box locations.

Jefferson County also reported on accessibility within their county. They have two AVUs available to voters 20 days before each election. They have upgraded their Ballot Drop Boxes within the last year and have three at their courthouse. Jefferson conducts the same outreach with the Braille Library. They send fliers to organizations and businesses throughout their county, for each election, with information on what will be on the ballot, important dates/times, and Ballot Drop Box locations. They also noted that, at present, due to construction public use of the building has closed their main doors and has directed visitors to use their Accessible entrance. This has been a good form of showing that the building is accessible to a greater population of users.

Item 2: Feedback was given from Nancy Johnson from DASH that vote-by-mail is great for those especially with disabilities making it easier for them to vote independently.

Item 3: Angela Gyurko representing the League of Women Voters Jefferson County reported that they produced a video for caregivers and voters who need assistance that contained the Washington State laws on how to help/assist a voter. This video link is posted on their website and YouTube page. They also have a link posted on their website to the Secretary of State's page with additional information on Voting in Assisted Living Facilities. This link will be shared with those who attended this meeting.

Item 4: Karen Pierce from Clallam Employment Services posed the question of how one would vote if they are unable to read. Quinn explained how the AVU would be a great resource for them as it reads the ballot to the voter. Karen stated how important it is to consider universal design, design that works for everyone.

Item 5: Carina Robinson from DSHS asked if election staff would consider doing a presentation to their staff on election information and various accessible options we offer. Clallam and Jefferson both feel this would be a great opportunity and look forward to doing so.

Item 6: There was discussion on whether to continue using Zoom for our meetings or to try and move to meeting in person. The feedback given from the group was that Zoom should continue to be an option, as it makes it easier for folks to join the meeting. If we meet in person, Zoom needs to be offered as well.

Action Plan: For 2022 both counties want to work towards better engagement of the communities and voters.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be in the Spring of 2022. Clallam County will send out the information for the Spring meeting once it has been determined.

Motion to adjourn made by Shoona Riggs.

Motion 2nd by Quinn Grewell.

All in favor: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.