



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



Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Hybrid Meeting

Representing Clallam County:

Susan Johnson, Elections Manager -- Present
Gretchen Weeks, Elections Assistant -- Present
Anita Reynolds, Elections Assistant -- Present

Representing Jefferson County:

Brenda Huntingford, Auditor -- Present
Quinn Grewell, Election Coordinator -- Present
Sandi Eldridge, Voter Registration Coordinator -- Present

Representing the Community:

Bonnie Bless-Boenish, Clallam League Women Voters -- Present
Stephanie Sherman, Clallam League Women Voters -- Present
Jennie Peterson, D Party Clallam County -- Present
Carina Robinson, DSHS -- Remote
Nancy Johnson, DASH -- Remote
Tracey House, DVR -- Remote
Sarah Teague-Schmeltz, Port Angeles High School -- Remote
Kelley Lawrence, DSHS -- Remote
Tony Andrus -- Remote
Julia Montagnet, Mosaic -- Remote
Catherine McKinney, Mosaic -- Remote
Pam Hicks, DDAC -- Remote
Lucinda Heidel, DVR -- Remote

Meeting called to order at 10:09 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 9, 2022, meeting minutes.
Motion to approve made by Brenda Huntingford.
Motion 2nd Sandi Eldridge. All in favor -- unanimous

New Business:

1. Report on Accessible Voting in Clallam and Jefferson Counties -- two machines are available in each county.
2. Quinn Grewell discussed a new ExpressVote AVU that Jefferson County Elections purchased. They are hoping to be able to expand their voter outreach by being able to transport and use it at locations that voters with disabilities would be able to access with greater ease. It has not been used by the public yet, but in testing they have found it to be very user friendly. VoteWA signature verification feature allows a letter to be sent in case a signature needs updating.
3. Discussion regarding the reaction to signature update letters. Both counties have mixed responses, some voters are glad to be asked to update, and others are upset that their signature was questioned. Quinn and Susan agreed that we should be continually improving the wording on notices. They will communicate in order to have similar wording for election-related materials.
4. Outreach: continue to produce a current "At A Glance" Election Document. Quinn recommended a press release regarding ADA accessibility for voters. No Reader Boards used in the last election; will revisit for next presidential election. Pam Hicks requested the election/voter information be posted at the library, Post Office, and DMV in Forks.
5. Sandi Eldridge reported on the Braille Library.
6. Discussion on distribution of information to the community, especially the Forks area. Susan reports that Clallam does send "At a Glance" posters to businesses and community centers. Quinn said that Jefferson does, as well, and that they are working to update the poster for the next election. The "At A Glance" posters in both counties will include accessibility information. Anyone who wishes to receive the posters should contact Susan to have their e-mail address added to the list.
7. Stephanie Sherman, reported on LWV going back into schools after COVID. Their goal is to invite and educate students into the voting community. They show a slide presentation with an overview of the election processes, how to fill out the ballot, place in the envelopes and sign. They will add a slide with information on accessibility and another on signature updates and why they are important. They will share the information they take to the schools with Susan and Quinn, as well.
8. Jenny Peterson requested a computer speaker for future meetings to better hear the remote attendees.

Future Meetings

Motion to decrease VAAC meetings to once per year was made by Quinn Grewell.

Motion 2nd Brenda Huntingford. All in favor -- unanimous

2023 Action Plan

The 2022 Action Plan was reviewed and approved again for 2023.

Motion to approve made by Brenda Huntingford.

Motion 2nd Quinn Grewell. All in favor -- unanimous

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be in the Spring of 2024. Date to be determined by Elections staff, well in advance of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Quinn Grewell.

Motion 2nd by Brenda Huntington. All in favor: Unanimous