



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



Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2022 9:00 a.m.

In person and Zoom Meeting

Members (Members in attendance noted next to name)
(Members in attendance over Zoom):

Representing Clallam County:

Sherry Price, Voter Registration Coordinator – Present
Susan Johnson, Elections Manager – Present
Aspen Smith, Elections Assistant – Present

Representing Jefferson County:

Rose Ann Carroll, Auditor – Present
Quinn Grewell, Election Coordinator – Present
Sandi Eldridge, Voter Registration Coordinator – Present

Representing the Community:

Angela Gyurko, League of Women voters – Jefferson County
Carina Robinson, DSHS – Present
Nancy Johnson, DASH – Present
Kelly Lawrence, Developmental Disabilities Program Coordinator – Present
Bonnie Bless-Boenish, Clallam League Women Voters – Present (Attended In House)
Stephanie Sherman, Clallam League Women Voters – Present (Attended In House)
Sandy Ulf, D Party Clallam County – Present

The meeting called to order at 9:04 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 October 13, 2021 meeting minutes.

Motion to approve made by Quinn Grewell.

Motion 2nd Sherry Price.

All in favor – unanimous

New Business:

1. Report on Accessible Voting in Clallam and Jefferson Counties – both counties reported on Accessible Voting Units, available to the community 20 days before each election. (Sip and Puff accessibility was discussed after the meeting ended with the two LWV present in house. Clallam has looked into this feature and the attending LWV ladies discussed the use of funds and commented that due to little to no interest from the community, the funds would be best used for outreach in another rea.
2. Quinn Grewell discussed a new AVU the county elections division 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. Sherry Price and Quinn Grewell discussed voter outreach, mailing a voter informational flyer (At a Glance) and outreach to the Braille library.
3. Quinn Grewell brought forth the idea of Jefferson and Clallam working together to have consistent language for voter outreach material: LVP, At a Glance, website material. Susan and Quinn will further discuss the possibilities of implementing this in the future.
4. There was discussion on the voting population that may be overlooked and/or has low voter turnout. Carina Robinson offered insight into the transition program offered by the high schools; these citizens would benefit from learning more about county elections. Both Counties are excited to participate with this venture. In particular, each county will be contacting the county high schools that offer special needs programs. The goal is to invite and educate these students into the voting community. Voter education would focus on: field trips to Elections Offices, handing out education material, interacting with sample ballots, practice with

accessible voting units, education on how to cast and sign a ballot and an overview of election processes.

5. Sandy Ulf asked about Observer Training, wanting to know when it will be scheduled. Both Clallam and Jefferson will offer the training in June, the exact date for each County will be decided soon. Each County will post the information on their county website and will contact those in the community interested, Party Chairs, etc.

Legislative Proposals discussed:

These proposal/pilot programs will have positive impact on Voting Accessibility.

*Ballot Language: Proposal for language accessible ballots. Some states have implemented simple reading level requirements and have achieved confident more informed voters.

*Proposal of electronic ballot returns for all voters through online portal. Reduction of signature challenges as a result of a non-submitted ballot due to a “print disability”.

*Additional identification verification: Signatures don’t work for voters with disabilities or issues with dexterity. Alternative(s) such as a pin number system or biometric authentication.

*Modernizing Voter Communication: Mail may no longer be most preferred method of communicating and receiving information with voters. Proposal to capitalize on new tools without compromising services. This would allow voters to opt in or out of receiving certain documents and communications from the department.

No further questions or comments.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be in the Fall of 2022. Clallam or Jefferson County will send out the information for the Fall meeting once it has been determined who will lead the meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Sherry Price.

Motion 2nd by Nancy Johnson.

All in favor: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.