

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND
KATHRYN BARGER

March 10, 2020

Election Day Voting Issues

Voting in Los Angeles County took on a much-needed transformation recently. We stopped utilizing the outdated InkaVote system and adopted a completely overhauled, modernized voting system, called “Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP).”

VSAP allowed more people to vote independently than in previous elections by allowing for a multitude of languages, both written and verbal, to be played on touch screens as well as the ability for voters to change the screen font size with ease. Instead of a single day of voting, any voter in the County could vote up to 11 days early at Vote Centers.

However, despite all those improvements, we heard reports of large numbers of voters who were frustrated with their experience on Election Day. There were excessive wait times around Vote Centers. By some accounts, people waited for up to 4 hours to enter and vote and many simply left out of frustration without voting. Technical challenges with the new system arose all over the County, which were not addressed quickly, and it

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

became clear that there were insufficient numbers of pollworkers at the most heavily trafficked Vote Centers. The next Election Day in November is expected to have even more voter turnout. We need to quickly determine how to address the serious problems that were identified with VSAP yesterday and make the necessary changes to ensure that voters can exercise their right to vote conveniently.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, in consultation with the California Secretary of State, investigate all of the challenges that voters experienced on both Election Day as well as all days County residents were able to vote, including:

- 1) Excessive wait times that may have been a result of technical issues from the check-in process;
- 2) Ensuring appropriate staffing is maintained at each Vote Center location and enough staff to respond and fix technical challenges that arise at Vote Center locations;
- 3) Determine what led to 17,000 voters not receiving their Vote By Mail ballots as scheduled;
- 4) Determine how 3 cities and other smaller precincts were not included for Measure FD; and
- 5) Discrepancies between official publications of Vote Center locations and actual/final vote center locations;
- 6) Problems with the 'hotline' used for voters to report problems to ensure adequate staffing, including callers being disconnected due to high call volumes;
- 7) An assessment of the set up at Vote Centers, deployment of resources and availability of staff at the Vote Centers

8) Identify all of the technical issues, including IT/internet connectivity and inoperable voting machines; and

5) 9) Report back in 45 days with corrective measures for all the above that will be put in place prior to when voting commences in November 2020.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Office to hire an independent consultant to:

1) Review all the issues presented during the 2020 Primary elections;

2) Validate the corrective action plan developed by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk;

3) Provide additional recommendations, if any, to ensure that the same problems do not re-occur in the November election; and

4) Monitor and assist the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk in the November General election.

#

JH:mb