

Minutes
Mason County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee
Meeting September 10, 2013

Attendance

Members:

Karen Herr, Mason County Auditor
Libby Avery, EFI
Carol Boyd, EFI
Pat Kevin

Nonmembers:

Fina Ormond, Superintendent of Elections

Karen Herr opened the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Karen reviewed the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee plan including the changes and new goals. Please see attached plan with the changes in bold.

A discussion followed of other possible outreach opportunities, here is a list of possible contacts and/or groups:

HOST – A program that helps over 18 years old individuals return to CHOICE to complete the schooling

YES – Youth Empowerment Strategies

Imigrantes United

Zacharias family – Leaders in the Spanish speaking community

Fina mentioned that we have a new employee starting in the Auditor's office who is a native Spanish speaker which will assist us with outreach to the Spanish speaking community.

One of the new goals includes Finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding, between the Auditor's Office and Mason County Transit to provide transportation for voters with disabilities to travel to our office. There was a discussion about whether Mason County Transit had the right resources and whether it was the best fit to help voters with disabilities travel to the Auditor's Office. This is a list of questions and/or concerns the committee brought up before finalizing any agreement with any organization:

- Would Mason County Transit be willing to wait for a voter to complete voting or whether they would have to schedule a separate pickup time and how long would a voter have to wait to be picked up?
- How much time in advance does a voter need to call to schedule? Currently, Mason County Transit operates on a first come first serve basis, would that be changed as part of our agreement?

- If it is the volunteer driver program, how will the voter's needs for an accessible vehicle be matched with the volunteer driver's vehicle?

Other options were discussed that might be a better fit for this service:

- Churches that have vans
- Mason County Taxi – vehicles are not necessarily accessible for all voters
- Dial a Ride
- Area Agency on Aging – might have grant funding for taxis

The draft Mason County Accessibility Advisory Committee Plan was amended to change the section under Transportation to read:

In order to provide transportation to and from the Auditor's office to ensure all voters with disabilities have equal opportunity to vote independently and privately, we will pursue opportunities with the following businesses:

- The Patty Wagon
 - Mason County Taxi
 - Senior Center – using vans that transport meals on wheels.
 - Churches who may have accessible vans available
- Pursue the possibility of acquiring grant monies thru Area for Aging for any possible charges of the above businesses.

Members agreed to changes and approved the amended plan.

Meeting adjourned by Karen Herr at 10:41 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Fina Ormond.