

Minutes
Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee
June 14, 2017

Attendees were:

Karen Herr, Mason County Auditor
Randy Neatherlin, Mason County Commissioner
Amy Davis, League of Women Voters
Laura Dreckman, Area Agency on Aging
Sherri Lingle, E.F.I. (Exceptional Foresters Inc.)
Pat Kevin
Chuck Orthmann
Nathan Tobin

Auditor Staff:

Fina Ormond, Election Superintendent
Susan Blankenship, Assistant Election Administrator

Karen Herr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Karen asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Old Business:

Postal service regarding the rubber stamp to mark mail with the wording “Free Matter for the Blind or Physically Handicapped” so that postage is not required by the sender and found out through the Post Office just for individual purpose only for the blind.

Audio signals for elevators in our building, Chuck went to the commissioner meeting wanting the voice activated when the doors open regarding where the elevator is located also where offices are in our building to assist the visually impaired.

Randy contacted Kitsap County and a Representative from the state and found that tones don't work.

Randy, Chuck and Nathan were checking on the braille instructions if they were posted at the entrance of exterior door when you enter the building the door opens automatically and the interior has a button to push to open “no braille”. The elevator has braille outside and inside.

Elections Modernization Project:

Secretary of State has requested \$6 million for an election modernization project. All 39 counties have their own registration systems feeding into a state database. The State will go out to bid for the 39 counties in Washington State to upgrade for new election equipment to be uniform across the state.

New Legislation – SSB 5472:

Mason County is required to have 2 additional ballot drop boxes per census-designated place in the county that has a post office. Grapeview, new community center and Union near the Post Office at the strip mall.

Update and Approve our Annual Accessibility Plan:**Actions Items:**

- Add Ballot Boxes
- Transportation – Dial a Ride – ADA 2hr window, Patty Wagon there is a fee and Mason Transit – Volunteer drivers program, Randy Neatherlin was going to check to see if it is possible to bring voters to the Mason County Auditor’s Office to vote.
- Correction to replace St. David’s with Community Life Line.

Accessible voting in our local jail:

Fina mentioned you don’t lose your voting rights when you’re in our local county jail they have the right to vote.

For example: an inmate can register to vote using the address where he is located and receive a ballot. If that person is register in another county we can print a ballot from that county. Also, if there is an individual in their custody with a disability a deputy can bring that person to our office to vote on the Accessible Voting Unit.

Get out the Disability Vote Week / National Disability Voter Registration Week is July 17-21

Karen mentioned to encourage the disability community to participate in upcoming elections to increase voter turnout for the Primary as well as the General Election for voters to learn how to vote on the Accessible Voting Unit by having an open house during week of July 17-21.

Input from Agency Representatives on services they provide the disabled community

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Susan Blankenship