

Minutes
Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee
December 14, 2023

People in Attendance

Steve Duenkel, *Mason County Auditor*

Susan Blankenship, *Assistant Election Administrator*

Kailey Chappell, *Elections Technician & Outreach*

Kevin Frankeberger, *Member, Governors Committee on Disability Issues and Employment*

Becky Frankeberger, *Citizen advocate for voters with disabilities*

Warren Weisman, *Governors Committee on Disabilities*

Call to order: Steve Duenkel, Auditor called the meeting to order at 2:09pm

Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves

Overview:

- Review of Agenda
 - Steve reviewed the agenda and made sure everyone had a copy.
- Review of VAAC
 - Steve gave an overview of the RCW's that govern the VAAC. He briefly went over the VAAC Plan and its content and stated it's updated annually.

Official Business

- Review of Current VAAC Plan
 - We discussed how the only update to the VAAC Plan would be the list of ballots drop boxes since we have moved some boxes and have changed some of the names. Steve motioned to vote to approve the changes. Kailey seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the proposed plan change was approved.

Old Business:

- Discuss Previous meeting
 - At the previous meeting we discussed if a decision about the Accessible Community Advisory Committee (ACAC) was made since it was determined that the auditor's office could not financially support it. Paddy the previous Auditor had agreed we need the ACAC but that another community entity would need to oversee it. He was going to follow up with the Commissioners to bring this in front of them again, but this did not happen since he was voted out of office. Steve agreed we need to continue to look into this and try to move forward with getting ACAC started. No formal plan was of how to do this was formed but Steve and Kailey will meet to discuss further outside of this meeting.

- We talked at the last meeting if extended hours would be helpful and it was deemed it would be beneficial as long as we notified voters way in advanced and made sure multiple publications and community entities were aware as well. We have decided we will probably have extended hours with the larger elections in 2024. We talked about how the hours will be put in the Voters Pamphlet, Journal, Elections Website and KMAS to make sure people are aware. We are also opening an additional Vote Center in Belfair so hopefully this will help with access.

New Business:

- Audio Version of the Voters Pamphlet
 - Kailey asked the committee if they new of any resources to help convert the voters pamphlet into an audio version but no one had any suggestions
- VAAC Information Card
 - Discussed how these were handed out to multiple community partners but Kailey has not received any feedback on this to know if they have been helpful or not. We will still continue to give to community partners to put out so voters know what kind of accessibility options we have available.
- Voice assistance in Lobby
 - Kevin Frankeberger brought up how helpful it would be for blind individuals to have an audio recording that plays in the lobby stating what building they were in and where the elevator is located. Steve said he would look into and try to work with IT and the Commissioners to see if this is something we could do.

Meeting Adjourned: Adjourned at 2:39pm