

August 2, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Disability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, August 1, 2012

The Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) met on August 1, 2012 at the Cowlitz County Administration Building. The meeting agenda is attached.

Attendees were:

Amy Hair, Chief Deputy Auditor
Bernie Altman, AARP
Doug Hooper, Southwest Agency on Aging and Disabilities
Anita Hopkins, CAP
Tim Krueger, Southwest Regional Support Network Ombudsman
Sunnie Smith, Parent Child Assistance Program
Linda Wilson, DAV Transportation
Sharon Weinhold, Voter Outreach Coordinator

Welcome/Introductions. The Committee members welcomed Amy Hair and Tim Krueger, first time attendees. Everyone introduced themselves and said a few words about the organization they were representing.

Status of Primary Election.

Committee members were apprised of the status of the August 7, 2012 Primary. This is a county wide Primary with a large slate of candidates. Almost 56,500 ballots were mailed to registered voters on July 20. As of July 31, 7,288 ballots (12.9%) were returned. Of those returned, 60% were returned through the six accessible ballot drop boxes. The Primary ballot is larger than usual, and voters are taking the time to research the candidates prior to voting. This accounts for the low return rate to date. It is expected that a significant number of ballots will be returned closer to Election Day.

Questions were raised and answered regarding the ballot and placement of races and candidate names on the ballot. There also was discussion on getting ballots to Military members stationed overseas. Linda suggested checking into taking the eSlate to the Veterans Stand Down, which is a full day event in October to be held at the Armory National Guard in Longview. For one day, the Stand Down brings together services and service providers that give veterans important information and resources. Doug asked if there was opportunity to take the eSlate to the local college. Linda suggested contacting the Special Populations Coordinator at Lower Columbia College and discussing possibilities.

Committee members were given the opportunity to vote their Primary ballot on the eSlate before and after the meeting.

Feedback, Honoring Seniors Who Have Voted for 50 Years or More.

There was discussion on the Senior Events that occurred over the last 10 months. The goals of the events were to honor longtime voters and provide information about the voter accessibility improvements, including the eSlate. Partners included representatives from CAP, Southwest Agency on Aging and Disabilities and AARP, who provided information about the services their organization offers to seniors.

Senior Events -- Attendees

Location	Date	Attendees
Silver Lake Grange	25-Oct-11	45
Kelso Senior Center	14-Dec-11	68
Canterbury Inn	5-Mar-12	63
Monticello Park	10-Apr-12	28
Ryderwood	10-May-12	55
Kalama Community Center	22-May-12	47
Woodland Grange	23-Jul-12	48
Somerset	26-Jul-12	51
Total		405

Over 400 seniors attended the 8 events. A Cowlitz County Commissioner and Kris Swanson, Cowlitz County Auditor participated in every event. Feedback from the seniors, participants and host facility personnel was very positive. Seniors and host facility personnel benefited from the events and gained new information relevant to them. Everyone enjoyed hearing the seniors' voting stories and what voting means to them.

Feedback, Senior Connections Fair. The Elections Department participated in the Senior Connections Fair on the first Wednesday in May at the Mall. Tom Allman, from the Secretary of State's Office joined us for most of the day. The fair was very well attended and traffic to the booth was heavy. Many people voted a test ballot on the demonstration eSlate and received information about the accessibility improvements made in Cowlitz County. Anita mentioned that a Save the Date announcement is being prepared for next year's Senior Connections Fair, which will be in May 2013.

DVD Video Voters Guide Pilot Project.

This is a project initiated at the Secretary of State's Office. The goal is to increase voter turnout for individuals with disabilities living in congregated living facilities (Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities) by providing the information for the 2012 General

Election via a DVD Video Voters' Guide. The DVD will include statewide candidates and statewide ballot measures, and will be available in September 2012.

To accomplish the goal, the homes and facilities will be asked to register residents to vote or update their voter information, show the DVD Video Voters' Guide and assist with voting, either with the eSlate or the ballots received in the mail. The Elections Department and DAC's role is to notify facilities in Cowlitz County about the project and how to request a DVD, and provide other support as needed.

Tim said he planned to talk to the AARP members about the DVD Video Guide and possibly showing it at an AARP meeting.

Ideas for New Accessibility Grant Cycle, 2013.

The Secretary of State's Office advised there will be a grant cycle in 2013, amount and project criteria to be determined. Committee members were asked to think about what might benefit voters with disabilities. Amy suggested the project should be something long term, not something that is available while there is funding and then is gone. She said we did not want to create expectations and then not be able to continue meeting them.

Action Items.

- Determine if the Elections Department and DAC should participate in the Stand Down.
- Contact the Special Populations Coordinator at Lower Columbia College and determine how we can partner to get the word out about our accessibility improvements and offer voting opportunities on the eSlate.
- At the appropriate time, notify the Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities about the DVD Video Voters' Guide, determine whether they would like to use it, and offer support as needed.

The next DAC meeting will be scheduled for October, after the ballots for the General Election have been mailed.

Sharon Weinhold
Cowlitz County Elections
360-577-3005