California Secretary of State
Voter's Choice Task Force Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 10, 2026, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Co-Chair Donna Linder called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

   Roll Call

   Task Force Members Present: Co-Chair Donna Linder, Co-Chair Petrina Branch, Matt Moreles, Gabriel Taylor, Leslie Hernandez, Art Tinoco, Deanna Kitamura, Ethan Jones, Evelyn Mendez, Brittany Stonesifer, Carrie Cornwell, Ellen Nash, Melvin Levey.

   Task Force Members Absent: Bob Page, Dean Logan, Dora Rose.
   Jesse Salinas joined at 2:16 p.m.

   Determination of Quorum: Elections staff confirmed that a quorum was present.

   Camila Chavez joined the meeting after roll call.

2. **Public Comment:** Co-Chair Donna Linder opened the floor for public comment. No public comments were received.

3. **Discussion and Possible Action**: Review of August 27, 2026, meeting minutes.

   The Task Force reviewed the August 27, 2026, meeting minutes and identified the following corrections:

   - Item 7 should identify Donna Linder as the Co-Chair who invited future agenda items.
   - Camila Chavez was listed twice as abstaining from the vote to approve the meeting minutes; one duplicate entry should be removed.
   - Melvin E. Levey should be listed as absent from the meeting minutes because he was not in attendance.
   - Carrie Cornwell should be listed as present.

   Motion: Co-Chair Petrina Branch moved to return the August 27, 2026, meeting minutes for approval at the next meeting after the identified corrections are made. Evelyn Mendez seconded the motion.

Vote
Ayes: Petrina Branch, Donna Linder, Melvin E. Levey, Matt Morales, Gabriel Taylor, Art Tinoco, Deanna Kitamura, Leslie Hernandez, Camila Chavez, Ellen Nash, Evelyn Mendez, Brittany Stonesifer.
Noes: None
Abstentions: None
Jesse Salinas was not present for the vote.
Motion carried, 12-0.

4. **Review of CSU Sacramento Data Subcommittee:** Melvin E. Levey reported that he and Jesse Salinas are working on the final version and expected to share it with the Task Force next week for comments and then move to approve the report at the following meeting, pending any further edits.

5. **Review of Draft "Purpose & History of the Voter's Choice Act" Section of the 2026 Primary Election Report:** Leslie Hernandez reported that she and Art Tinoco planned to meet to incorporate feedback and expected to provide a final draft for review tomorrow, Friday, September 11, 2026.

6. **"2026 Primary Election Ballot Rejection Rate and USPS Changes"** – **First draft:** Melvin E. Levey reported that the section had not yet been drafted and asked whether the Task Force wanted the report to include concerns regarding reductions in postal services in addition to the post-marking rule change. Melvin requested feedback before they begin the first draft and if this issue is something they should be addressing, as well as other USPS they may be overlooking.

   Deanna Kitamura responded that she hadn't heard anything regarding reductions but would be interested in knowing if this was occurring. Donna Linder concurred with Deanna, that they had not heard anything, and they work closely with their post office, although it could not be happening in their respective areas.

   Melvin E. Levey stated that the subcommittee could conduct additional research on the issue.

   Camila Chavez stated that, as a representative of the Central Valley, she had concerns over rejected ballots and living in an area 50 miles from the main regional center.

   After feedback was received, Melvin commented that he and Ellen will be working towards a draft and in the interest of time, send out a draft out ahead of

time for comments. And present the commented draft version at the next meeting.

7. **Future Agenda Items:** Co-Chair Donna Linder invited Task Force members to propose future agenda items.

   Co-Chair Petrina Branch asked for the upcoming accessibility and ballot processing speed due dates. Elections staff member Josh Robinson stated that a reminder email would be sent to the subcommittee in the next few days.

   Melvin E. Levey requested clarification regarding the schedule of upcoming Task Force meetings. Elections staff Josh Robinson linked the schedule in the chat.

   Jesse Salinas stated that he would be unable to attend the meeting on September 24th but would brief Melvin on their report for the meeting.

8. **Public Comment:** Co-Chair Donna Linder invited final public comment. No public comments were received.

9. **Adjournment:** Co-Chair Donna Linder adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.