Draft

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

Thursday, August 27, 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 2:00 p.m.

   Roll Call

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

   Task Force Members Absent: Bob Page, Ellen Nash, Jesse Salinas, Melvin E. Levey, Dean Logan.

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

   Camila Chavez joined the meeting after the 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 13, 2026, meeting minutes.

   Dora Rose requested document links be included in future agendas. Future agendas and minutes will be shared during the meeting and available to members prior to the meeting.

   Recommendation: Staff recommended that the Task Force adopt the August 13, 2026, meeting minutes.

   Motion: Co-Chair Petrina Branch moved to approve the August 13, 2026, meeting minutes. Deanna Kitamura seconded the motion.,

   Vote
   Ayes: Petrina Branch, Donna Linder, Matt Moreles, Gabriel Taylor, Art Tinoco, Deanna Kitamura, Leslie Hernandez.
   Noes: None
   Abstentions: Camila Chavez, Brittany Stonesifer, Dora Rose, Evelyn Mendez.
   Motion carried: 7-0, with 4 abstentions

4. **Review of CSU Sacramento Data Subcommittee:** Co-Chair Donna Linder asked whether the edits were available to review. Elections staff stated neither subcommittee member was present and that the draft was not available for review. Task Force members were invited to discuss the CSU Sacramento report. No discussion occurred.

5. **Review of the draft of the "Purpose & History of the Voter's Choice Act" Section of the 2026 Primary Election Report**

   Art Tinoco stated that he and Leslie Hernandez reviewed the final draft submitted for the November 2025 election and updated the current draft. He noted that few significant changes were needed and that particular attention was given to the final page of the introduction, and they had added a few items.

   Leslie Hernandez summarized the revisions. The draft was updated to include a link to Senate Bill 450, current election dates, clearer language explaining the Voter's Choice Act and its benefits, and a revised conclusion.

   The Task Force discussed whether the introduction should include information on the flex vote centers and mobile voting. Gabriel Taylor supported including the information, noting their importance for voters with disabilities because they can provide more accessible and convenient voting opportunities.

   Leslie Hernandez agreed and noted that flex and mobile voting opportunities would serve well for seniors and patients without reliable transportation. She added that these options are not used in every county and said she would research how other counties use similar models and incorporate appropriate examples.

   Gabriel Taylor further suggested highlighting where these approaches have been successful so other counties may consider alternative ways to reach voters who are difficult to serve through traditional voting locations. Leslie Hernandez confirmed that she would include that feedback.

   The Task Force also discussed a chart comparing polling places with the Voter's Choice Act model. Leslie Hernandez and Art Tinoco believed the chart was useful but may not belong in the introduction.

   Deanna Kitamura confirmed that the chart had appeared elsewhere in the prior report and that she had previously updated the purpose and history portions of

the document. Leslie Hernandez stated that it could be removed from the introduction and placed in another section if more appropriate and also noted the final feedback on the introduction was expected by September 4, 2026.

6. **Finalize Subcommittee Assignments**
   Co-Chair Donna Linder noted that several subcommittees still had only one member and asked whether additional Task Force members were interested in joining.

   Evelyn Mendez joined the Accessibility Refresh subcommittee with Deanna Kitamura.
   Gabriel Taylor noted that Melvin Levey may have previously committed to a subcommittee, but he was not certain which one.
   Camila Chavez joined the Review of the University Reports subcommittee with Gabriel Taylor.
   Dora Rose stated that she would be available beginning in mid-October.
   Dora Rose joined the Conclusion subcommittee with and Petrina Branch.

7. **Future Agenda Items**
   Co-Chair Donna Linder invited Task Force members to propose future agenda items. None were suggested.

8. **Adjournment**
   Co-Chair Donna Linder adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.