

Voter's Choice Act: Observations & Takeaways from LA County's Mock Election

PRESENTED BY

GABE TAYLOR

VOTING RIGHTS ADVOCATE

DISABILITY RIGHTS CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 2019



The Project

- Disability Rights California (DRC) & Asian Americans Advancing Justice (Advancing Justice) collaborated on a joint poll-monitoring project for September's event.
- In total, 64 volunteers visited 47 of the 50 Mock Election sites.
- During the two-day Mock Election, volunteers gathered approximately 700 exit surveys.

Goals of Poll-Monitoring Project

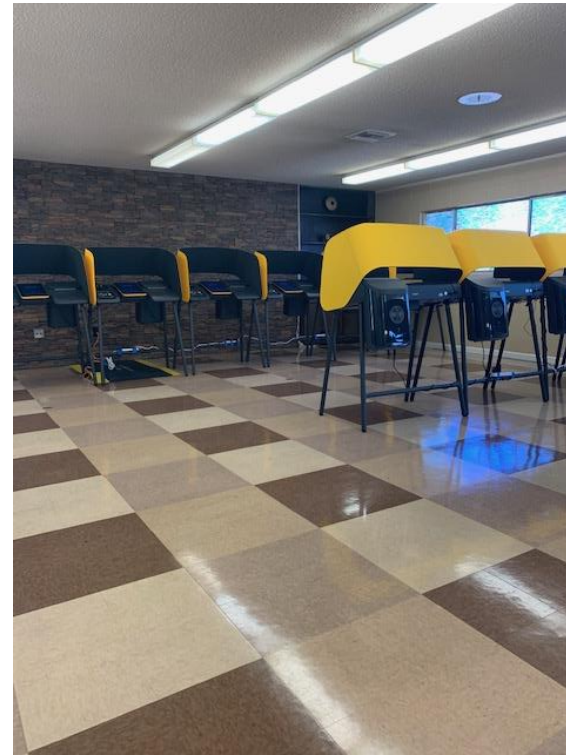
1. Gather community feedback on the voting experience during the Mock Election.
2. Identify potential issues/problems arising from changes to the voting system that the County will implement for the 2020 election cycle.

Major Findings

1. Voter turnout across the surveyed vote centers was low.
2. Voters were receptive to the new Ballot Marking Device (BMD) and indicated that the BMD was easy to use.
3. Poor placement of BMDs impacted accessibility and privacy.
4. Voters suggested more and improved instructions on how to use the BMD.
5. Small sample size of LEP voters resulted in limited data analysis.
6. Voters with disabilities identified a few accessibility challenges.
7. Signage was inadequate.

Key Recommendations

Privacy:



Key Recommendations (Cont.)

User Interface:



Key Recommendations (Cont.)

Set-up & Check-in:



Recommendations (Cont.)

Accessibility:

- Make sure language translations are accurate, understandable, and in plain language for that language group.
- Audio headsets should be readily available for use (e.g., unwound, at correct volume).
- Set up chairs or make them available for seniors and people with disabilities.
- Have a means to adjust height of BMDs.

Language:

- Have vote center workers who are not busy serve as ambassadors outside the vote center or near the entrance.
- Focus more social media, email, and radio outreach to increase publicity.
- Increase outreach & promotion of the vote centers and new voting times.

Thank you!

Gabe Taylor

Voting Rights Advocate, Disability Rights California

Gabriel.Taylor@disabilityrightsca.org

www.disabilityrightsca.org