



REGISTRAR of VOTERS

Neal Kelley

Key Services

Orange County Registrar of Voters' operations



Candidates

Simplifying the candidate filing experience



Education

Providing opportunities to learn more about elections



Outreach

Engaging the community to inform individuals



Voting

Core mission of providing election services



Key Services

Orange County Registrar of Voters' operations



Outreach

Engaging the community to
inform individuals



Community Input Prior to 2010

Fragmented approach

- 1 Two community advisory committees (language access and disability access)
- 2 Frustration among community leaders
- 3 Seeking dramatic change beyond statutory compliance



2

CATEGORIES



10

CATEGORIES



challenges to collaboration

Where to start when it's not working?



GROUP MOMENTUM

MAINTAINING



FINDING TIME

DIFFICULTIES



COMPETITION BETWEEN GROUPS



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DELAYED



Introduction to CEW Group Structure

Building the collaboration - steps to consider

- 1** Expanding = difficulty working with a diverse set of members
- 2** Competition = duplication of efforts between groups already collaborating
- 3** Success = creating an effective structure that would encourage participation



Introduction to Collaborating

Community Election Working Group (CEW)
is introduced

**Orange County
Registrar of Voters**

**Community Election Working
Group (CEW)**

Details on the election advisory group
for the Orange County, California
Registrar of Voters



Orange County Registrar of Voters

Community Election Working Group (CEW)

Details on the election advisory group
for the Orange County, California
Registrar of Voters





ORANGE COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Elections can be a challenging operation – given the sheer volume of voters processed and the complexity of our operation in a large urban county. Fortunately, we have worked to position our agency to be well prepared since 2005 – expanding our automation, efficiencies and improving our overall operations.

What is more, during the last few years, we've greatly strengthened our professional services to meet the evolving needs of voters in an increasingly demanding environment. We took major strategic actions to make investments in new technology in order to reduce potential errors; added new automation equipment to improve ballot delivery and processing; and as a result have seen turnarounds since 2005 in a number of our major divisions.

We continue to improve and grow and I am confident that the coming years will be even better, as we further implement our goal of increased automation, improved efficiencies and expanded community outreach.

Underlying our approach to election management includes community relations that extend beyond simple compliance with legal requirements. We rely on input from the community to maintain an open and transparent election process. The Community Election Working Group (CEW) serves this purpose – bringing together diverse backgrounds – each committed to making sure elections are open and accessible.

Strong input from the community starts with members of our Community Election Working Group who are independent, engaged, committed, and effective. Our members advise the Registrar of Voters on the election process and provide a forum to communicate back to the community on important election topics.

We believe in further strengthening public confidence in the election process and creating long-term relationships with our community partners.

Neal Kelley

Registrar of Voters

• Vision

• Mission

• Structure



THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT AND THE COMMUNITY ELECTION WORKING GROUP

President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law on August 6, 1965. Section 2 of the Act, which closely followed the language of the 15th amendment, applied a nationwide prohibition against the denial or abridgment of the right to vote on the literacy tests on a nationwide basis. Among its other provisions, the Act contained special enforcement provisions targeted at those areas of the country where Congress believed the potential for discrimination to be the greatest. Under Section 5, jurisdictions covered by these special provisions could not implement any change affecting voting until the Attorney General or the United States District Court for the District of Columbia determined that the change did not have a discriminatory purpose and would not have a discriminatory effect. In addition, the Attorney General could designate a county covered by these special provisions for the appointment of a federal examiner to review the qualifications of persons who wanted to register to vote. Further, in those counties where a federal examiner was serving, the Attorney General could request that federal observers monitor activities within the county's polling place.

It is critical that our office maintain a strong community based outreach program to ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act. The CEW Group works with the Registrar of Voters and provides important guidance on minority voting issues. Orange County must provide bilingual support in Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese in compliance with federal law. The determination to provide ballot materials and support in these languages was issued in 2002 and were made using data from the 2000 U.S. Census under guidelines set forth in Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act.

The CEW Group membership is made up of diverse members of the community that represent the covered languages in Orange County.

● Visioning what we could accomplish together



VOTING ACCESSIBILITY AND THE COMMUNITY ELECTION WORKING GROUP

The CEW Group also assists the Registrar of Voters on disabled voting topics. Their role is to advise, assist and provide recommendations to the Registrar of Voters as to how voters with disabilities can vote independently and privately. Elections officials are required, to the extent possible, to ensure that polling places are accessible to voters with disabilities. Recently the California Secretary of State's office contracted with the Department of Rehabilitation to update the Polling Place Accessibility Guidelines. The Guidelines are designed to provide county elections officials and members of the public with easy access to the federal and state requirements for accessible polling places. Our office uses this guide and keeps the CEW Group up-to-date on our polling place accessibility programs and services.

To view the Orange County Registrar of Voters ADA accessible polling place programs visit ocvote.com/ada

- **Sharing why duplication of effort is a good thing**



Community Election Working (CEW) Member Groups

Language advocates
Disability rights groups
City clerks
Poll workers
Civil rights groups
Senior citizen groups
Veterans groups
Political parties
Student & youth groups
Community leaders



Key Take-a-Ways

Lessons learned along the way

1

Communicate the vision - avoid temptation to muddy the outcomes

2

Build trust by collaborating together but working one-on-one as needed

3

Be consistent and maintain momentum - results will encourage participation



CEW Group Online



CEW Group Online

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ORANGE COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Registration Voting Results Data Media Community Volunteer About

Home > Community > Community Election Working Group

Registrar of Voters CEW Introduction

At the Orange County Registrar of Voters, success comes from our passion for creating fair and accurate elections. This is the core of our mission as we serve the registered voters and citizens of Orange County. Underlying our approach to election management includes compliance with legal requirements. We believe that input from the community is vital to an open and transparent process. The **Community Election Working Group (CEW)** serves this purpose – bringing together diverse backgrounds – each committed to making sure elections are open and accessible.

Strong input from the community starts with members of our Community Election Working Group who are independent, engaged, committed, and effective. Our members advise the Registrar of Voters on the election process and provide a forum to communicate back to the community on important election topics.

We believe in further strengthening public confidence in the election process and creating long-term relationships with our community partners.

Neal Kelley
Registrar of Voters

Community Links

- Community Outreach Info
- Bilingual Outreach Info
- Community Engagement
- Corporate Sponsorship Program
- Community Election Working Group
- CEW Info
- CEW Brochure
- CEW Membership Categories
- CEW Members
- CEW Meeting Notices and Minutes
- CEW Volunteer to Serve
- CEW Bylaws
- MyBallot Student Election Program
- Orange County Election Academy
- Social Media
- Election Webinars
- Speaker Requests
- Registrar of Voters Brochures
- Community Outreach Mission
- Student Ambassador

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ORANGE COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Registration Voting Results Data Media Community Volunteer About

Home > Community > Community Election Working Group > CEW Meeting Notices and Minutes

CEW Meeting Notices and Minutes

Below is the 2010 - 2015 schedule for the Community Election Working Group meetings:

Thursday, January 7, 2010 9:30 a.m.	
Click here to view the meeting agenda	
Click here to view the meeting minutes	
Thursday, April 22, 2010 9:30 a.m.	
Click here to view the meeting agenda	
Click here to view the meeting minutes	
Thursday, September 16, 2010 9:30 a.m.	
Click here to view the meeting agenda	
Click here to view the meeting minutes	
Thursday, February 10, 2011 9:30 a.m.	
Click here to view the meeting agenda	
Click here to view the meeting minutes	
Thursday, April 21, 2011 9:30 a.m.	
Click here to view the meeting agenda	
Click here to view the meeting minutes	

CEW Group

The Orange County Community Election Working Group (CEW) is an election advisory committee made up of volunteers from the community.

Help Center

How can I help you? Click to talk to an agent.

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