

# Kitsap Accessible Voting Advisory Committee

4/5/2023

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Steve Gardner  
Regina McRay  
Paul Andrews  
Amy Epperly  
John Allen

Meeting opened at 2:00pm.

Steve to record this meeting and send it to everyone on the committee.

Paul welcomed group and thanked members for their efforts.

Discussion of issues raised one year ago:

- Steve created a pdf of all ballot drop box locations.
- Vast improvement in open captions for videos. These are not automatic on YouTube and are done after the fact by Steve.
- Advisory votes tend to confuse voters. There is a bill in legislature to eliminate advisory votes, but it hasn't gone anywhere.
- Steve to reach out to the Peninsula Council for the Blind as well as the WA Council for the Blind to get more information on why people are not using our AVU's. Steve speculates that lack of use is because voting is already accessible but needs more information.
- John has used the AVU in the past and needed help from office staff to navigate it. Not sure whether this was on our newer machines or not. John will come back during election time to test and give feedback on our current machine. Regina suggested videotaping the AVU testing process and developing that as a resource, which Steve agreed to do. Steve tried using Seeing AI to read a ballot back to him, but it could not detect his choices.

Transition to open issues:

- Mobile Voting program used to be available to senior living communities prior to Covid in 2020 but have been discontinued since. What are communities lacking that we could provide in terms of helping seniors vote? Regina commented that mobile voting was not a resource being utilized before Covid. How could we provide a service for picking up ballots from these facilities? Paul suggested having an early mail-out date for voters living at the addresses of these centers. Amy suggested contacting the communities to make sure they knew the dates and locations of vote centers, should they want to arrange to take a group there. Amy to work

on developing literature to provide to senior living facilities that would provide helpful information during an election. Paul wondered if we could send extra help workers out to these communities to collect their ballots in secure drop boxes during designated dates and times.

- Steve is working on developing open captioning for live meetings. He will work with Doug Bear on possible open captioning capabilities of Vimeo.
- Amy has translated a braille plate located on the SKFR Station 8 drop box to the best of her abilities as the following: "Official Kitsap County ballot drop box; lift flap located by ridge + deposit ballot into slot; drop box is available until 8 pm on election day". John mentioned that he has approached a drop box and felt for the braille plate as someone might do if they were sight impaired, and that it was where he would expect it to be and that he was able to find the ballot drop slot. Paul wonders if this is the most relevant language we can use on a braille plate, or if it could be improved.
- Steve brought up audio voters' pamphlets. Would these be useful? Getting candidates to read their own statements is ideal, to avoid someone from our office being accused of a bias. Paul said he'd rather have AI read statements for consistency. Steve will talk to other counties to see how they do this.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55.