



September 20, 2021

**Ballot Design Advisory Committee (BDAC)**

August 19, 2021, Meeting Minutes

**1. The meeting was called to order at 2:31 p.m.**

Roll was called and quorum was declared. The following participants were marked as present:

Committee Members

- Annette Lim
- Brian Ikenaga
- Christopher Neubauer
- Dave Haines
- David Magedson
- Hang Nguyen
- James Lasby
- James Wight
- Jennifer Tagg
- Joanna Francescut
- John Gardner
- Karen Rhea
- Kelly Sanders
- Liz Oviedo
- Maria Valadez
- Natalie Adona
- Stephen Aye
- Victor Chavarin Jr.
- Whitney Quesenberry

Secretary of State Staff

- Steven Carda,  
Elections Division Manager
- Robbie Anderson,  
Elections Counsel
- NaKesha Robinson,  
Senior Information System  
Analyst
- Raj Bathla,  
Senior Legal Analyst
- Taylor Kayatta,  
Political Reform Counsel
- Kirsten Larsen,  
Election Services Manager
- Danielle Dawson,  
Staff Services Analyst
- Reina Miller,  
Voter Accessibility Coordinator
- Erin Murphy,  
Executive Fellow

Members of the Public and County Elections Office Staff

- Dora Rose (LWVC)

- Nicole Becker

## 2. Co-chair Nominations and Appointment

- Reina Miller read the role of the co-chair(s) to the committee and opened the floor for chair nominations.
  - Natalie Adona volunteered as co-chair.
- Maria Valdez nominated Joanna Francescut as co-chair.
  - Joanna accepted the nomination
- The committee unanimously voted to appoint Natalie and Joanna as co-chairs of the committee.

## 3. California Elections Code Division 13

Reina Miller led the discussion by reviewing a [suggested step-by-step approach for the committee](#).

- Whitney Quesenberry asked if there is a possibility to change wording in certain code sections and if so, is there a process where suggested revisions can be reviewed.
- Natalie Adona asked whether the committee can determine practical barriers that are encountered when building ballots or looking at elements of the ballot.
- Raj Bathla stated that because the committee falls under the Bagley-Keene Act, the committee has limitations. The committee must meet in public. Workgroups are allowed to focus on specific items.
- Natalie Adona suggested tackling code sections that the committee deems most critical first since it would be challenging to discuss sections that the committee does not have a clear grasp on.
- Joanna Francescut suggested doing a survey to prioritize sections.

The committee began reviewing [code sections](#).

- 13000 – No changes
- 13001 – No changes
- 13002 -
  - Karen Rhea suggested watermarks be done prior to random alpha to allow more time for ballot programming.
  - Liz Oviedo second Karen's suggested that the watermarks should be done prior.
  - Joanna Francescut suggested E-88 as a good time frame.
  - Natalie Adona stated that the watermark causes timing and designation issues, reasonable that counties would want them done sooner since more time can be spent proofing and eliminating the lag.
- 13003 – No changes
- 13004 – SOS to review and provide an update during the next meeting.
- 13004.5 – No changes
- 13005 – No changes
- 13100 – No changes
- 13101 – SOS to share analysis on why action is necessary/historical background during the next meeting.

- 13102 – SOS to research whether there is a definition of “one form of ballot.” The committee will also research party central committee laws for each political party.
  - Justin Bernardino suggested striking the section.
  - Joanna Francescut suggested understanding the historical significance before striking it out.
  - Maria Valdez agrees with Joanna.
  - Jennifer Tagg commented that somewhere in paragraph b or c it should be made clear that the crossover is only for the presidential contest. Also, Article B is not clear what should or should not be included whether it includes central committees or not.

#### **4. Public Comments and Future Agenda Items**

##### Future Agenda Items

- Continue Chapter 13
- SOS to provide an update on:
  - Analysis on why action is necessary/historical background of Elections Code section 13101
  - Research on Party Central Committee laws Elections Code Section 13102
  - Definition of “one form of ballot” if any
- Recall Election instruction question
- Committee to identify additional code sections

#### **5. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.**