



**King County  
Elections**

# Minutes

## **Regional Voting Center Consulting Group**

**May 9, 2007**

**Lydia and Catherine Rooms  
King County Administration Bldg.**

1. Mission: submit proposed locations for RVCs and ballot drop locations
  - a. No later than July 27
2. Composition of Group
  - a. 2 from each of the following:
    - i. KCE—King County Elections staff
    - ii. CEOC—Citizens Election Oversight Committee
    - iii. KCC—King County Council staff
  - b. One from each of the following
    - i. DAC—Disability Advisory Committee
    - ii. “Section 203”—minority language
3. Member Introductions
4. RVCCG charged with/goals:
  - a. Recommendations on RVCs and BDOLs
    - i. Number and location
5. Roles of Members
  - a. Share knowledge and interests of constituencies that members represent
  - b. Be prepared for each meeting; read available materials in advance of meetings
  - c. Chair: Sherril Huff, Director of REALS
  - d. Facilitator: Harold Robertson, Waldron & Co. Consulting
    - i. To help group focus on and achieve goals
6. No opinion is stifled; final report may contain minority opinion
7. Conduct of Meeting
  - a. 2 hour meeting
  - b. Calendar of future events
  - c. Open to the public
  - d. Courtney Caswell (KCE staff) to be main contact
    - i. [Courtney.Caswell@metrokc.gov](mailto:Courtney.Caswell@metrokc.gov)
    - ii. 206.296.9933
8. Outline of Meeting Agendas
  - a. Introduction to process, VBM, concepts during first meeting
  - b. Other meetings concerning transportation, population, voter turnout: RVC voters (ratio), facility, cost of operation and staffing
9. VBM Transition: Overview
  - a. Majority of counties in WA are already VBM; joining majority
  - b. 62% of voters already cast ballot by mail
  - c. Traditional polling places will be eliminated
  - d. RVCs will offer in-person accessible voting

10. VBM Timeline
  - a. Phase-in components of VBM system
  - b. Targeting April 2008 Special Election for first all-VBM election
  - c. Will not implement VBM for first time in Presidential Preference Primary or county-wide election
11. VBM Transition Report
  - a. Placement of BDOLs (Ballot Drop Off Locations)
  - b. Establishment of RVCs (Regional Voting Centers)
  - c. Communications
  - d. BTA (Ballot Tracking and Accountability)
  - e. ASR (Automated Signature Recognition)
  - f. EDC (Election Distribution Center) Management
12. Questions concerning ASR to be taken off-line and addressed by KCE staff
13. VBM/RVC Budget
  - a. Funds from DAVE (Disabled Accessible Voting Equipment) project
  - b. HAVA (Help America Vote Act) grant: approximately \$1 million for outreach
14. RVC Services
  - a. King County not first to implement such centers
  - b. Accessibility is key
  - c. AVU (Accessible Voting Unit); also will assist in paper ballot-voting
15. Video: "Hidden in Plain Sight: A Disability Awareness Video," Produced by the Montana Advocacy Program
16. RVC Location Criteria
  - a. Accessibility
  - b. 2000 square feet is optimal
  - c. Geographic dispersion
  - d. Voter population density
  - e. Security
17. Q: Will there be observer opportunities for ballot removal and transportation from BDOLs?
  - a. Has not been decided yet
18. RVCCG member stakes and initial concerns:
  - a. Jeff: Transparency for ballot pick up; all areas to have equal access—concerned about geographic dispersion
  - b. Anita: there is great diversity in disabled community, must reach out to all; poll worker training: assist without stripping personal dignity
  - c. Nadine: All RVCs to have Chinese language assistance, post all signs in Chinese; age location trends throughout county
  - d. Larry: Transparency, need to gain back trust from voters; transition to VBM—make sure that transition is seamless; accessibility to RVCs and BDOLs; other barriers to be examined (language, culture, education)
  - e. Emily: no artificial constraint concerning number of RVCs and BDOLs, numbers to be able to be changed over time
  - f. Bill: success of group in its efforts to decide on RVCs and BDOLs
19. Information/Agenda schedules regarding future meetings
  - a. Transportation is most critical
  - b. Population
  - c. Voter turnout: RVC voters

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- d. Facility
  - e. Cost of operation & staffing
20. Q: Does KCE intend that able persons will come in and vote at RVCs?
- a. King County is going to VBM, which is to say that all voters will get a ballot. While some voters will choose not to fill out paper ballot, that number will decrease over time. This is shown through other jurisdictions and research.
  - b. RVCs will be very different from polling places: locations, services and staff will have different functions and criteria
21. Q: What sort of budget does KCE have?
- a. DAVE and HAVA funds
  - b. Operation costs are in VBM Report, submitted to Council on February 15
22. Q: Would voters be able to drop ballot at any BDOL?
- a. Yes, as they would be able to vote at any RVC
23. Q: Will there be more BDOLs other than those at RVCs?
- a. Yes, number to be determined by this group
24. Significant dates/timeline
- a. July 27—RVCCG will turn in final recommendations
  - b. June 26—Schedule conflict with Elections-related conference
    - i. Members to be out of town
25. Suggested changes in conduct of meetings
- a. Receive information to be sent to members
  - b. Start and end meetings on time
  - c. More robust name plates to be made