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San Juan County Disability Advisory Committee

October 9, 2019 Meeting

San Juan County Elections Office & Conference Call

I. Attendees

- a) Karen Mottet – impaired mobility due to multiple sclerosis
- b) Greg Lee – experienced in providing care to family member with disabilities
- c) Camolyn Armstrong – Elections Supervisor
- d) Amy Cadwell – Elections Specialist

II. Call to order – The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am.

III. Introductions – Each member provided a brief introduction.

IV. New business

- a) Amy provided an overview of what San Juan County currently does to make voting accessible. This included a description of the Accessible Voting Unit and physical access to voting centers and ballot boxes.
- b) Discussion – How can San Juan County improve accessibility for voters?
 - i) *Number of voting centers in order to ensure people with disabilities have reasonable access to accessible voting devices:*
The Elections Office is the only voting center in San Juan County. The committee discussed having voting centers on Orcas and Lopez Islands on Election Day. If new voting centers are opened, they would need to have AVUs available. Additional infrastructure (printers, AVUs, etc.) would need to be purchased in order to make that happen. Greg suggested that San Juan County Elections staff look into grants for purchase of additional AVUs and related equipment.
 - ii) *Written explanation of how number of voting centers was determined:*
San Juan County has not received any complaints related to lack of voting centers or Elections related accessibility. The AVU has not been used in quite a few years. The committee discussed reaching out to San Juan County residents (perhaps with a survey) to determine if there are folks who desire more elections accessibility.
 - iii) *Locations of polling places, drop-off facilities, voting centers, and other election-related functions necessary to maximize accessibility:*
The Committee discussed the locations of the three San Juan County drop boxes.

There are boxes located on three islands. Additional boxes would result in greater difficulty when gathering ballots. Camolyn pointed out that San Juan County already exceeds the Washington State requirement for one box per 15,000 people. Parking was also discussed. It would be helpful to have a “drive thru” ballot box. Currently, the San Juan Island ballot box requires parking and getting out of the car to drop ballots. Additionally, there is frequently a lack of parking spaces available near the ballot box.

- iv) *Community outreach on the availability of disability accommodation, including in-person disability access voting:*
San Juan County currently includes information on the AVU in elections related press releases. The Committee discussed advertising in the islands Senior magazine and partnering with other organizations such as local senior centers, Meals on Wheels, and the MS Society to get the word out about the AVU.
- v) *Transportation of voting devices to locations convenient to voters with disabilities:*
San Juan County’s new AVU does not store information like the previous one did. Transporting the device would require a portable printer and perhaps additional personnel. The Committee discussed reaching out to San Juan County residents to ascertain if they would like the AVU to be transported to a different place. Elections staff does not think it would be feasible to transport the device to peoples’ homes.
- vi) *Implementation of the provisions of HAVA related to persons with disabilities:*
The Committee thought the provisions of HAVA have been implemented.
- vii) *Training Elections administrators in respectful communication, how to help people to use the different equipment, identifying areas where people with disabilities can assist with the ballot inspection process:*
San Juan County Elections administrators have attended trained sessions on communicating and interacting with people with disabilities, and they have been trained on using the AVU.

V. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.

Approved 
Camolyn Armstrong, Elections Supervisor