



King County  
Elections

# Minutes

## Regional Voting Center Consulting Group

June 12, 2007

Lydia and Catherine Rooms  
King County Administration Building

**Members:** Jeff McMorris\*, Larry Evans, Emily Willoughby\*, Monica Tracey, Nadine Shiroma\*, Anita Koyier-Mwamba, Sherril Huff\*, Bill Huennekens\*. (\*present; Dave ---attended as Anita's alternate)

1. Review of RVC CG mission and meeting organization
2. Ballot Drop-Off Locations (BDOL) Facilities Update
  - a. Pursue idea of Neighborhood Service Centers in Seattle; King County Libraries outside Seattle; consider King County Service Centers as back-up if necessary to fill gaps.
  - b. For next time,
    - i. Review the Seattle NSC's for location of the seven that have staff trained in security
    - ii. Identify rural center libraries
  - c. For the RVC CG report, include statements:
    - i. It is expected that the locations and numbers of BDOLs and RVCs will evolve over time with experience
    - ii. Space agreements will need to be reached after the King County Council approves the number and general locations
    - iii. BDOLs and RVCs will need good public information and signs
3. RVC Turnout Worksheet
  - a. Reviewed a worksheet examining voter turnout as a basis for how many RVCs would be needed to serve voters
    - i. Estimated voter turnout for 2008 general election
    - ii. Of that turnout, estimated percentage that would vote at RVC, and number of people voting at peak times
    - iii. Using turnout at RVC and peaks and estimated hours of AVU use to determine number of AVUs needed
    - iv. Based on number of AVUs needed, estimated how many RVCs would be needed (about 17)
4. King County historical voter turnout data
  - a. 85% of registered voters estimated to vote in 2008 presidential election
  - b. 20% of voters now use polling place
    - i. This would be the maximum voters to use RVCs
  - c. Clark County Nevada; 5% of ballots cast were cast in an in-person environment at early voting center

- d. In Seattle's mail ballot viaduct election, there was very little use of the five drop boxes, and only ten people appeared at the in-person voting center.
- e. 5% used for RVC turnout
- 5. Graph depicting early voting results in other counties/states
  - a. Trends tend to be the same across states – 2 ½ times the average daily total votes on the peak day
  - b. Using that trend, 12.5% of RVC average daily voting over a 20-day period is the maximum number of voters that may vote at RVCs on the peak day – Election Day.
- 6. Formula spreadsheet to determine calculation for target RVC numbers
  - a. Hours/minutes that AVU is in use will help determine how many RVCs will be needed
  - b. Less time to vote touch screen ballot; audio ballot takes longer
    - i. Average of 7 mins of touch screen ballot and 40 minutes for audio ballot
    - ii. Estimated 85% touch screen; 15% audio ballot
    - iii. 1000 hours of AVU time is needed
  - c. Estimated number of RVCs is 17 based on need to provide number of AVUs to serve the 1000 hrs, considering 8-hour-a-day use and peak.
  - d. In implementation, consider hours that will enable use during the p.m. commute period
- 7. RVC Facilities Update—EDC site visits
  - a. 17 transportation hubs
  - b. Federal Way location is very hilly; topographically undesirable near transit hub. Investigate other facility possibilities in Federal Way. Otherwise, about 200,000 people there – a KC Council district – would not have an RVC.
  - c. Drop Eastgate location – Bellevue Community college hub nearby.
  - d. Add Snoqualmie Valley and Maple Valley as RVC locations
  - e. King County Library System
    - i. Libraries will not be able to accommodate RVCs for entire 20 days leading up to Election
    - ii. Shorter time period is viable option; use consistent time such as five weekdays
  - f. Multi-service centers are being investigated also as facility possibilities.
  - g. Use a mixture of a few RVCs open for 20 days and others for 5 days
    - i. Law requires that one location be open for 20 days.
    - ii. Look at having four locations (North, Downtown Seattle, Renton, Bellevue) open entire 20 days and other locations open 5 days.
    - iii. Number of AVUs at each RVC could vary, e.g., 2 at a rural location, 9-10 Downtown Seattle

- h. Double check RVC locations in relation to places where there is information/evidence of population with disabilities; Center Park is known location
- i. UW Bothell and Cascadia Community College have same facilities manager which may be easier for negotiation
- j. RVC sites on Vashon Island to be investigated
  - i. Possibility of two new churches that may be accessible
- k. Some areas of Seattle are less topographically desirable than others
  - i. Area surrounding KC admin bldg is very hilly
  - ii. Westlake mall area is much more flat
- l. Federal Courthouse, Benaroya Hall suggested as possibilities for RVC site Downtown.
- m. Mobile RVCs will be further investigated, but look to be problematic because of security, connectivity and messaging difficulties. Further investigate cost/issues of only one mobile RVC site
  - i. Some issues may not be able to be resolved; connectivity to be investigated
  - ii. Security Issue must be addressed
  - iii. If using telephone line may only be able to use two AVUs; number of AVUs is determined by volume that internet connection can handle
  - iv. Investigate other jurisdictions that have mobile RVCs
- m. Kitsap County had proposal for HAVA grants for mobile polling place
- n. Failed due to lack of unclear explanation; did not say no to idea of vehicle, but rather how it was presented
- o. State law requires a paper record; current equipment will not print a paper record if e-tablet is removed thus eliminating curbside voting.
- p. KCE will coordinate with the Metro ACCESS program for bringing some disabled voters to RVCs.
- 8. For next meeting, 6/26 9-11am:
  - a. Information follow-up noted during this meeting
  - b. Cost information
  - c. Considering the additional data, the RVC CG will come to a preliminary recommendation for BDOL and RVC locations at the 6/26 meeting (could include priorities, if cost appears to be significant factor)
  - d. RVC CG will review a draft outline of its report to Council, to be fleshed out later
- 9. For Meeting on July 10<sup>TH</sup>
  - 1. Finalize recommendations for location of BDOLs and RVCs
  - 2. Review first draft of report
- 10. For last Meeting on 7/24

- i. Make final changes in report, final draft of which will have been sent out ahead
  - ii. Report in hands of KC Council by 7/27/07, per charge to this group
  
- 11. Other Questions and information
  - a. Is VBM election going to be cheaper?
    - i. Not necessarily; this has never been promised
    - ii. There are high initial costs for upgraded equipment
    - iii. Regardless, election costs have been climbing over last decade
  - b. Request of costs from elections past; historical data
    - i. Costs may help determine scope of RVCs
    - ii. Mention cost savings in Elections staff in VBM environment; time needed to train of RVC staff will be considerably less than time needed to train RVC staff
  - c. Request for current number of poll workers
  - d. HAVA funds available for voter outreach; RVCCG will not be responsible for this aspect; only to recommend number and location of RVCs and BDOLs
    - i. KCE required to notify all voters of switch to VBM before first VBM election
    - ii. Significant outreach is needed
  - e. When switch is made to VBM, consider training for political party observers
  - f. Meeting with KC demographer, Chandler Felt, to discuss population trends; investigate other populations (section 203; persons with disabilities)
    - i. Would help to confirm that locations of RVCs being considered would be best serving disabled voters
    - ii. Meeting details to be sent out to RVCCG members, so interested members can attend
  
- 12. Meeting Feedback
  - g. Continue setting up meeting table in smaller configuration
  - h. Next meeting is June 26 at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. in this same Lydia/Catherine Room