

Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) Title VI Complaint Procedure

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) grants all citizens equal access to all its transportation services. It is further the intent of LAVTA that all citizens are aware of their rights to such access. This procedure is designed to serve as an educational tool for citizens so that they may understand one of the civil rights laws that protects against discrimination that could result from LAVTA programs and services, specifically Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

What is Title VI?

Title VI is a section of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requiring that “No person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” Note that Title VI does not address gender discrimination. It only covers race, color and national origin. Other Civil Rights laws prohibit gender discrimination.

How do I file a complaint?

Any person who believes she or he has been discriminated against on the basis of race, color, or national origin by the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (hereinafter referred to as “the Authority”) may file a Title VI complaint by completing and submitting the Authority’s Title VI Complaint Form. The Authority investigates complaints received no more than 180 days after the alleged incident. The Authority will process complaints that are complete.

Methods of filing a complaint

The preferred method is to file your complaint in writing using the Title VI Complaint Form, and sending it to:

Title VI Coordinator
Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority
1362 Rutan Court, Suite 100
Livermore, CA 94551

Verbal complaints will be accepted and transcribed by the Title VI Coordinator. To make a verbal complaint, call (925) 455-7500 and ask for the Title VI Coordinator.

Once the complaint is received, the Authority will review it to determine if our office has jurisdiction. The complainant will receive an acknowledgement letter informing her/him whether the complaint will be investigated by our office.

Investigations

The investigation will address complaints against any of the Authority’s department(s). The investigation will be conducted in conjunction with and under the advice of the Authority’s third-party claims adjuster.

The investigation may include discussion(s) of the complaint with all affected parties to determine the problem. The complainant may be represented by an attorney or other representative of his/her own choosing and may bring witnesses and present testimony and evidence in the course of the investigation.

The investigation will be conducted and completed within 60 days of the receipt of the formal complaint. If more information is needed to resolve the case, the Authority may contact the complainant. The complainant has 5 business days from the date of the letter to send requested information to the investigator assigned to the case. If the investigator is not contacted by the complainant or does not receive the additional information within 5 business days, the Authority can administratively close the case. A case can be administratively closed also if the complainant no longer wishes to pursue their case.

Based upon all the information received, an investigation report will be written by the Third-Party Claims Adjuster for submittal to the Executive Director. The complainant will receive a letter stating the final decision of the Executive Director by the end of the 60-day time limit. One of two letters to the complainant will be issued: a closure letter or a letter of finding (LOF). A closure letter summarizes the allegations and states that there was not a Title VI violation and the case will be closed. An LOF summarizes the allegations and the interviews regarding the alleged incident, and explains whether any disciplinary action, additional training of the staff member or other action will occur. If the complainant wishes to appeal the decision, she/he has 10 days after the date of the letter or the LOF to do so.

A person may also file a complaint directly with the Federal Transit Administration, at FTA Office of Civil Rights, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.