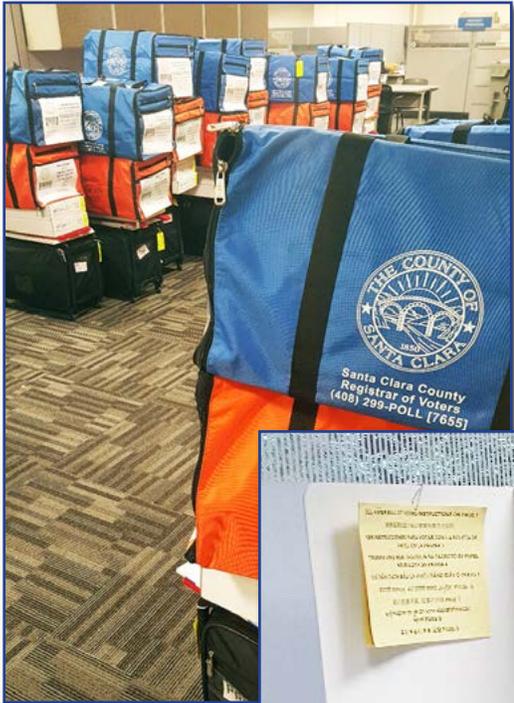




November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election



Registrar of Voters Post-Election Report



Contact Us

At the Office

Registrar of Voters
1555 Berger Drive, Building 2
San Jose, CA 95112

By Phone

General: 1-408-299-VOTE (8683)
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Twitter: twitter.com/sccvote
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/sccvote

By E-Mail

registrar@rov.sccgov.org

On the Web

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx>

Note

The figures, charts, and graphs in this report come from a variety of internal and external data sources and are intended for informational and historical purposes only. For official election results, please refer to the Statement of Vote, available at www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Resources/Pages/PastEResults.aspx.

Nov. 3, 2015, Consolidated Election

County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters

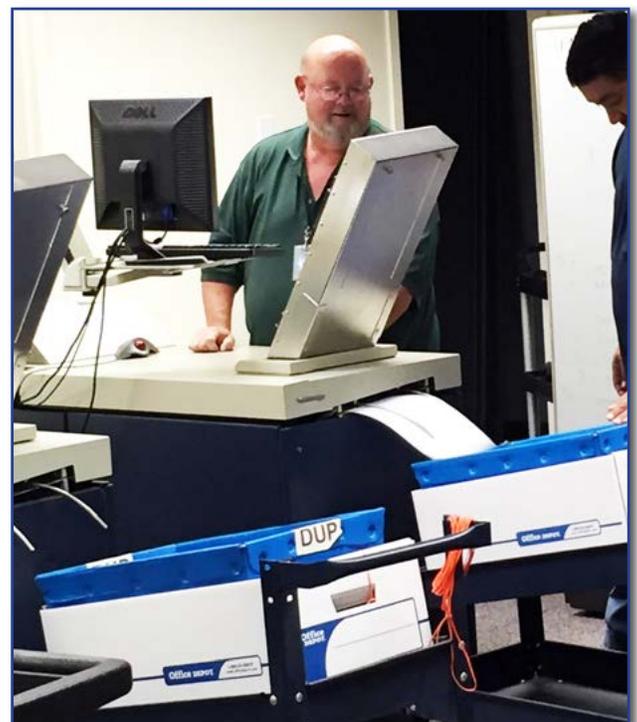
Post-Election Report

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The Registrar of Voters strives to offer as many options as possible to turn in a ballot. This election included two drive-thru voting sites and six drop-off locations. Even voters on bicycles took advantage of the drop-off locations.



Most votes in an election are recorded on paper ballots, whether completed at home and mailed to the Registrar of Voters' office or completed at the polling place. Each paper ballot is centrally counted with a vote-tallying machine like the one pictured at right. During countywide elections, such as presidential elections, the Registrar's office will operate these machines almost nonstop for several days to tally every vote.

A Message from the Registrar

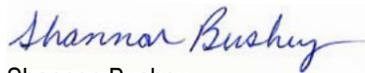
I am pleased to present the first edition of the County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters' Post-Election Report.

This report is intended to provide a glimpse into how the November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election compares with prior elections regarding voter participation and turnout, election preparation, and vote tallying. In it, you will find a wealth of useful graphs, charts, maps, and statistics that provide a more complete picture of voter behavior and election outcomes than the final results do alone, as well as a better understanding of all of the effort, coordination, and logistics that go into the successful completion of each election. Throughout the report, you will also find helpful FAQs and brief analyses of the numbers, which I hope will give you a sense of the processes and procedures that occur behind the scenes before, during, and after Election Day, as well as a better understanding of the many issues that arise throughout the course of an election.

Even though elections are held only a few times each year, election planning is a year-round activity. My hope is that this report will provide transparency in our election procedures so that more Santa Clara County voters understand our processes and can see how each component of an election – from voter registration and volunteer recruitment to ballot preparation and vote tallying – compares with previous years.

I am pleased with the finished product of the report, and I hope you find it useful and informative.

Sincerely,

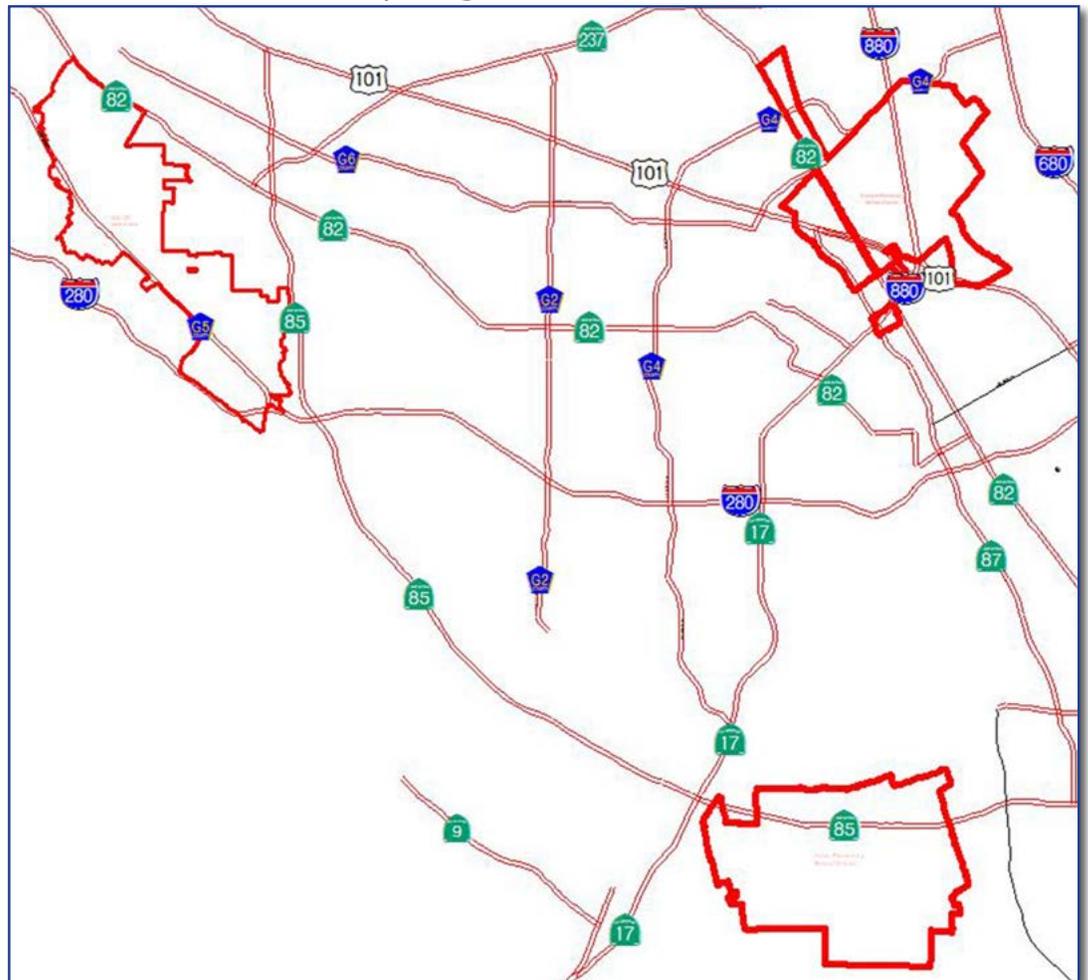


Shannon Bushey
Registrar of Voters



Shannon Bushey
Registrar of Voters

Local Jurisdictions Participating in Nov. 3, 2015, Consolidated Election



I. Introduction

About This Election

The November 3, 2015, election was a **consolidated election**. Consolidated elections are held in odd-numbered years and usually involve only local jurisdictions, such as cities, school districts, and special districts. This year, three jurisdictions in Santa

FAQ

Q: What is a **consolidated election**?

A: A consolidated election is held in November of odd-numbered years for local jurisdictions and districts that do not hold their contests during presidential or gubernatorial elections, which occur in even-numbered years.

Clara County placed **contests** on the consolidated election ballot – the City of Los Altos, Orchard School District, and Union School District.

Some jurisdictions, like Orchard School District, are regularly

scheduled to participate in consolidated elections. Other jurisdictions, like the City of Los Altos and Union School District, only hold contests in a consolidated election when they have a specific issue to bring to the voters. This year, Los Altos and Union School District each placed a **measure** on the ballot.

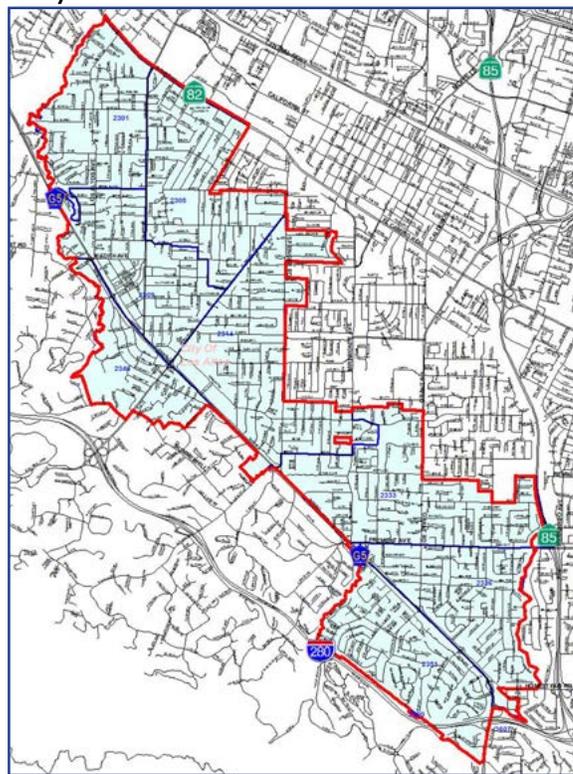
Because a contest is only placed on a consolidated election ballot when a specific local jurisdiction requests it, not everyone in the county votes in a consolidated election. The three jurisdictions holding contests during this election include a total of 44,085 registered voters, which is only about 6% of the approximate 730,870 voters registered in Santa Clara County at the time of the election. Most other local jurisdictions only occasionally place contests on the consolidated election ballot, usually holding their contests during presidential or gubernatorial elections.

FAQ

Q: What is a **contest**?

A: A contest is a single issue voted on by the people. Races for elected office and ballot measures, such as parcel taxes, are both examples of contests.

City of Los Altos



FAQ

Q: What is a **measure**?

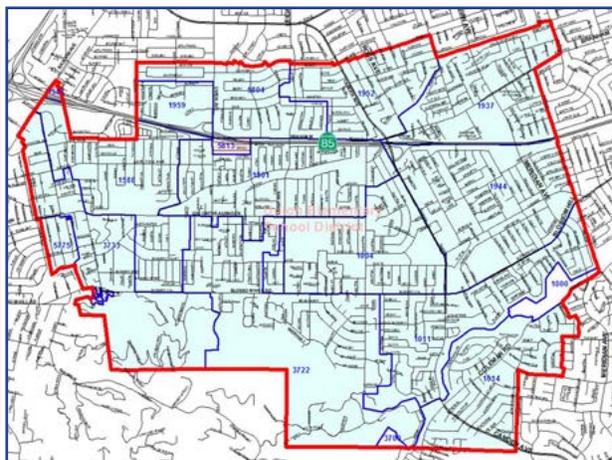
A: A measure is an item that a local jurisdiction or district can place on the ballot to ask the voters a question, such as whether the voters of a school district wish to enact a parcel tax. A measure can also be added to the ballot by an initiative or a referendum.

FAQ

Q: Why didn't I get to vote in this election?

A: Many local jurisdictions and districts hold their contests during even-numbered year elections. Only voters living in local jurisdictions and districts that have placed contests on the ballot are eligible to vote in those contests.

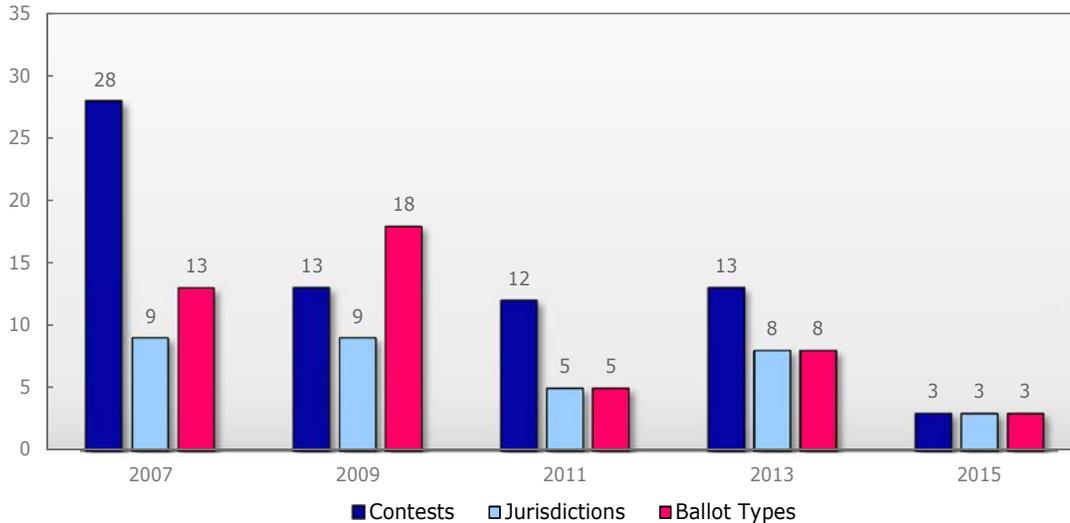
Union School District



Orchard School District



Number of Jurisdictions, Contests, and Ballot Types
Recent Consolidated Elections



FAQ

Q: Why were there so few contests and jurisdictions during this consolidated election?

A: As local jurisdictions and districts look to save taxpayer money, many have changed their election dates to coincide with presidential and gubernatorial races because of reduced costs associated with those elections. Additionally, many of the contests expected to appear on the ballot this year were resolved through the appointment-in-lieu process because they did not receive a sufficient number of candidates to appear on the ballot. Past consolidated elections also included many more measures or initiatives, which only appear on the ballot when requested.

FAQ

Q: What is a **ballot type**?

A: To ensure that voters only vote for the contests in the districts where they live, the Registrar of Voters creates different ballots with different combinations of contests. Each ballot with its own unique combination of contests is a ballot type. The Registrar's office often must create many ballot types because districts frequently overlap in ways where not all of the voters vote in both contests, such as when a city and school district both hold elections but the school district only serves part of the city.

What's New for This Election

In 2015, the County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters implemented two new policies to help make voting easier and to ensure that every valid ballot cast is a vote counted.

No Postage Necessary

For some time, the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors has expressed an interest in covering the cost of postage for all voters in the county who return their voted ballots by mail. In prior elections, only voters living in areas designated as mail-only voting precincts had their postage costs covered by the County. Other voters voting by mail were required to include sufficient postage, which could vary from district to district and election to election depending on the ballot size and weight.

For the first time, the Board of Supervisors has approved paying the postage for all vote-by-mail voters. The County will be reimbursed for this expense by the local jurisdictions that have placed contests on the consolidated election ballot.

The Registrar of Voters engaged in a broad campaign to inform voters that no postage was necessary on their envelopes. Through alerts on the ballot envelopes, inserts in the vote-by-mail packet and the Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet, social media messaging, press releases, and a television news interview, virtually all voters got the message and returned their ballots without postage. Only 15 voters – less than 0.1% of the 15,277 vote-by-mail ballots cast – still included postage.



Receipt within 3 Days of Election

A California state law that took effect January 1, 2015, also helped ensure that all valid votes cast were properly counted. Previously, all vote-by-mail ballots had to be received by the time the polls closed on Election Day in order to be counted. The new law requires the Registrar of Voters to count all valid vote-by-mail ballots that are postmarked on or before Election Day and received up to three days after Election Day. This allows ballots mailed on Election Day to be received and counted.

As a result of this law, the Registrar of Voters counted 1,455 valid ballots for this election that would have been considered too late to be counted under the previous law.

Contests Not on the Ballot

The following contests were resolved through the appointment-in-lieu process for the November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election and therefore did not appear on the ballot:

- Aldercroft Heights County Water District (1 seat)
- Burbank Sanitary District (2 seats)
- San Martin County Water District (2 full-term seats)
- Silver Creek Valley Country Club Geologic Hazard Abatement District (1 seat)

Additionally, the following contests were removed from the ballot because no candidates filed for their offices:

- Aldercroft Heights County Water District (2 seats)
- Lion's Gate Community Services District (3 full-term seats and 2 short-term seats)
- San Martin County Water District (1 full-term seat and 1 short-term seat)
- Silver Creek Valley Country Club Geologic Hazard Abatement District (1 seat)

Election Facts

- 29** voting precincts
- 25** polling places
- 4** mail ballot precincts
- 8** languages – Chinese, English, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese
- 3** ballot types

Ballot Size

- 1** number of cards
- 2** columns per card
- 7" by 12"** ballot dimensions

FAQ

Q: Why do the number of cards, number of columns, and ballot dimensions matter?

A: The size of the ballot changes depending on the number of contests. With only one contest on the ballot in each local jurisdiction for the November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election, the Registrar of Voters used a single one-sided card. In large elections, such as presidential elections, there are often so many contests that voters must use a larger ballot that may include multiple cards. Multiple-card ballots can slow the release of election results, because the vote-tallying machines must read several cards per voter rather than one.

II. Election Preparation

Introduction

Preparing for an election involves much more than simply ensuring that all eligible voters receive a ballot. Each election takes months of preparation by the Registrar of Voters' office and hundreds of volunteers.

Prior to the November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election, the Registrar of Voters:

- Tracked voter registration numbers to order sufficient ballots to ensure that each voter has the opportunity to vote;
- Recruited more than 100 volunteers to serve as election officers both at the polls and at the Registrar of Voters' office, many of whom were bilingual to assist voters in languages other than English;
- Coordinated 25 polling places, including ensuring that each polling place was accessible to individuals with limited mobility and was centrally located to serve the voters in the area;
- Mailed more than 32,000 ballots to vote-by-mail, overseas, and military voters;
- Processed more than 11,000 early votes and vote-by-mail ballots received before Election Day;
- Conducted more than a dozen outreach events to register new voters; and

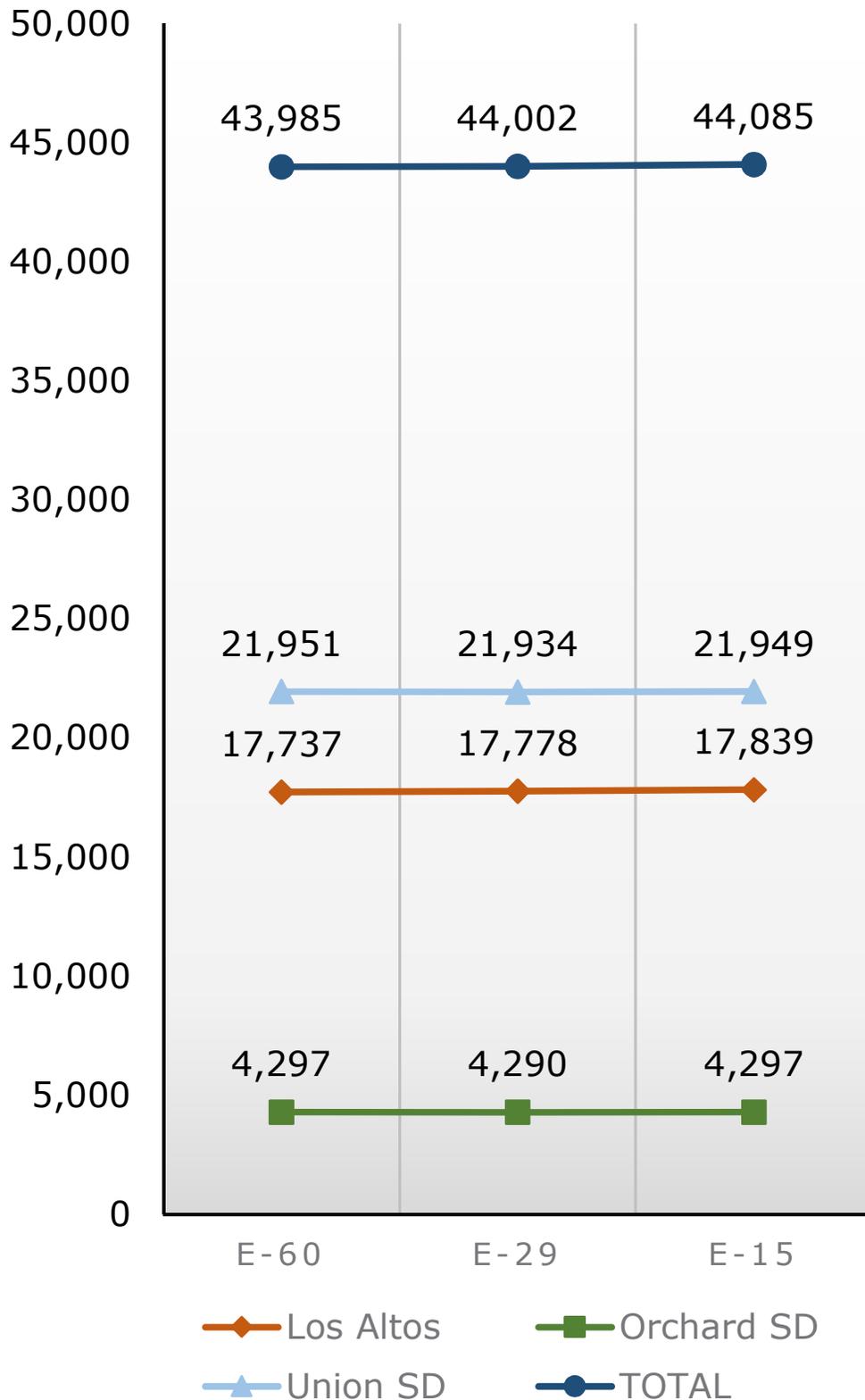


- Publicized key election deadlines in dozens of posts on social media and through press releases.

Additionally, in preparation for every election, Registrar of Voters staff members issue and record nomination papers for candidates, track and notify them of campaign finance reporting deadlines, work with local jurisdictions to meet deadlines for placing measures on the ballot, and design and order ballots.

Voter Registration

Registration by Date Prior to Election Day



FAQ

Q: What do **E-60**, **E-29**, and **E-15** mean?

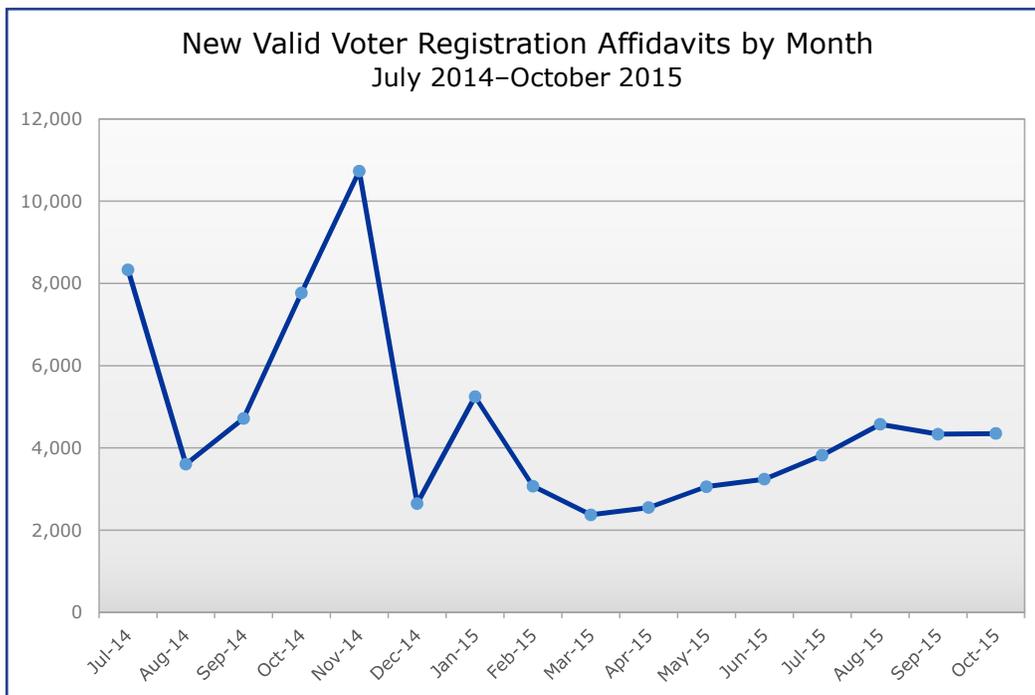
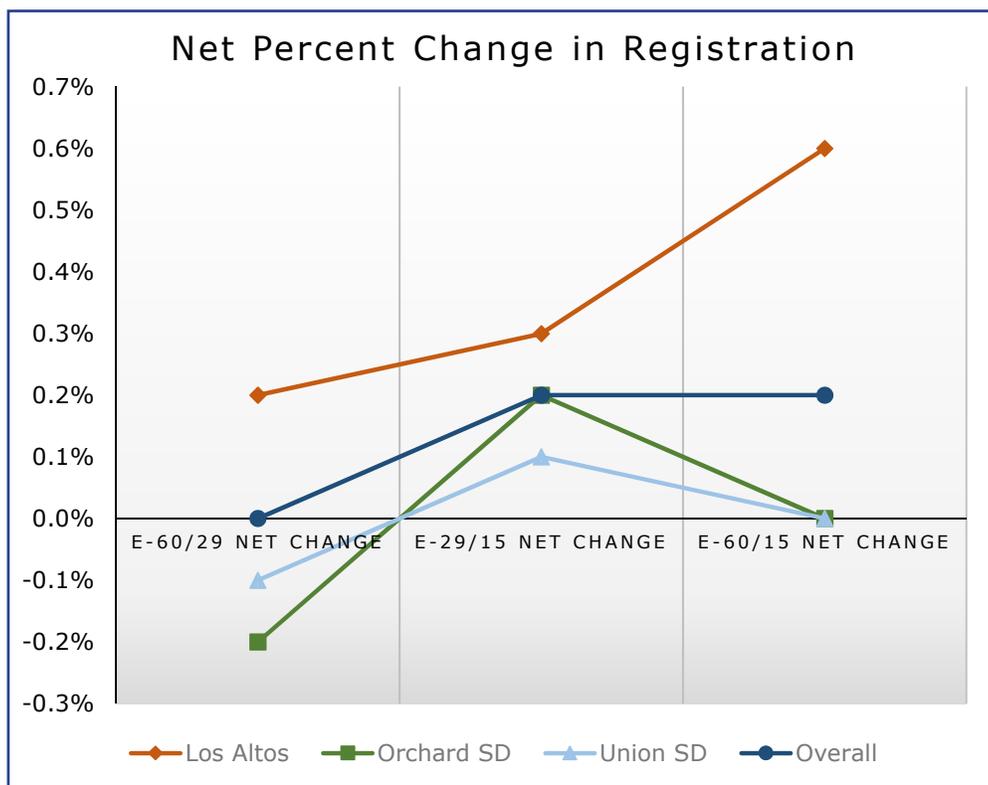
A: Many laws relating to elections are triggered on specific days leading up to an election, such as on the 60th day preceding Election Day. Because each Election Day falls on a different calendar date, the Registrar of Voters tracks days based on their relation to Election Day. **E-60**, or “Election Day minus 60,” is 60 days before the election. **E-29** and **E-15** are 29 and 15 days before Election Day, respectively.

FAQ

Q: Why are **E-60**, **E-29**, and **E-15** important?

A: In addition to acting as triggers for other important pre-election activities, these dates are also important for voter registration purposes. Sixty days before an election (**E-60**) is the day that vote-by-mail ballots are sent to voters in the military and residing overseas. Twenty-nine days before Election Day (**E-29**) is the date that all other vote-by-mail ballots are mailed. Fifteen days before Election Day (**E-15**) is the last day to register to vote in an election.

According to the graph at right, only the City of Los Altos experienced a net increase in total voter registration between 60 days before Election Day (**E-60**) and 29 days before Election Day (**E-29**). However, by 15 days before Election Day (**E-15**) all local jurisdictions either remained at nearly the same total registration as they did on **E-60** or experienced a net increase in voter registration.



Month	New Affidavits
July 2014	8,332
Aug. 2014	3,604
Sept. 2014	4,718
Oct. 2014	7,769
Nov. 2014	10,735
Dec. 2014	2,646
Jan. 2015	5,247
Feb. 2015	3,068
March 2015	2,373
April 2015	2,548
May 2015	3,056
June 2015	3,237
July 2015	3,822
Aug. 2015	4,573
Sept. 2015	4,335
Oct. 2015	4,349

In order to vote, each eligible individual must submit a voter registration affidavit. For elections with few contests, such as the

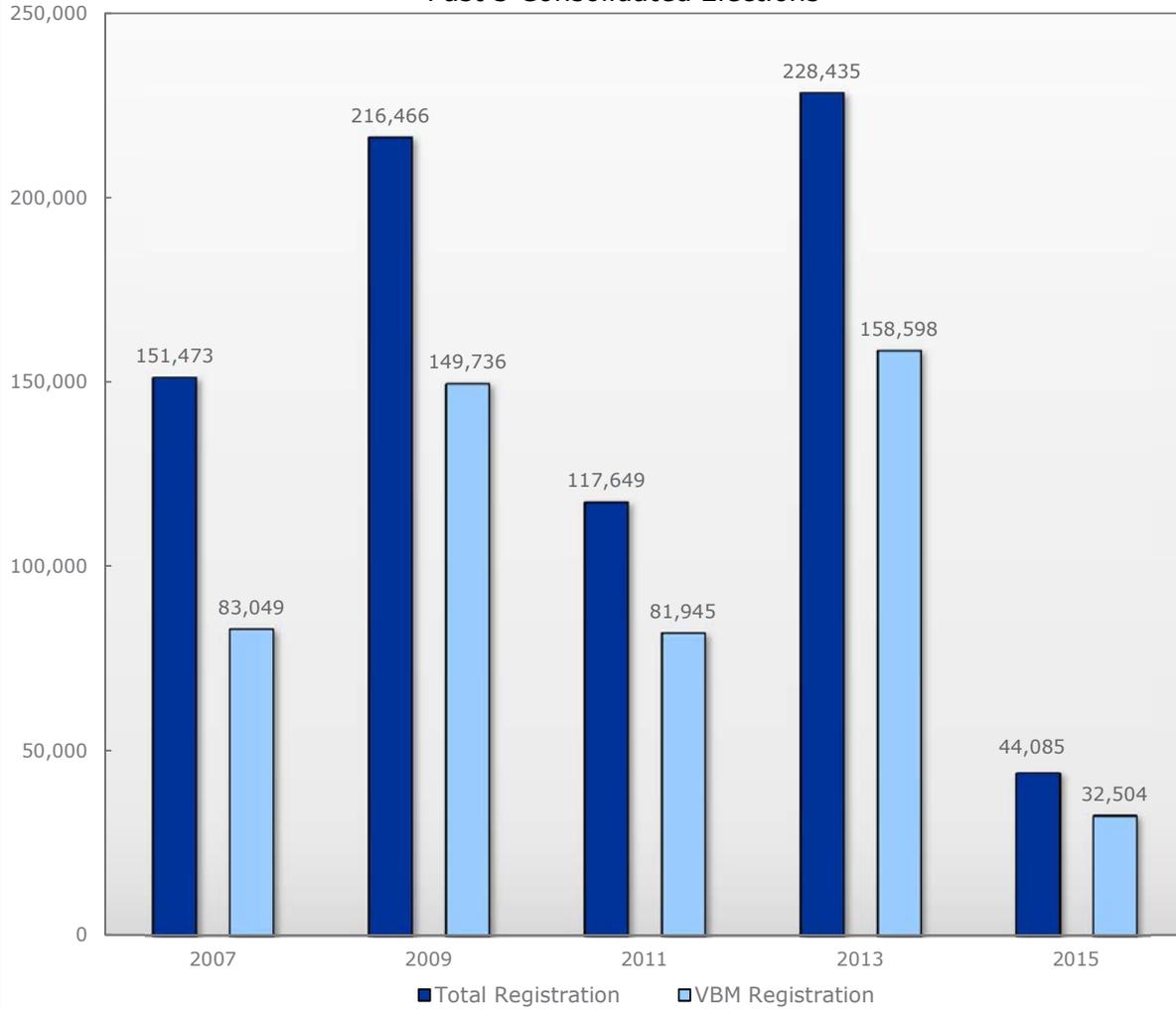
November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election, new voter registration usually remains steady from month to month.

FAQ

Q: What causes large increases in voter registration affidavits?

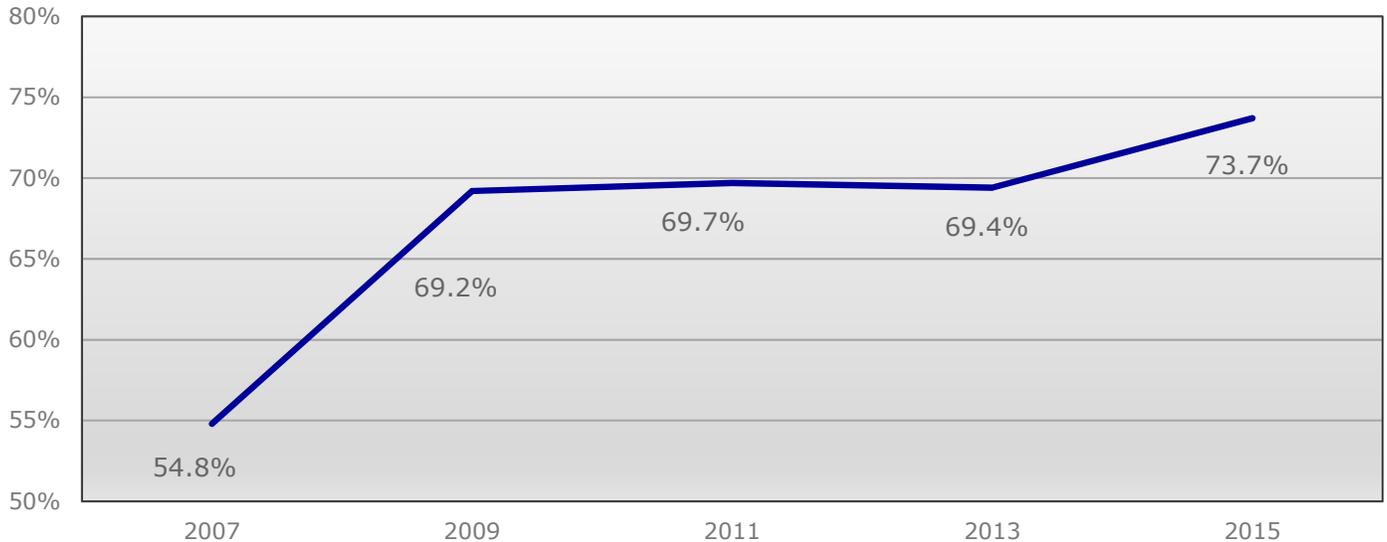
A: Generally, the County experiences spikes in new voter registration affidavits before each presidential and gubernatorial election. While the Registrar of Voters conducts voter outreach all year long, large spikes in registration are most likely to occur when a political party or nonprofit group conducts a voter registration drive.

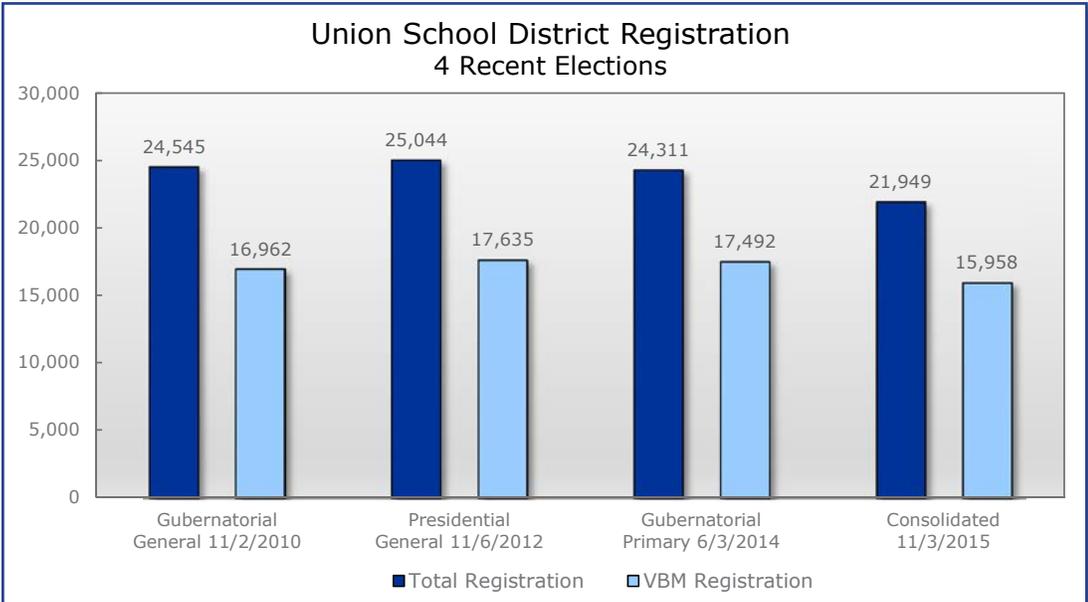
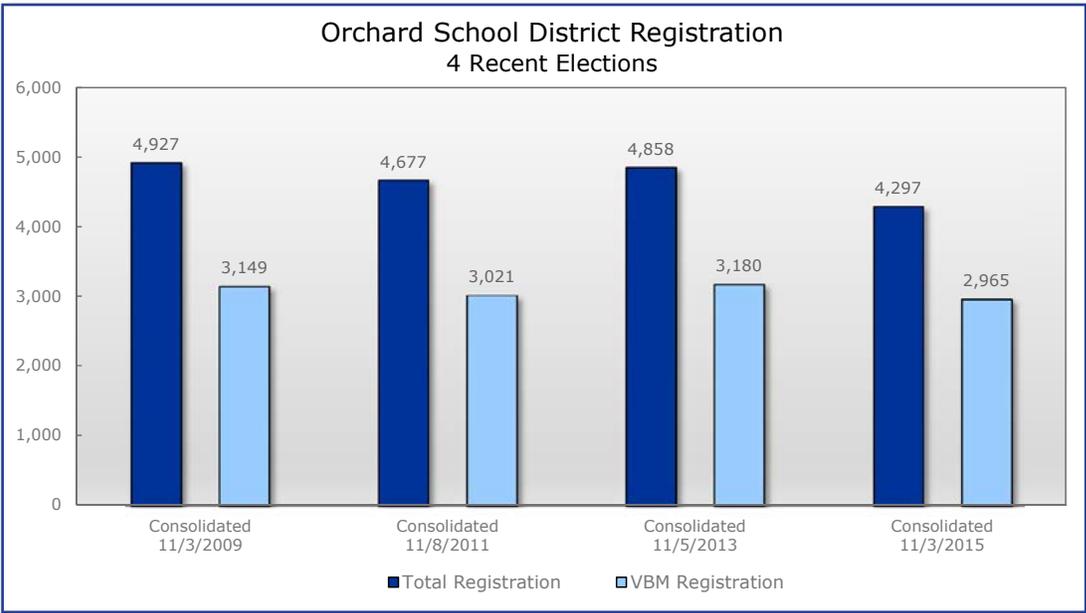
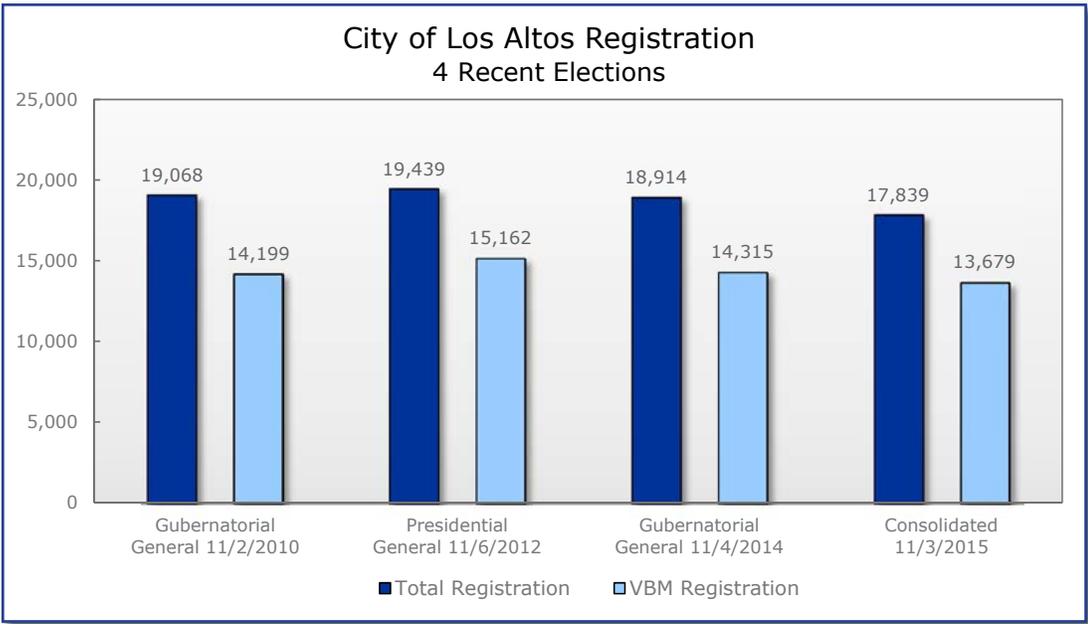
Registration and Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Registration
Past 5 Consolidated Elections

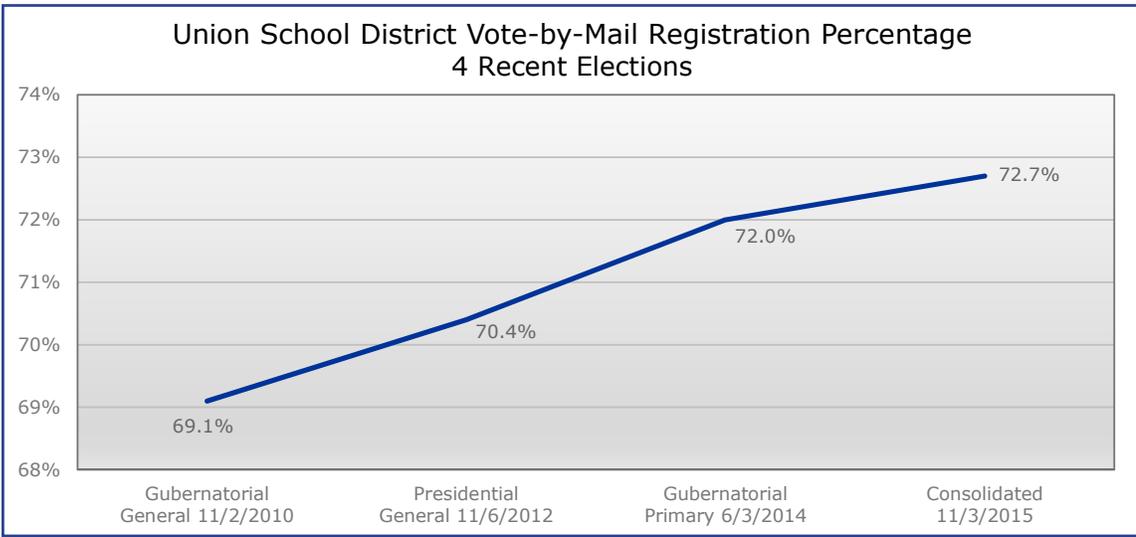
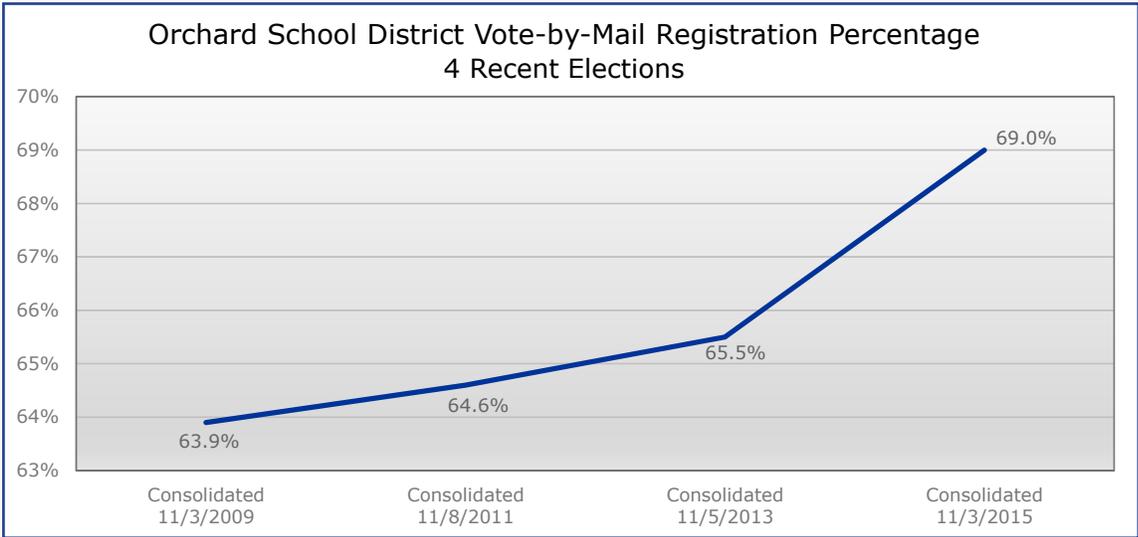
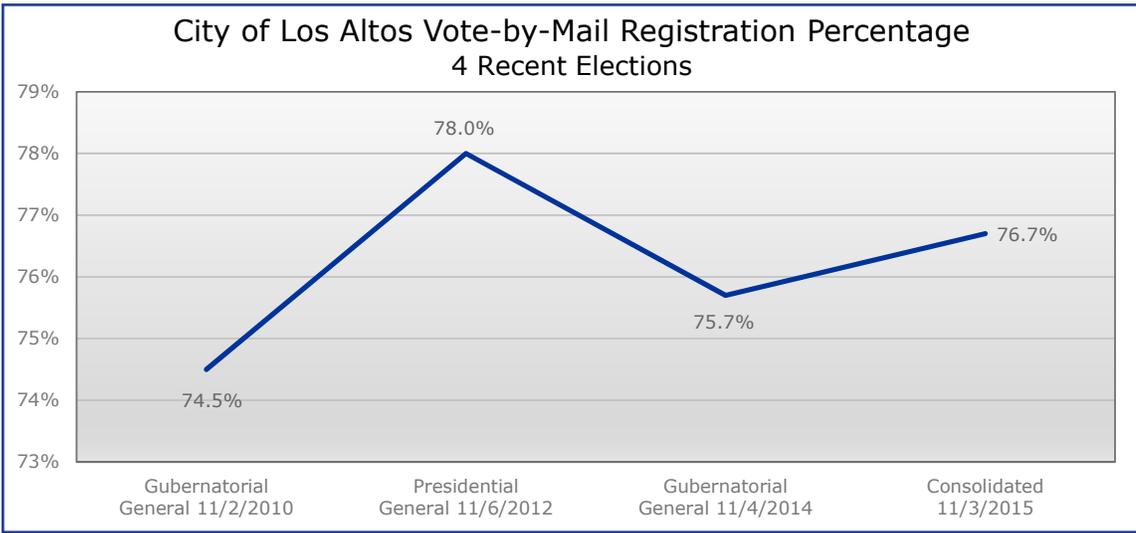


In 2001, the California Legislature passed a law to allow residents to become permanent vote-by-mail voters. Since the law went into effect the following year, the percentage of vote-by-mail voters in Santa Clara County has trended upward.

Vote-by-Mail Registration Percentage
Past 5 Consolidated Elections







With one exception in the City of Los Altos, the percentage of voters opting to vote by mail has increased with every election in the three local jurisdictions participating in the November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election. Higher percentages of voters voting by mail mean that the Registrar of Voters must work continuously

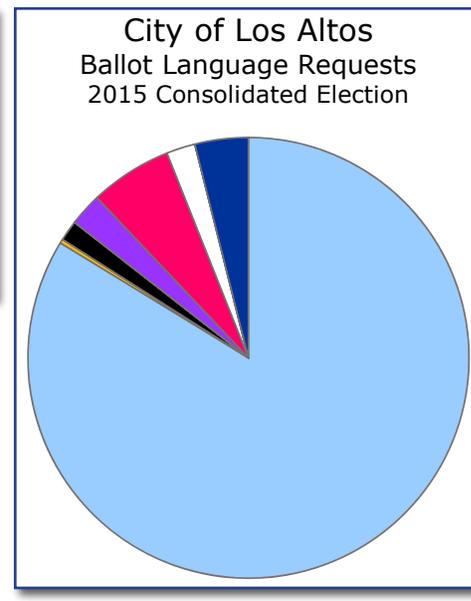
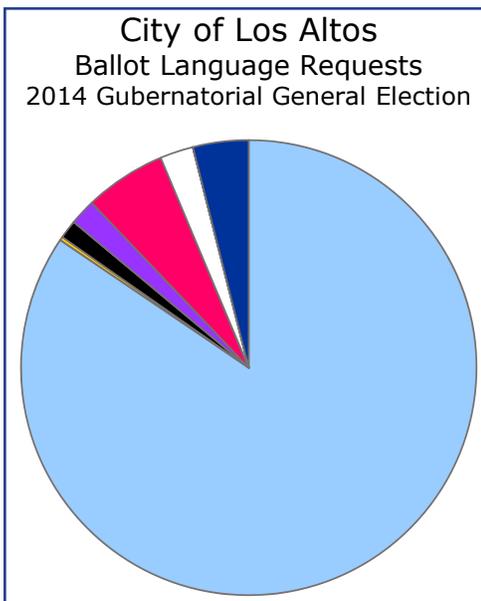
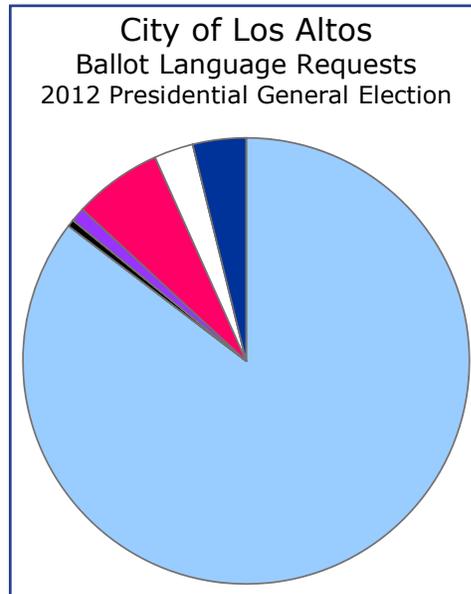
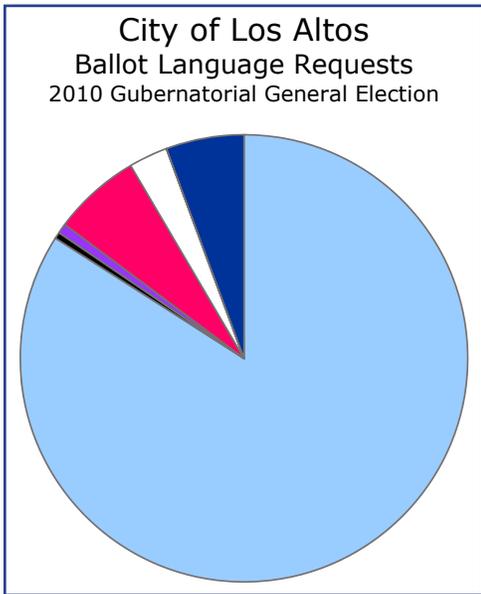
before, during, and after Election Day to process vote-by-mail ballots as quickly as possible. The recently enacted law requiring processing of ballots received up to three days after Election Day has also extended the time during which the Registrar of Voters processes ballots.

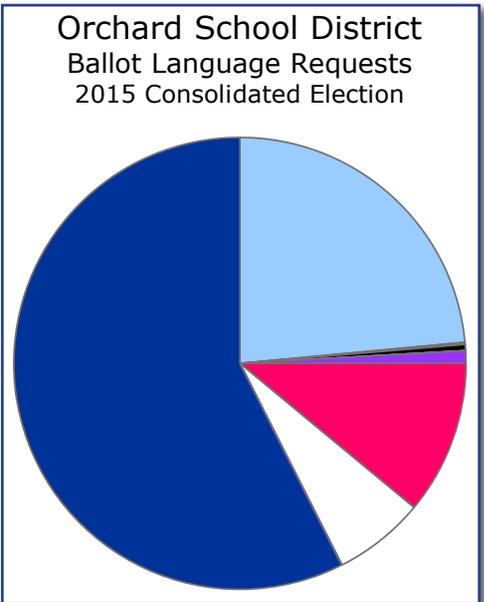
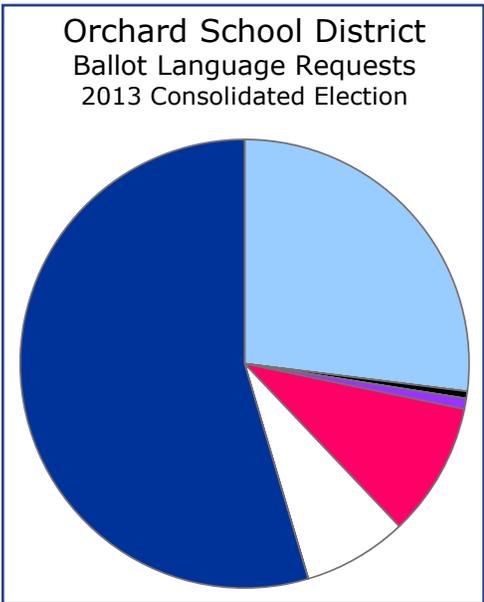
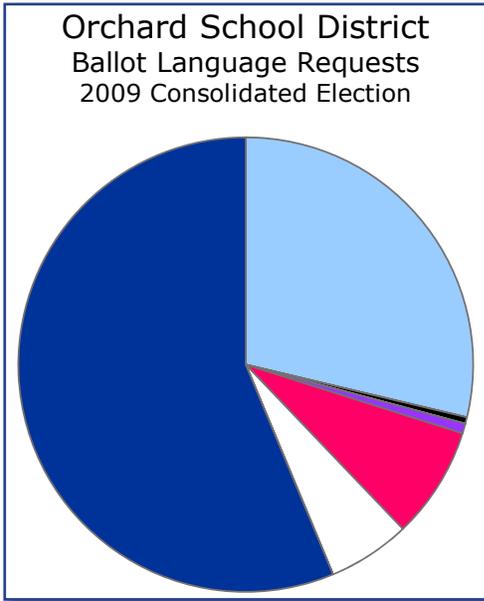
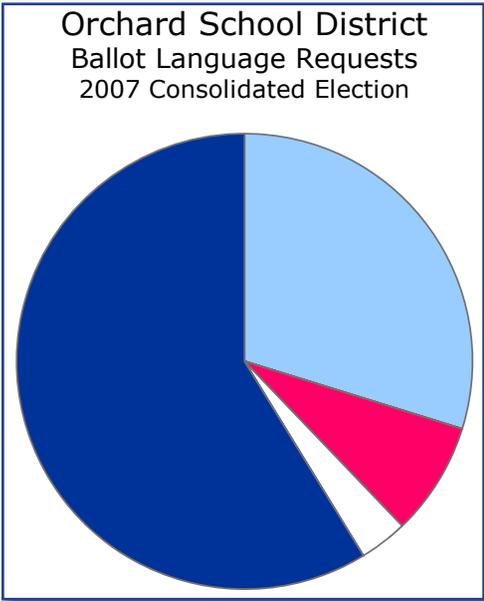
Santa Clara County is one of the most diverse counties in California, and this diversity is reflected in the Registrar of Voters' efforts to translate ballots into numerous different languages. When a sizable portion of the population identifies as speaking a specific language on the U.S. census, the Registrar of Voters offers that language as an option for ballots in all elections. Each of the three local jurisdictions with contests on the November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election ballot shows a unique mosaic of diverse languages, illustrating the larger diversity of Santa Clara County.

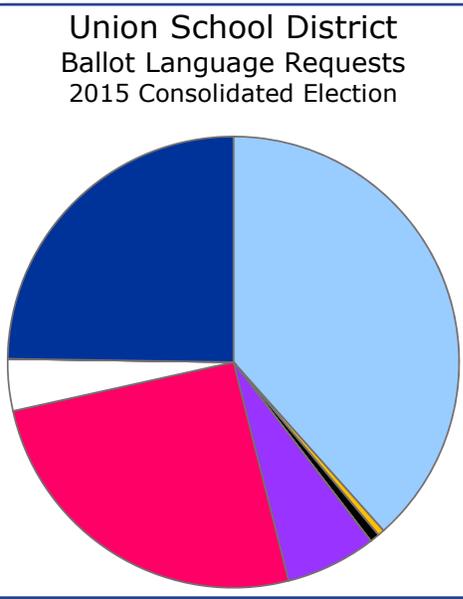
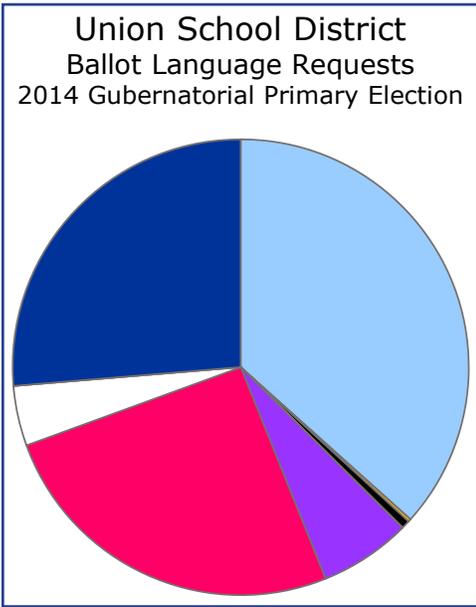
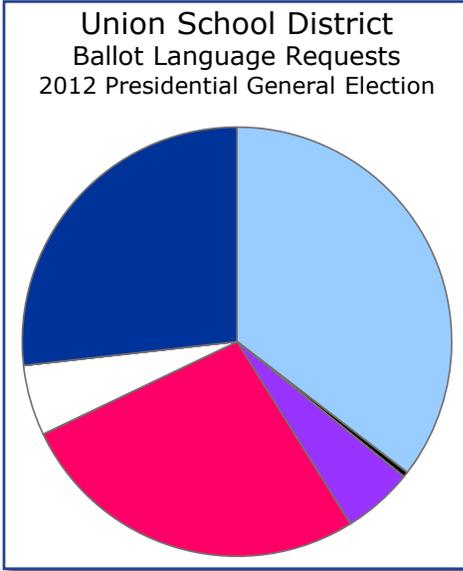
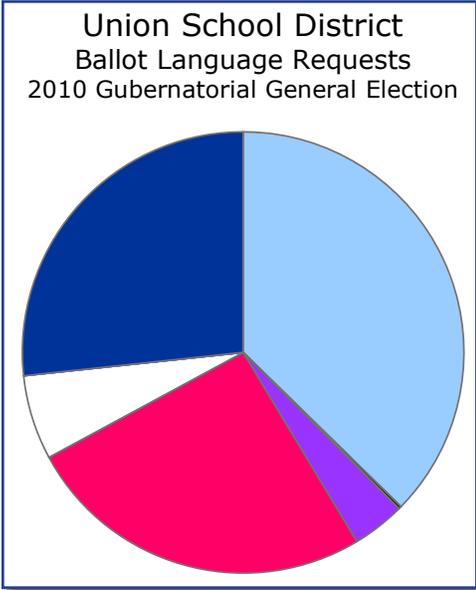
FAQ

Q: In what languages can voters receive election materials?

A: All voters receive ballots and Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlets in English. Voters may also request to receive these materials in Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, or Vietnamese. Additionally, the Registrar of Voters provides facsimile ballots in Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, and Korean.





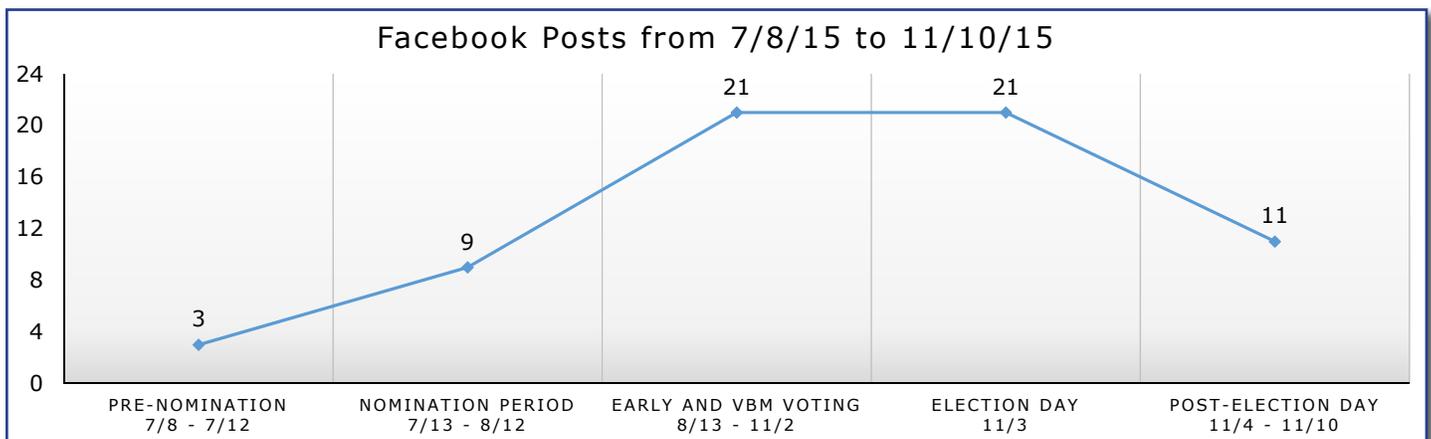
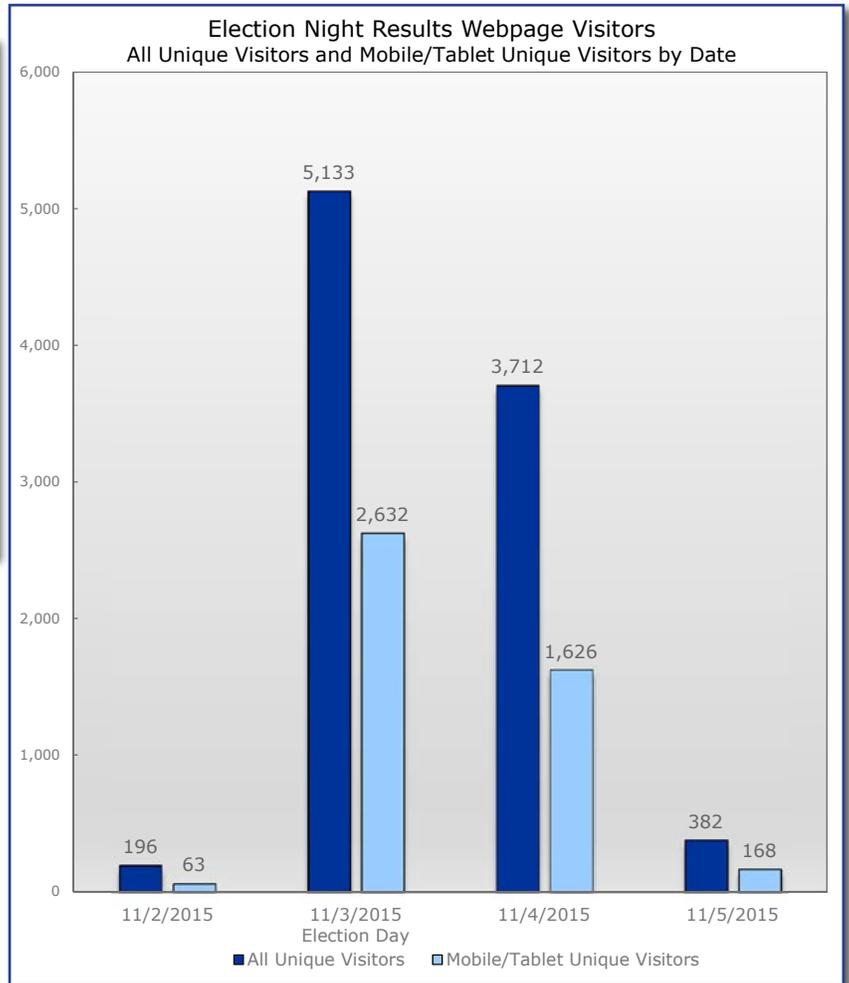


Voter Outreach and Communication

Voter Outreach Events

Date	Event
September 12, 2015	Silicon Valley Fall Festival
September 12, 2015	American Indian Heritage Celebration
September 17, 2015	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service New Citizen Ceremony
September 22, 2015	National Voter Registration Day (5 events throughout Santa Clara County)
October 4, 2015	National Day of the Flag
October 7, 2015	Gavilan College Health Fair
October 10, 2015	Pumpkins in the Park
October 11, 2015	Philippine Consular Outreach
October 11, 2015	Day on the Bay
October 11, 2015	Viva Calle SJ
October 15, 2015	Festiv'all
October 17, 2015	Latino/Latina Role Model Conference
October 17, 2015	Vote Latino Power Summit
October 18, 2015	Breaking Barriers
October 24, 2015	Senior Resource and Wellness Fair
October 25, 2015	Make a Difference Day
October 25, 2015	Day of the Dead

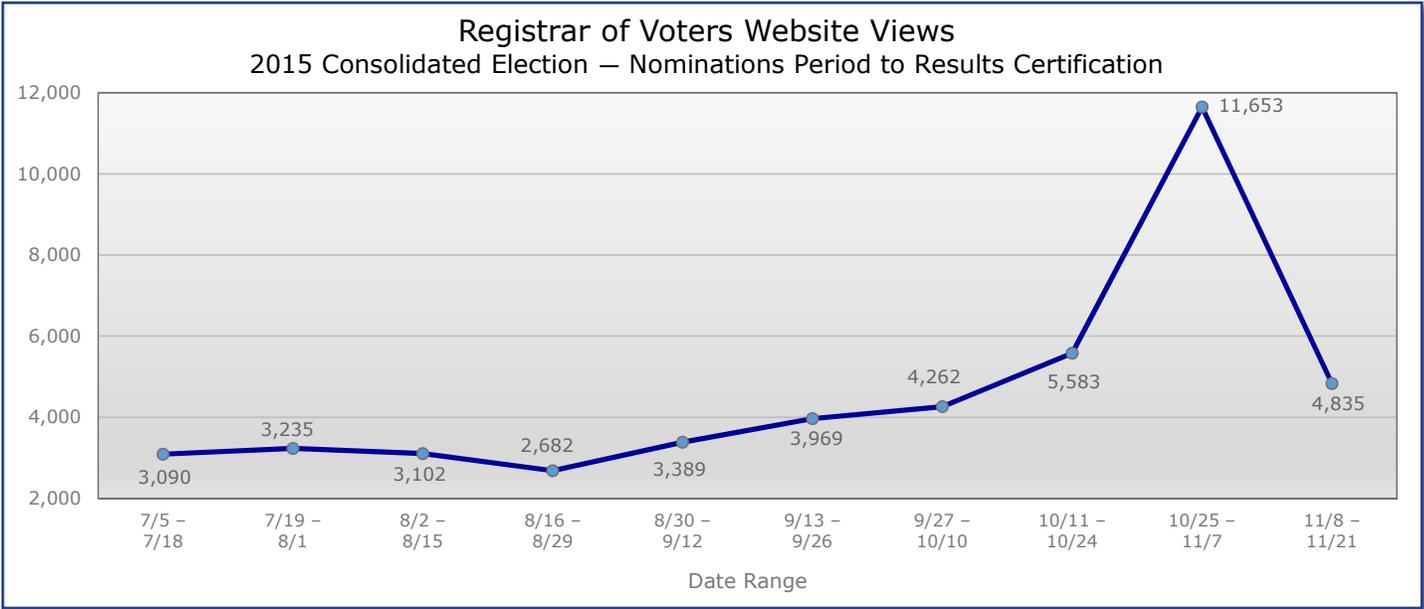
Election results are reported on the Registrar of Voters' website beginning when the polls close at 8 p.m. on Election Day. The results page is usually updated every 45 minutes until the Registrar of Voters' office receives all voted ballots and supplies from polling places, then updated by 5 p.m. every day after Election Day until all vote tallying is complete and the election results are certified.



As deadlines for an election approach, the Registrar of Voters ramps up voter outreach, especially on social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. The Registrar of Voters engages voters on a number of issues – ranging from new voting laws to election-related issues in the news – all year round, but the numbers noted on the above graph reflect only the posts specific to the November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election.

FAQ

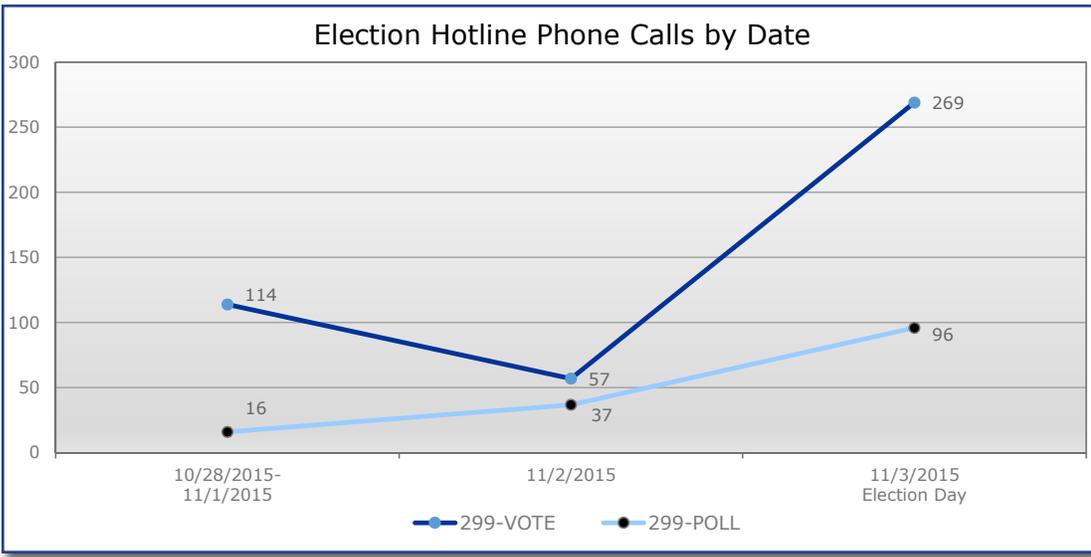
- Q:** How do I connect with the Registrar of Voters on social media?
A: Connect with the Registrar of Voters:
 On Facebook: www.facebook.com/sccvote
 On Twitter: twitter.com/sccvote
 On YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/sccvote



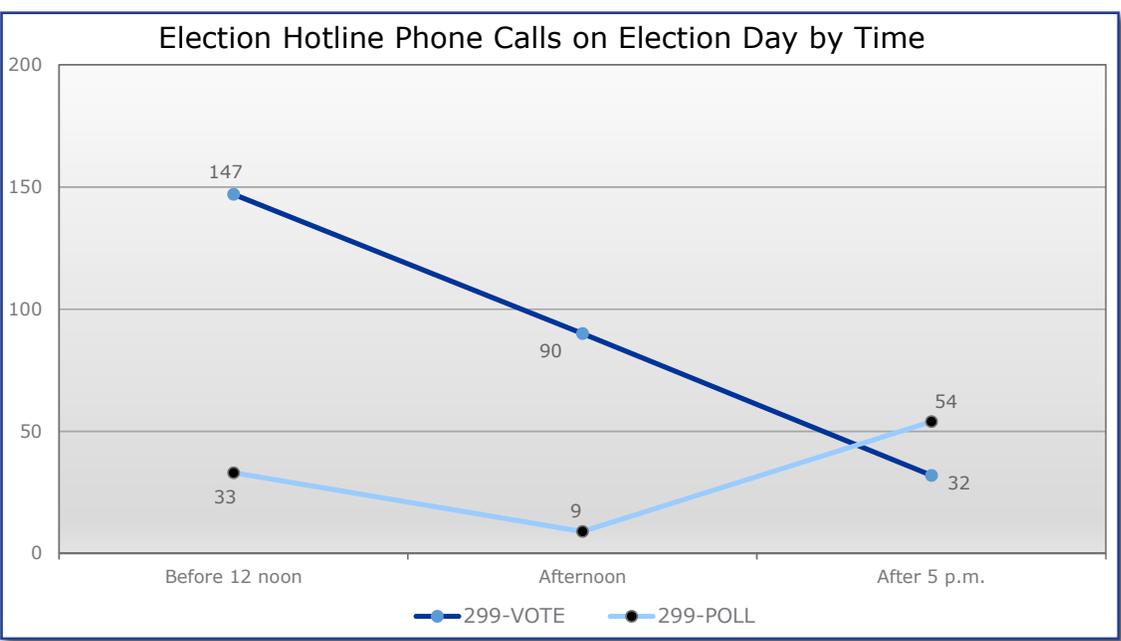
FAQ

Q: What is the difference between **299-VOTE** and **299-POLL**?

A: 1-408-299-VOTE is primarily used by voters who have questions about their polling place, registration, or other issues. 1-408-299-POLL is primarily for election officers to alert the Registrar of Voters about polling place issues, such as the need for additional ballots or replacement equipment.



Voters often call 299-VOTE prior to or early on Election Day to ask questions about their polling place or registration status. As Election Day winds down, most calls received are calls to 299-POLL. In addition to reporting issues at polling places, election officers call 299-POLL periodically to provide the Registrar's office with updates regarding closing the polls and meeting various deadlines throughout the day.



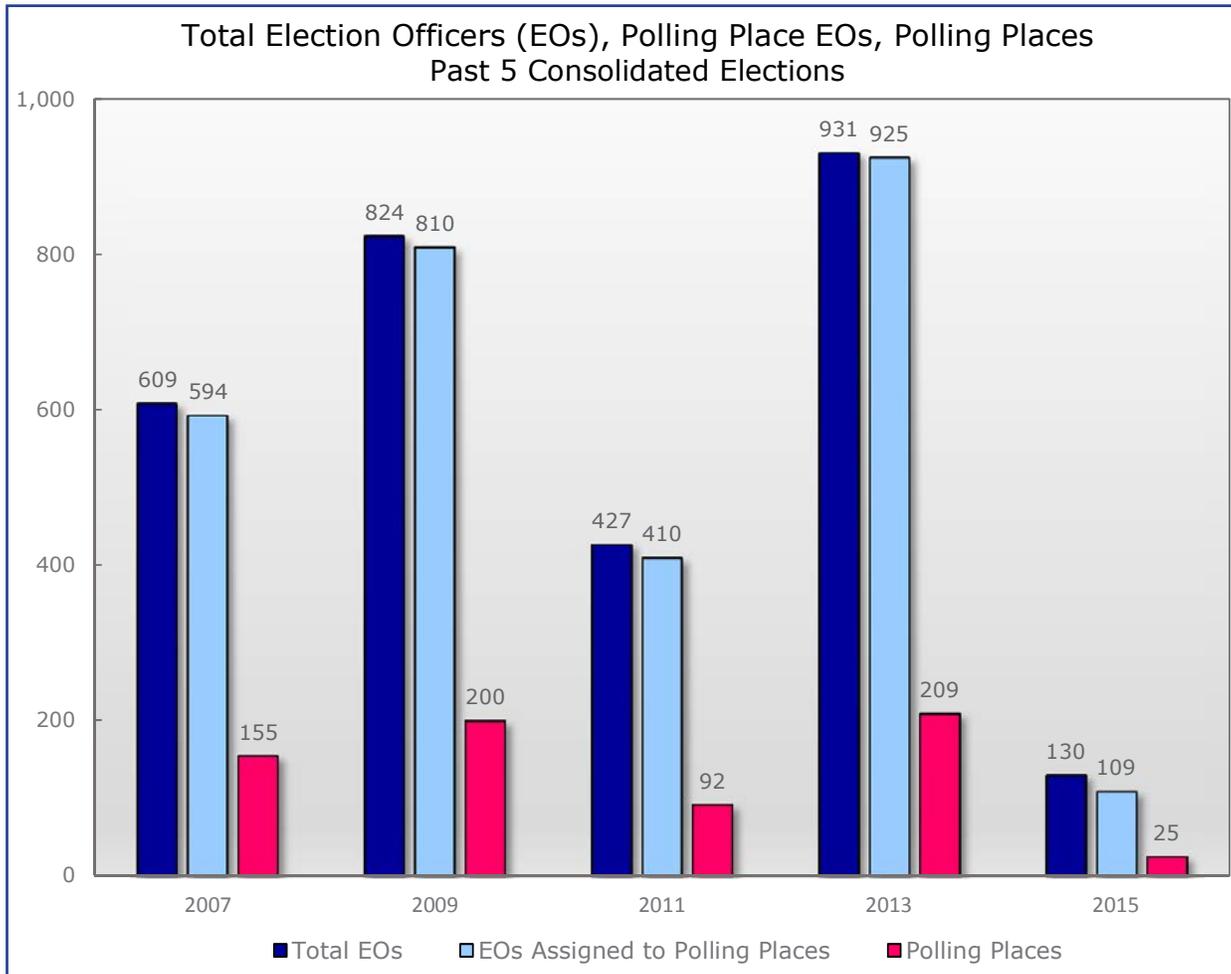
Election Officers

Election officers are volunteers who serve many functions at the Registrar of Voters. In addition to checking in voters at polling places, election officers also help return ballots and supplies to the Registrar of Voters' office on Election Day, prepare the ballots for tallying, sort provisional and vote-by-mail ballots, and answer phone calls from voters and other election officers. State and federal law require certain election officers to be bilingual, which can make recruiting difficult when less widely spoken languages are needed.

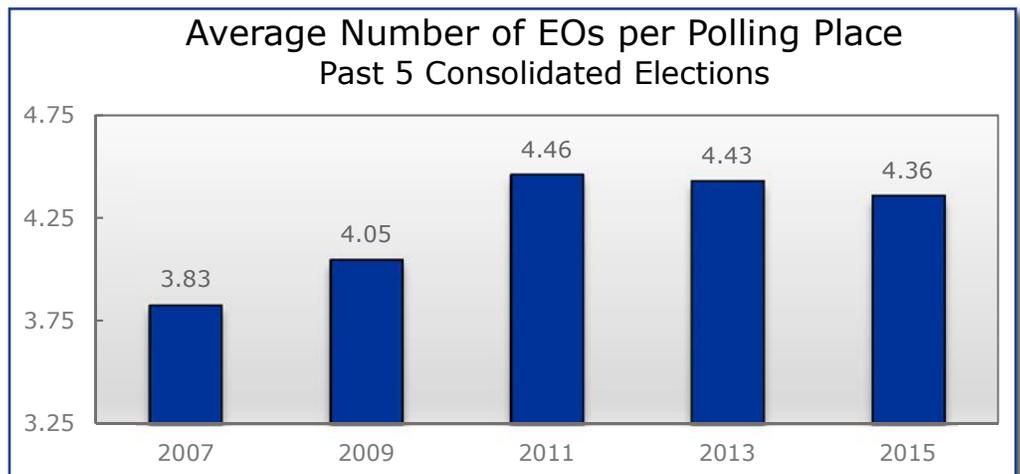
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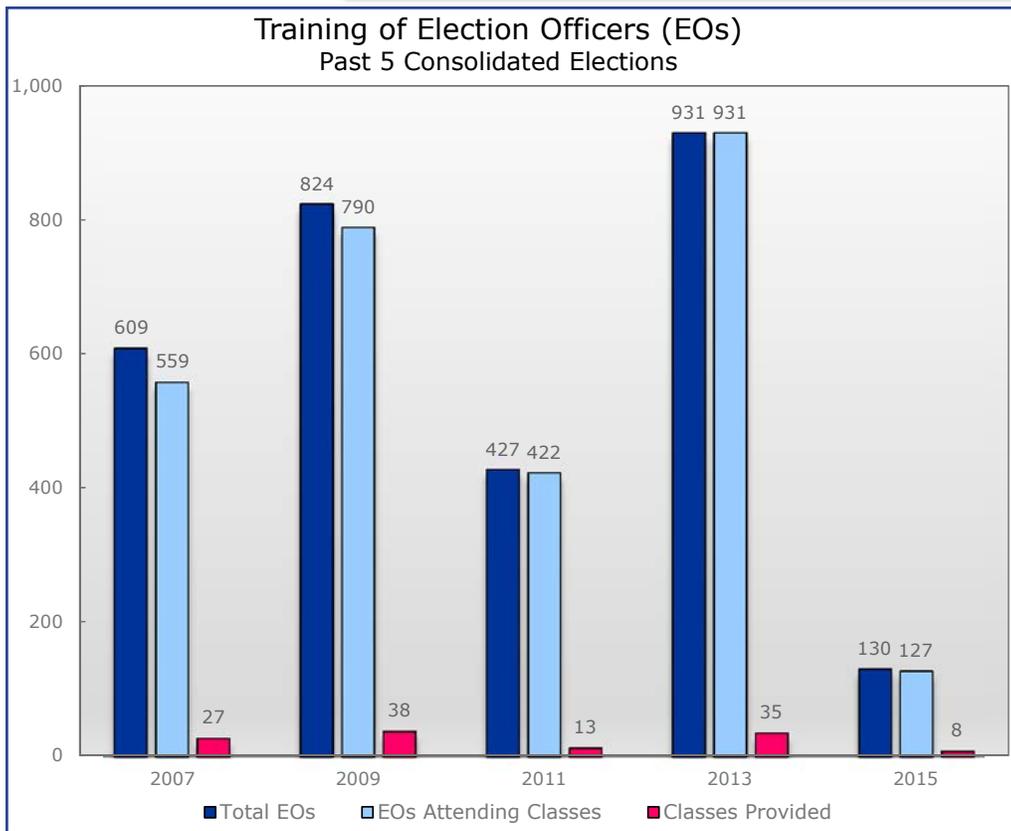
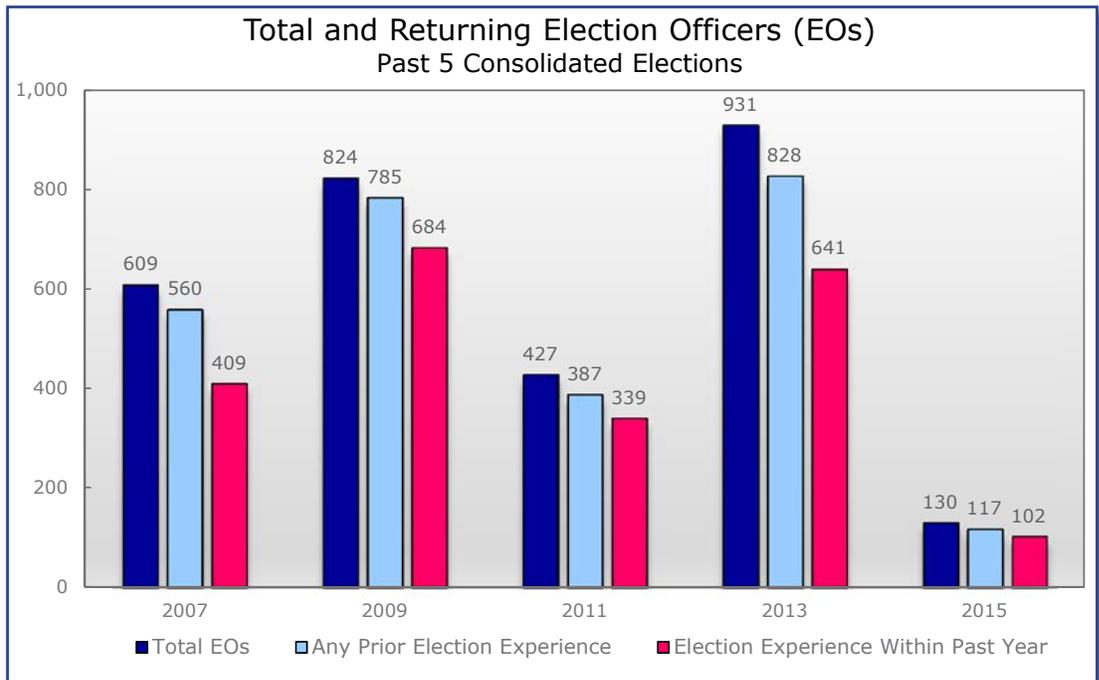
Q: What are the requirements to be an election officer?

A: For the November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election, election officers were required to be at least 18 years of age and either a registered voter (U.S. citizen) or a legal permanent resident. Students who were at least 16 years of age, a U.S. citizen, and who had a GPA of 2.5 or higher were permitted to serve as student election officers.

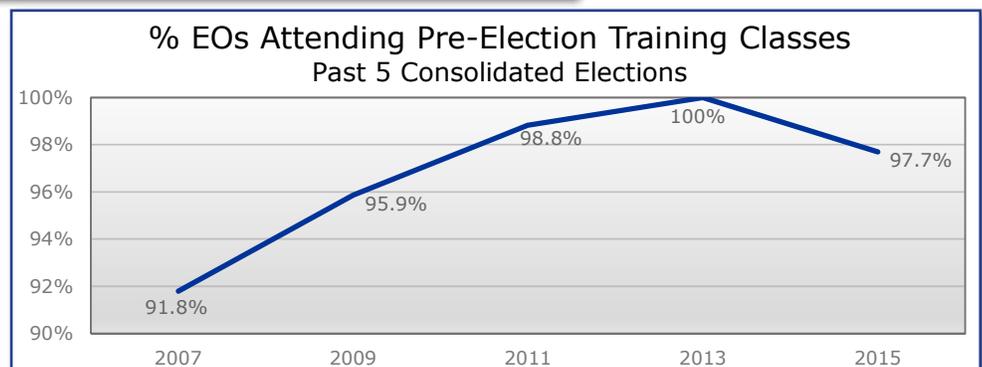


The Registrar of Voters seeks to assign four or five election officers per polling place. Each polling place must be sufficiently staffed in order to process voters efficiently, provide targeted language assistance, maintain security over the ballots, and ensure that all procedures for opening and closing the polls are followed.

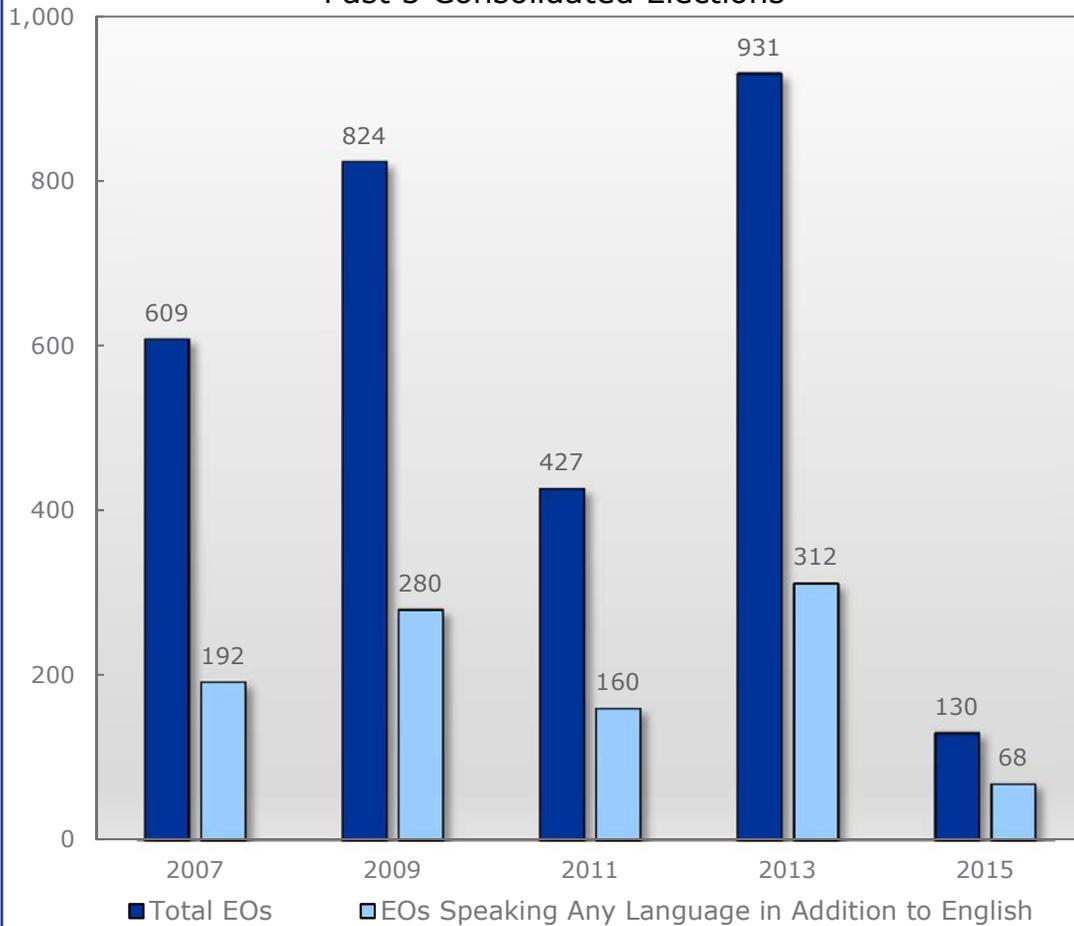




Even when election officers have served in prior elections, training is extremely important. Election laws regularly change from year to year, and election procedures may need to be updated depending on the election's contests. Therefore, the Registrar of Voters sets a goal of having as many election officers as possible attend training prior to Election Day.

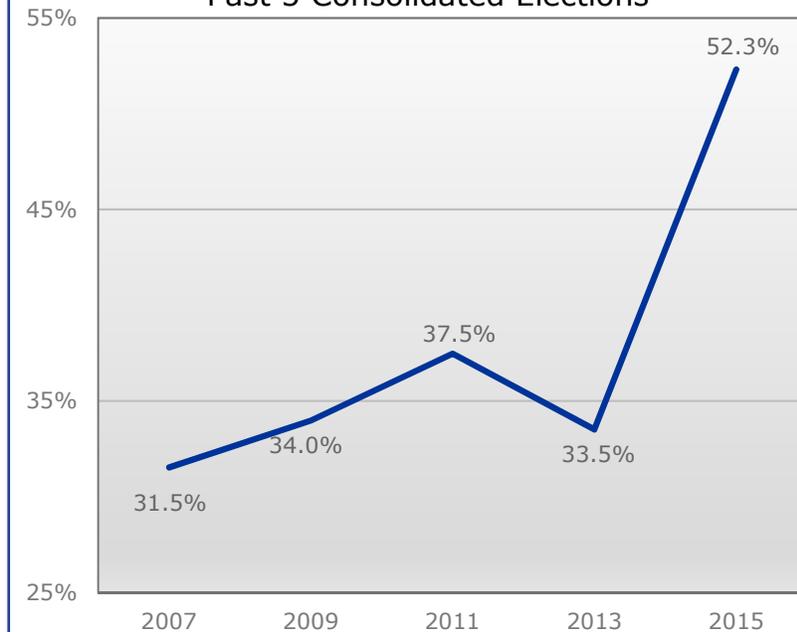


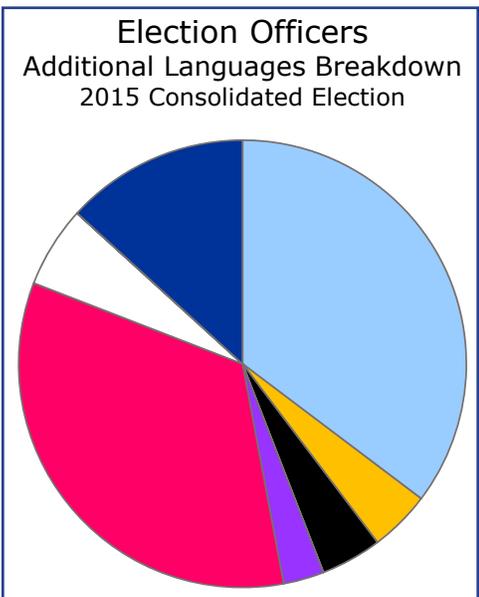
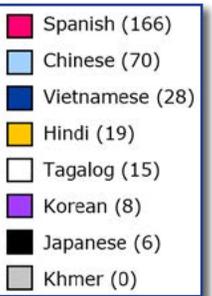
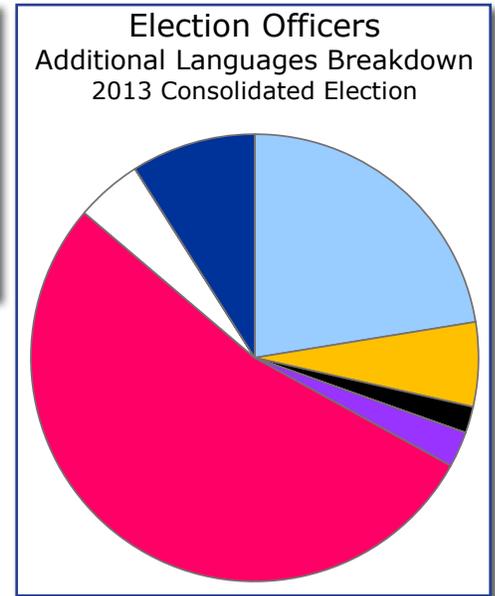
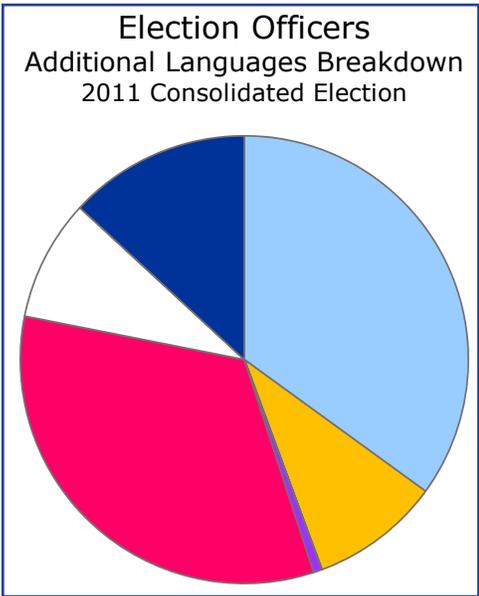
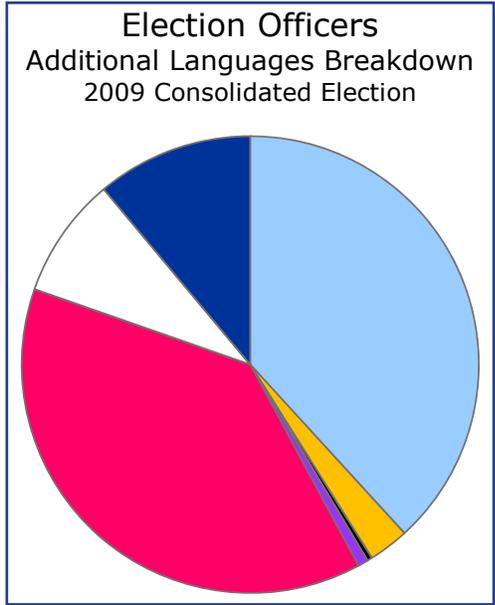
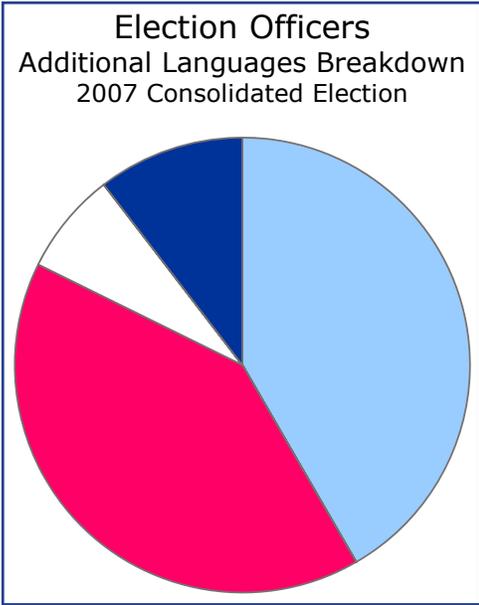
Bilingual Election Officers (EOs) Past 5 Consolidated Elections



The Registrar of Voters is required by state and federal law to provide bilingual election officers at polling places where sizable populations speak languages other than English. As a result, the percentage of bilingual election officers in a given election can vary widely depending on the language diversity of the local jurisdictions involved.

% Bilingual EOs Past 5 Consolidated Elections





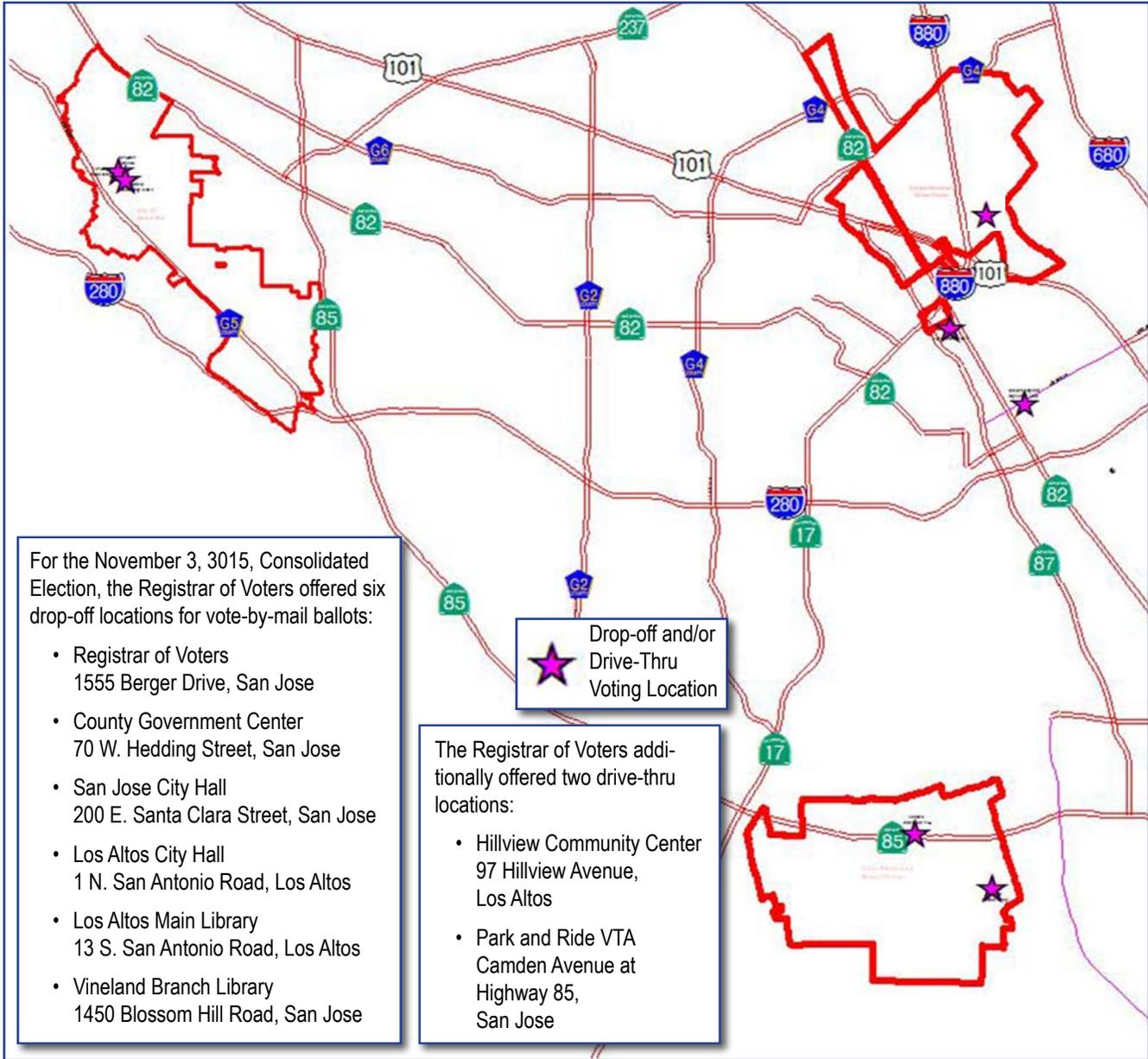
FAQ

Q: Why are there few or no election officers who speak Japanese, Korean, Hindi, or Khmer in prior consolidated elections?

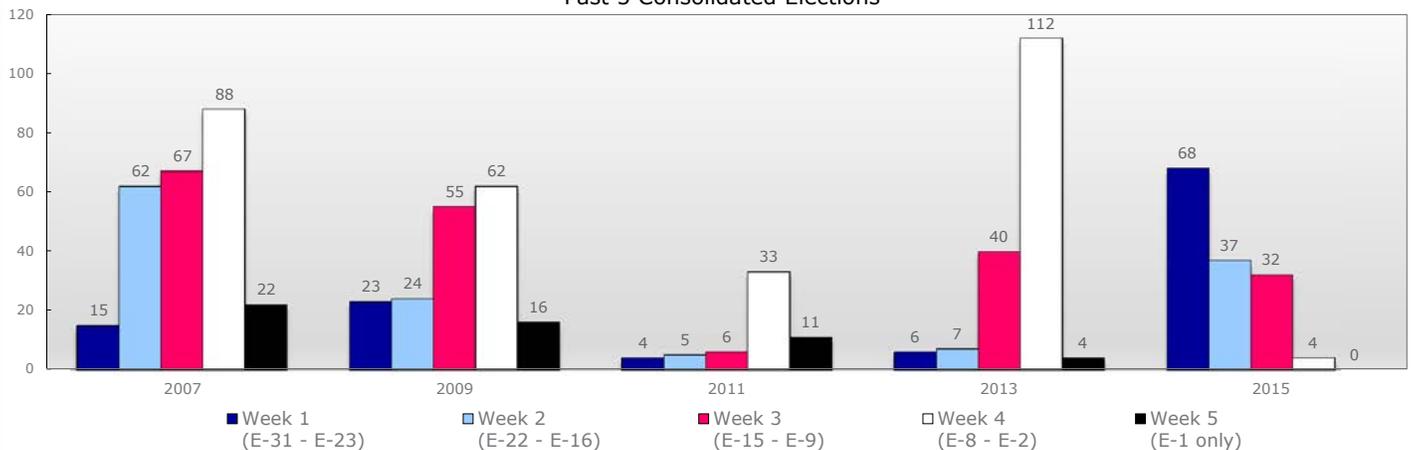
A: Prior to 2014, state law did not require the County to provide election officers in these languages because the law only required election officers for languages spoken by a certain percentage of voters at that polling place. In 2014, the law lowered the percentage threshold. As a result, Japanese, Korean, Hindi, and Khmer now have the required number of speakers to be included when the Registrar of Voters assigns bilingual election officers to polling places with voters speaking those languages.

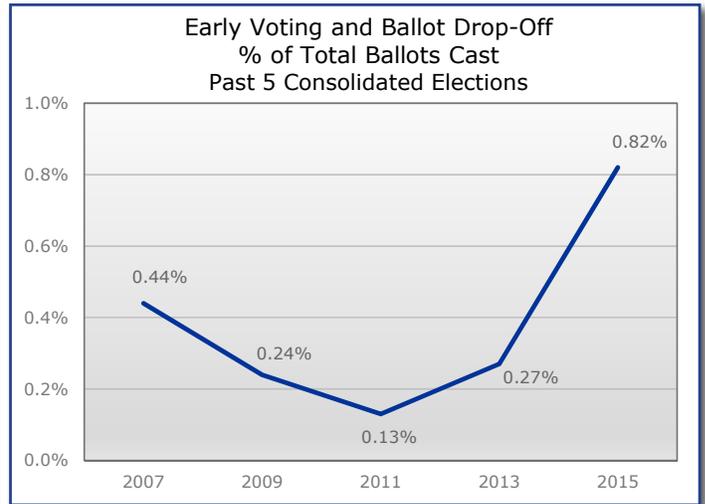
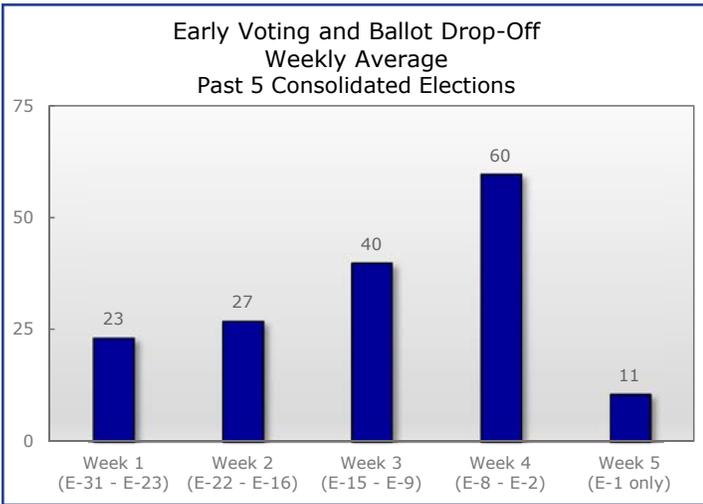
Early Voting and Ballot Drop-Off

Vote-by-Mail Drop-Off and Drive-Thru Voting Locations



Early Voting and Ballot Drop-Off Totals by Week
Past 5 Consolidated Elections





As opposed to vote-by-mail voting where a voter receives and casts a ballot from home, early voters come to a designated early voting location – primarily the Registrar of Voters’ office – to cast a ballot prior to Election Day. This allows voters to vote as they would at a polling place, but on a day more convenient for them. The Registrar of Voters tends to experience the highest volume of early voters during the week just prior to Election Day.

III. Election Day and Post-Election Tallying

Introduction

At 8 p.m., the polls close, and Registrar of Voters staff and a legion of volunteers begin the long process of collecting election materials, including voted ballots, voting machine results cartridges, and the roster indexes indicating which voters voted.

All of the ballots are tallied at the Registrar of Voters’ office, meaning that every voted ballot, from Gilroy to Palo Alto, must make its way to San Jose after election officers confirm that the number of ballots received at the polling place matches the number of voters who participated. The voted ballots are tallied in the evening on Election Day and often into the next morning as they are received from polling places.

Vote-by-mail ballots received by polling places on Election Day are tallied after the polling place ballots, because the signature on each vote-by-mail ballot envelope must be confirmed as the voter’s signature before the ballot can be counted.

Once the tally is finished, the Registrar of Voters completes a **canvass** that accounts for every ballot issued and returned during the election. During this process, the Registrar of Voters also manually counts the votes of at least 1% of the precincts to ensure the accuracy of the vote-tallying machines.

When all of these processes are complete and any discrepancies are resolved, the



Registrar of Voters can certify the results, and the winners of the election can be officially declared.

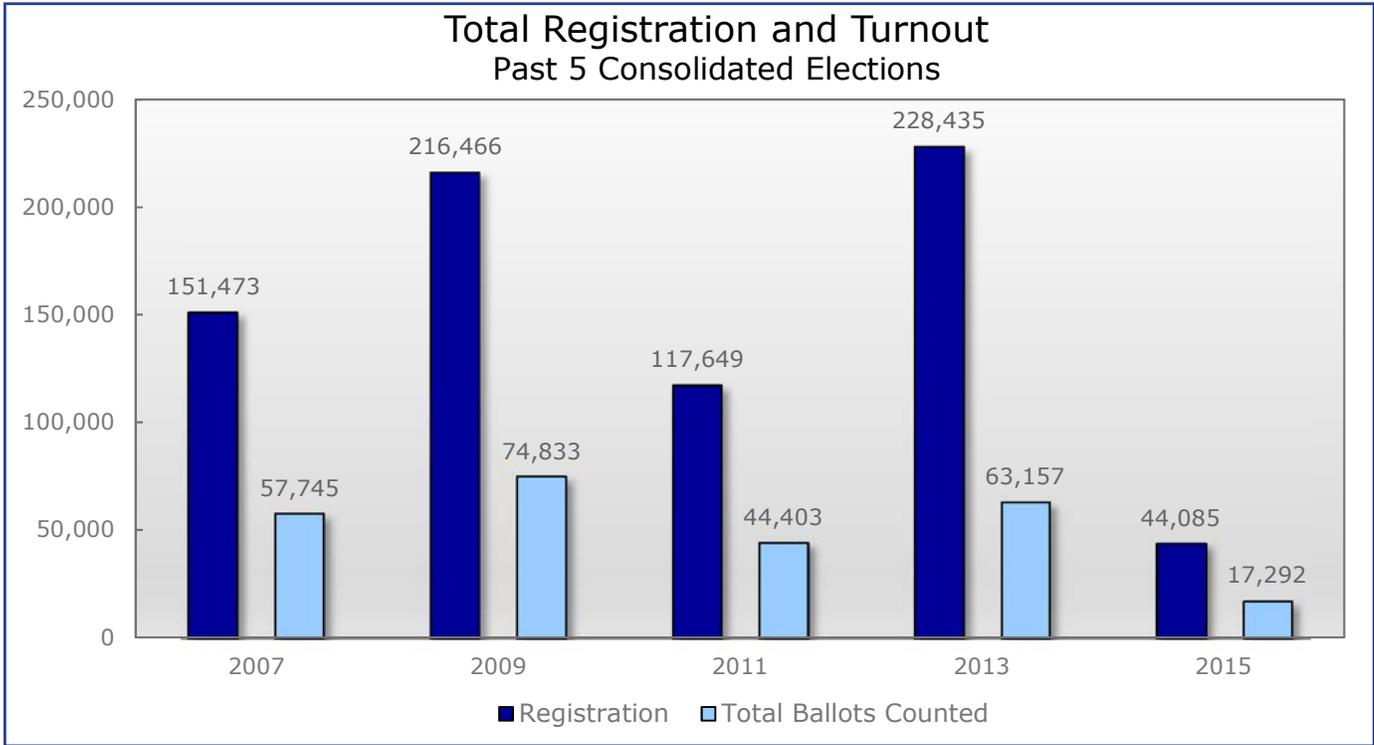
Although state law allowed until November 23 to certify the results of the November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election, the Registrar of Voters was able to certify the results much sooner. Virtually all ballots cast at polling places on Election Day were tallied that day. By 1:30 p.m. on November 6, the Registrar’s office had completed tallying all remaining vote-by-mail ballots and the small number of ballots that required additional verification. The Registrar certified the results on November 10.

FAQ

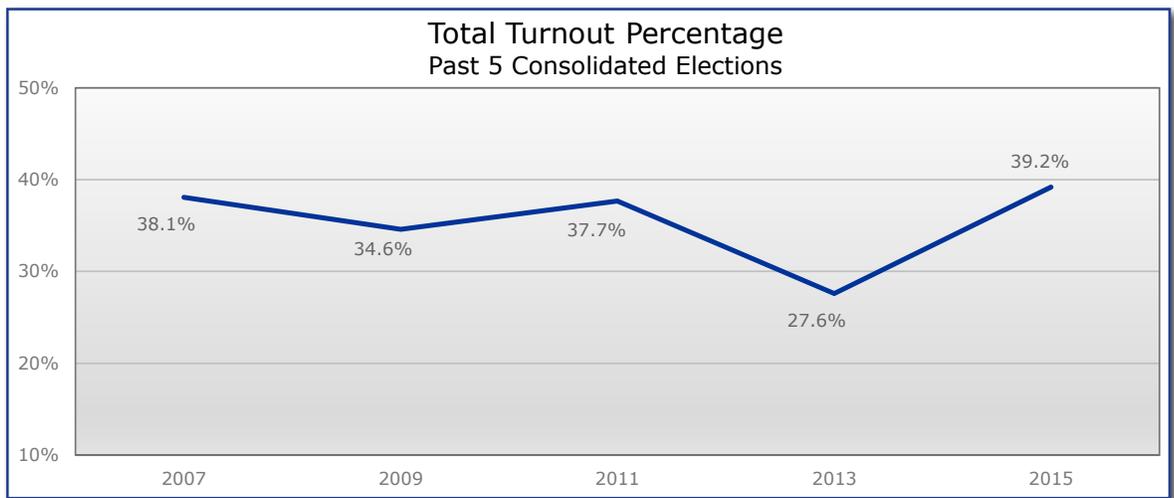
Q: What is the **canvass**?

A: The canvass is a complete audit of all ballots received to ensure that every ballot was processed and the results are complete and accurate. The canvass begins immediately following Election Day and can take up to 28 days as each ballot is matched with the records of the corresponding polling place and precinct.

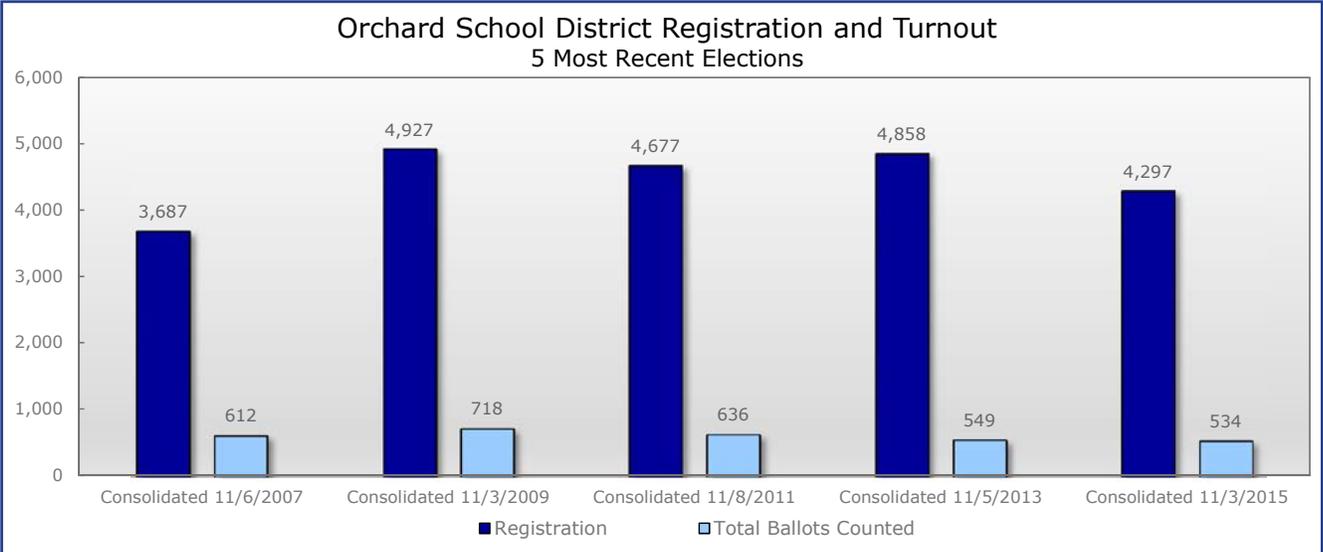
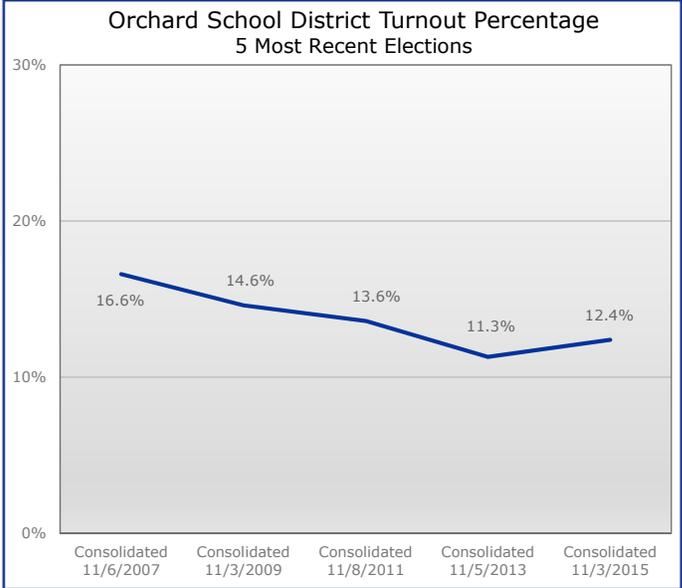
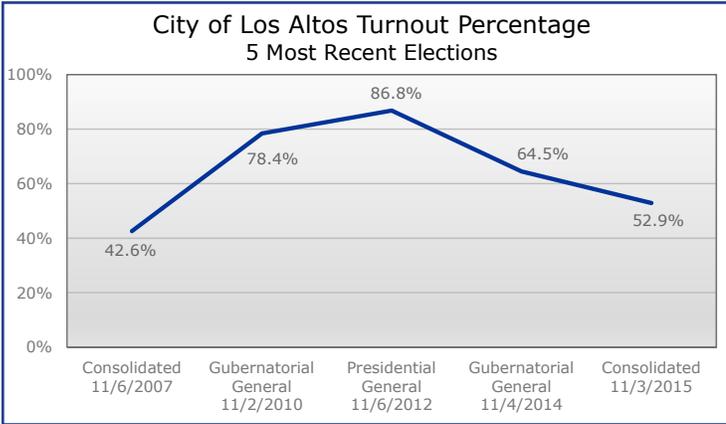
Overall Voter Turnout

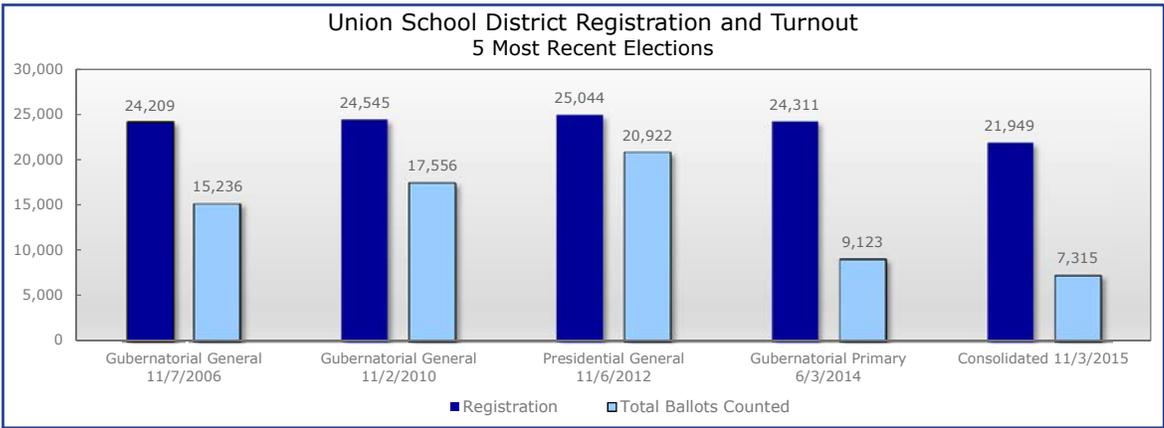


Other than a slight dip in 2013, voter turnout in consolidated elections has been relatively consistent. Over the past five consolidated elections, Santa Clara County has averaged 151,622 registered voters and 51,486 ballots counted for a total average turnout of 34%.

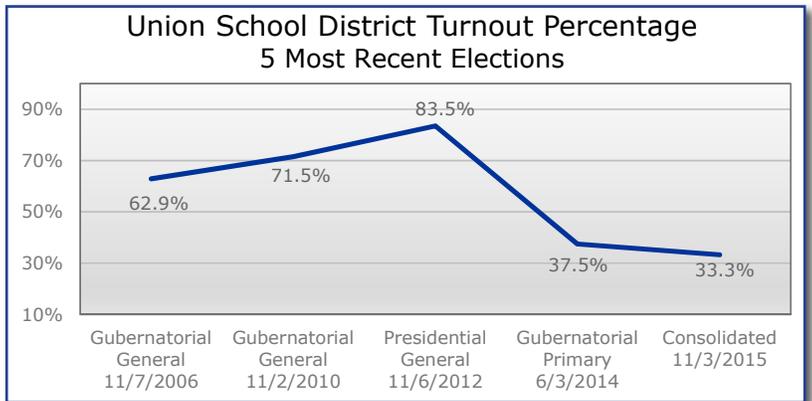


Vote-by-mail ballots now account for more than 75% of the turnout in a given election. Each vote-by-mail ballot received must be sorted on a machine like the one pictured at left, and the signature on the envelope must be checked to ensure that it matches the signature in the voter's file.

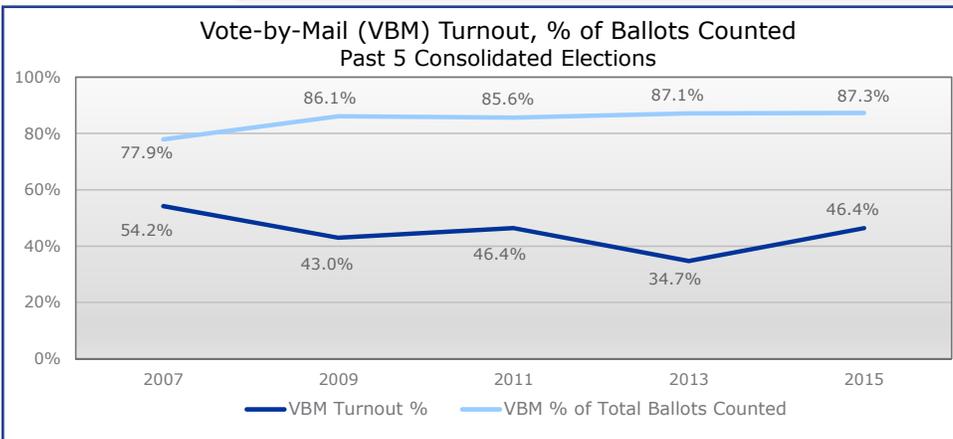
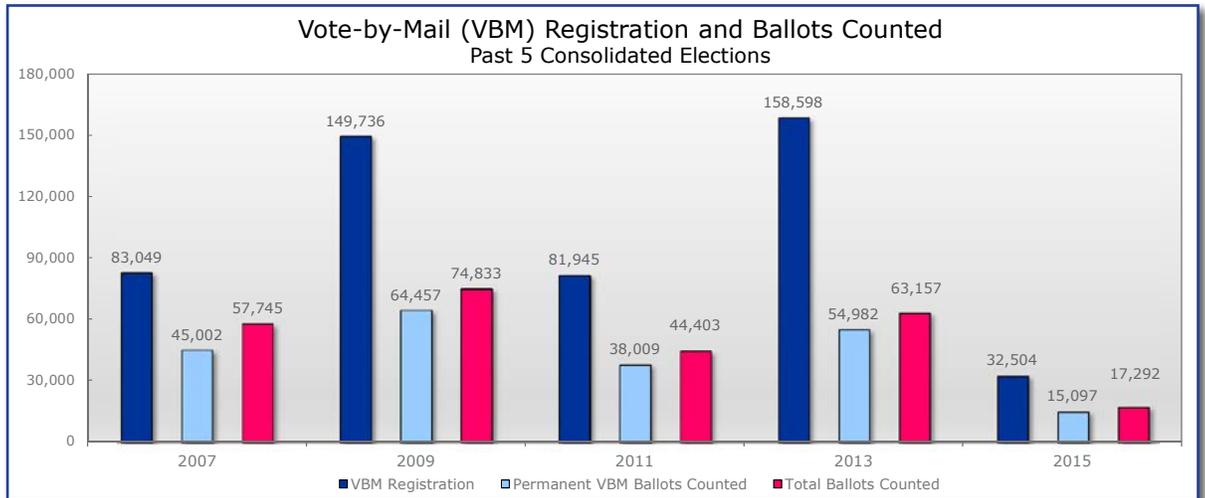




Voter turnout can vary widely in a particular jurisdiction based on a number of factors, including the type of election. Orchard School District only holds its contests during consolidated elections, so its voter turnout trend is relatively consistent. Los Altos and Union School District, however, have held contests during consolidated, presidential, and gubernatorial general elections. Presidential and gubernatorial elections tend to result in higher turnout numbers due to high voter interest in state and national contests.

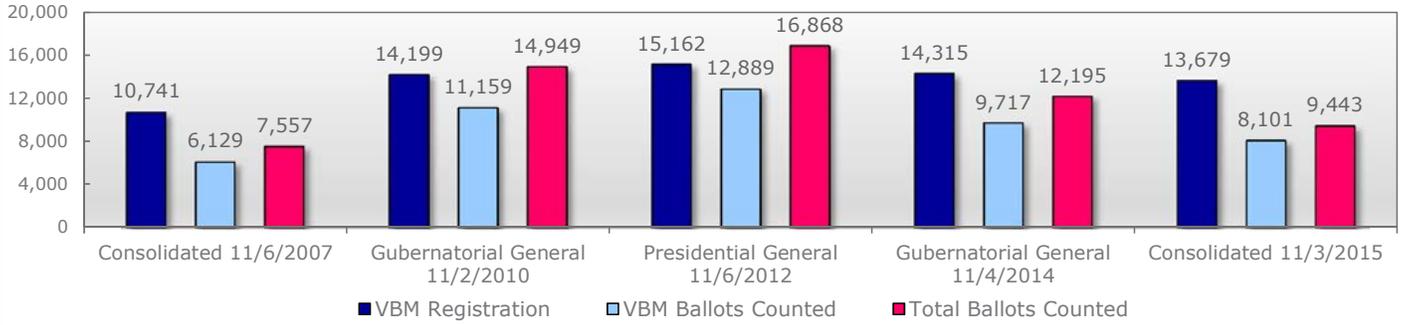


Vote-by-Mail Turnout

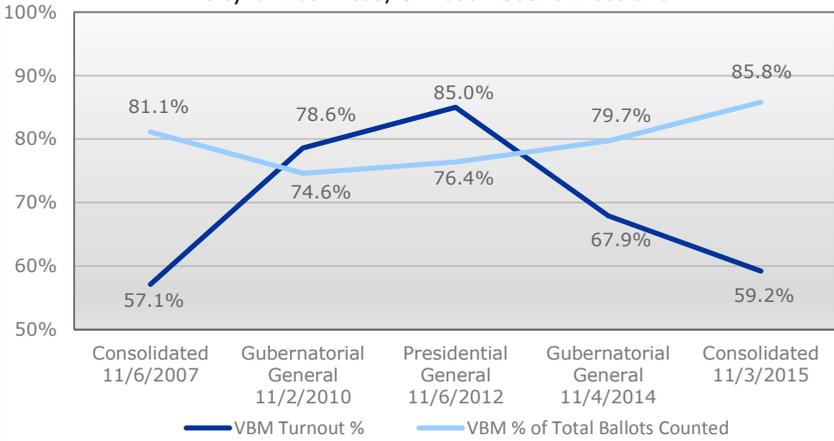


Though the turnout percentage for vote-by-mail voters fluctuates from election to election depending on the variety of contests and participating local jurisdictions, the percentage of ballots cast made up of vote-by-mail ballots generally has risen over the years.

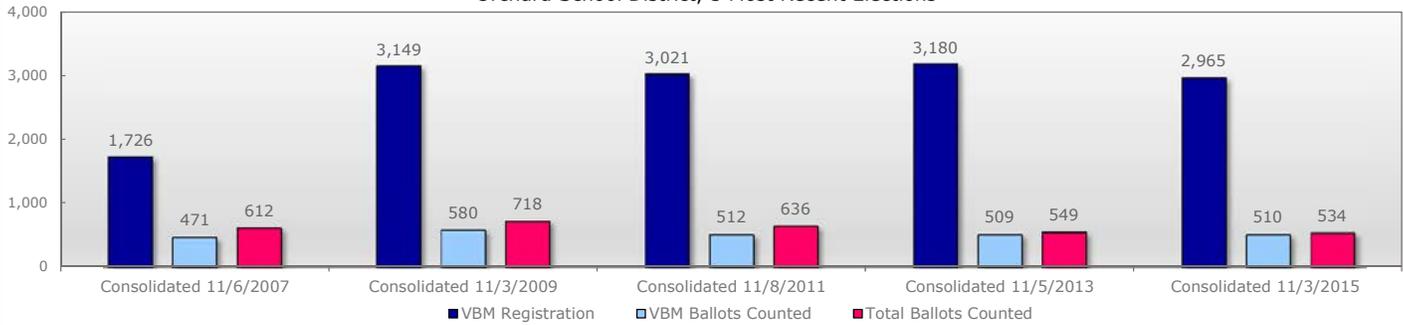
Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Registration and Ballots Counted City of Los Altos, 5 Most Recent Elections



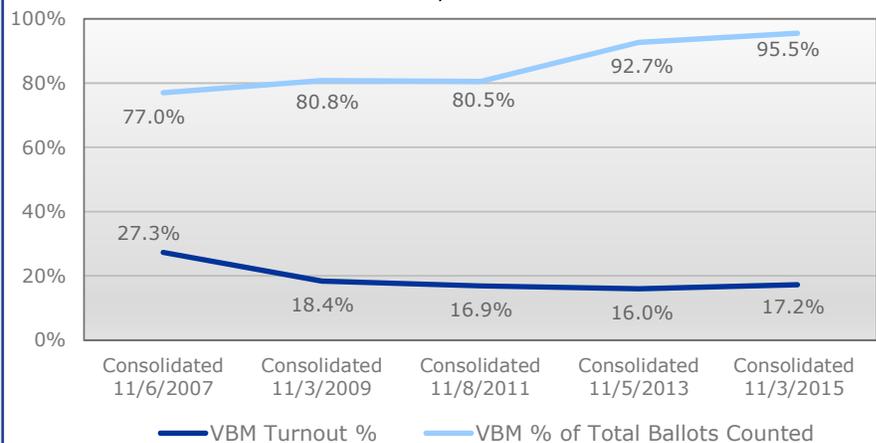
Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Turnout, % of Ballots Counted City of Los Altos, 5 Most Recent Elections

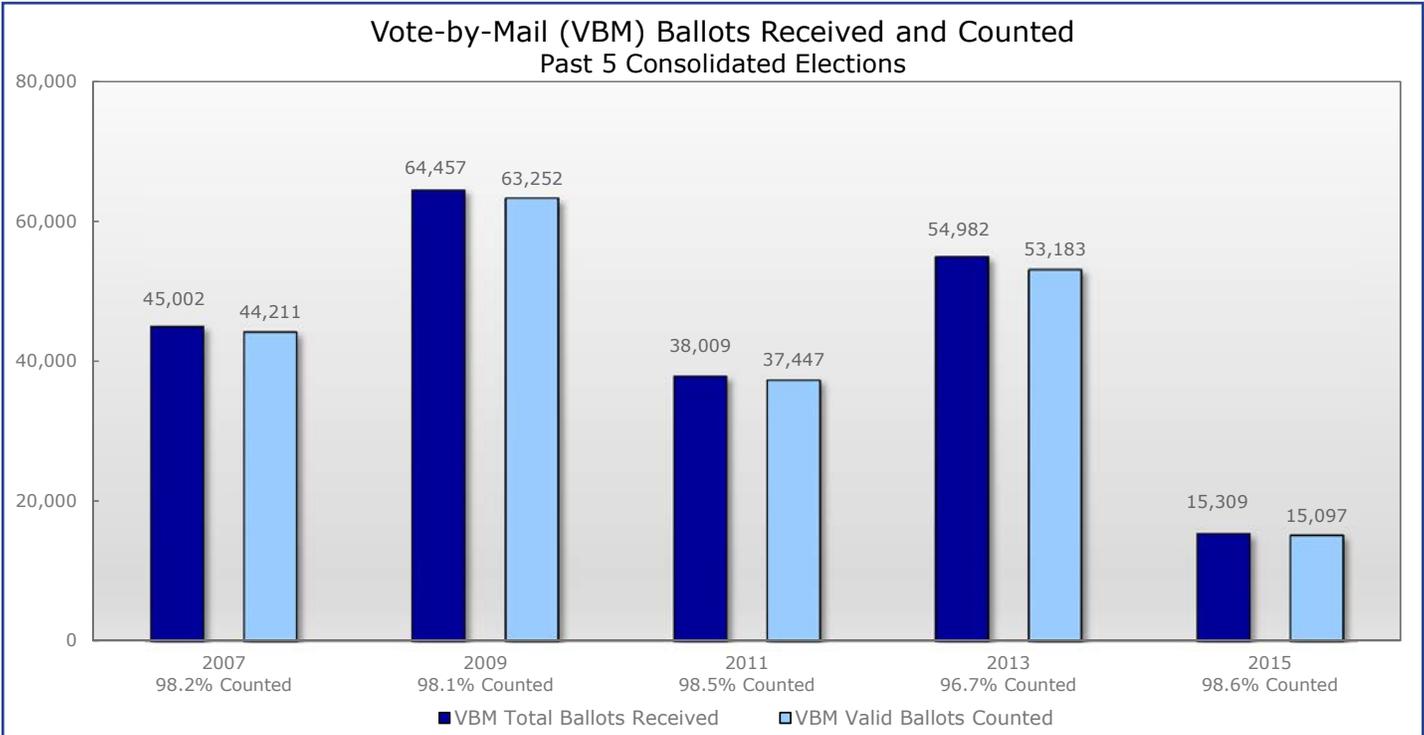
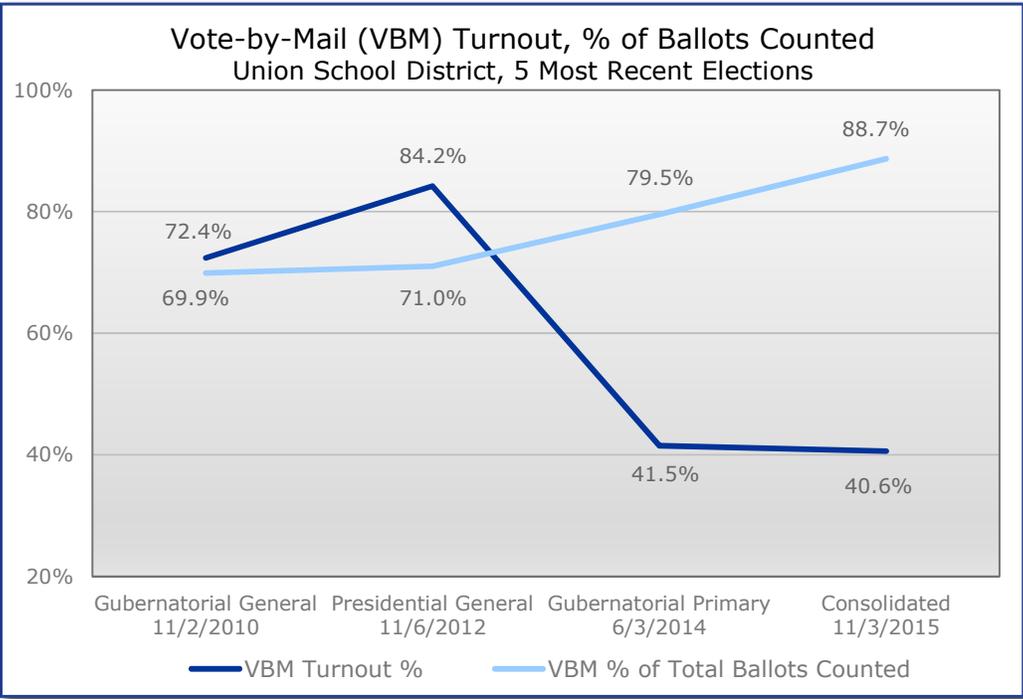
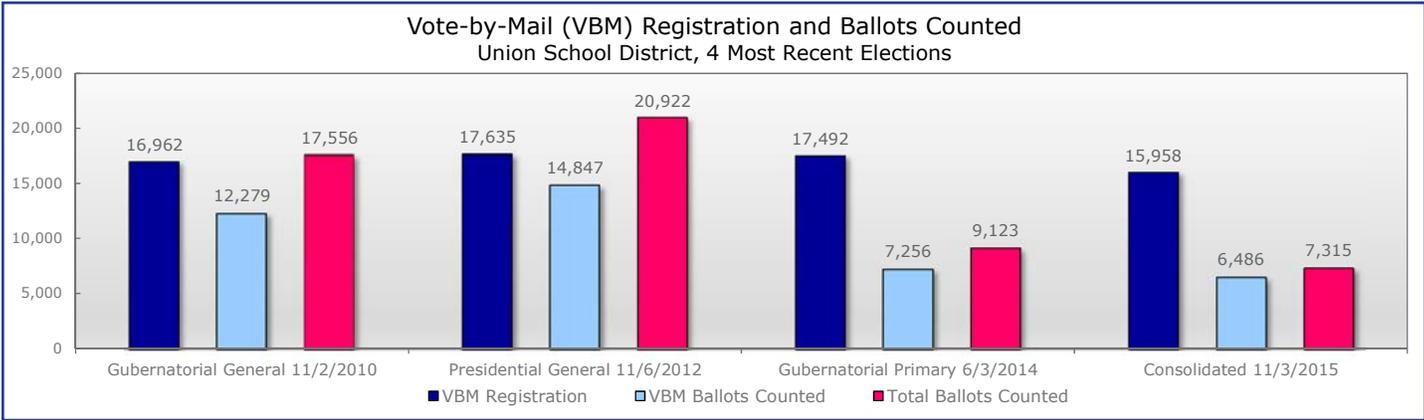


Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Registration and Ballots Counted Orchard School District, 5 Most Recent Elections



Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Turnout, % of Ballots Counted Orchard School District, 5 Most Recent Elections





Vote-by-Mail Envelopes Processed Nov. 3, 2015, Consolidated Election

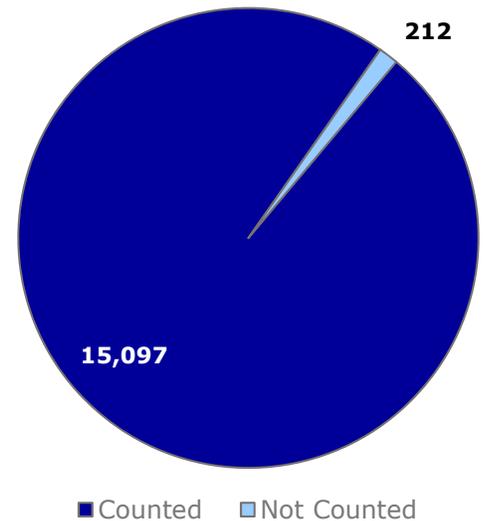
Date	E Date	Total Received	Received by Mail	Dropped Off	Challenged
10/5	E-29	0	0	0	0
10/6	E-28	14	14	0	0
10/7	E-27	0	0	0	0
10/8	E-26	1	0	1	0
10/9	E-25	15	14	1	0
10/10	E-24	0	0	0	0
10/11	E-23	0	0	0	0
10/12	E-22	0	0	0	0
10/13	E-21	1,723	1,653	70	4
10/14	E-20	527	524	3	2
10/15	E-19	1,788	1,739	49	7
10/16	E-18	378	378	0	0
10/17	E-17	0	0	0	0
10/18	E-16	0	0	0	0
10/19	E-15	1,349	1,341	8	5
10/20	E-14	159	104	55	1
10/21	E-13	870	862	8	1
10/22	E-12	244	219	25	0
10/23	E-11	357	351	6	2
10/24	E-10	16	16	0	1
10/25	E-9	0	0	0	0
10/26	E-8	1,112	1,099	13	10
10/27	E-7	97	21	76	0
10/28	E-6	896	892	4	3
10/29	E-5	104	51	53	0
10/30	E-4	647	643	4	4
10/31	E-3	523	523	0	3
11/1	E-2	0	0	0	0
11/2	E-1	920	878	42	5
11/3	Election Day	1,618	45	1,573	1
11/4	E+1	1,184	847	337	5
11/5	E+2	437	437	0	4
11/6	E+3	175	175	0	2
11/9	E+6	152	152	0	152
11/10	E+7	3	3	0	3
Total	n/a	15,309	12,981	2,328	215

As shown by the table at left, slightly more than 15% of vote-by-mail envelopes were dropped off at the Register of Voters' office, at polling places, or at drop boxes, rather than mailed. Of these envelopes, more than 80% were dropped off on Election Day.

FAQ

- Q:** Are vote-by-mail envelopes processed on the same day that they are received?
- A:** Generally, yes. However, there are a few exceptions. During the days around Election Day, large volumes of vote-by-mail envelopes may create a backlog requiring some to be processed on subsequent days. Additionally, some envelopes are challenged and require additional verification before processing. After the envelope is processed, state law prevents the Registrar of Voters' office from opening the envelope and tallying the ballot until 10 days before Election Day, and results of the tally cannot be released until the polls close.

VBM Ballots Counted, Not Counted 2015 Consolidated Election



Vote-by-Mail Challenges Nov. 3, 2015, Consolidated Election

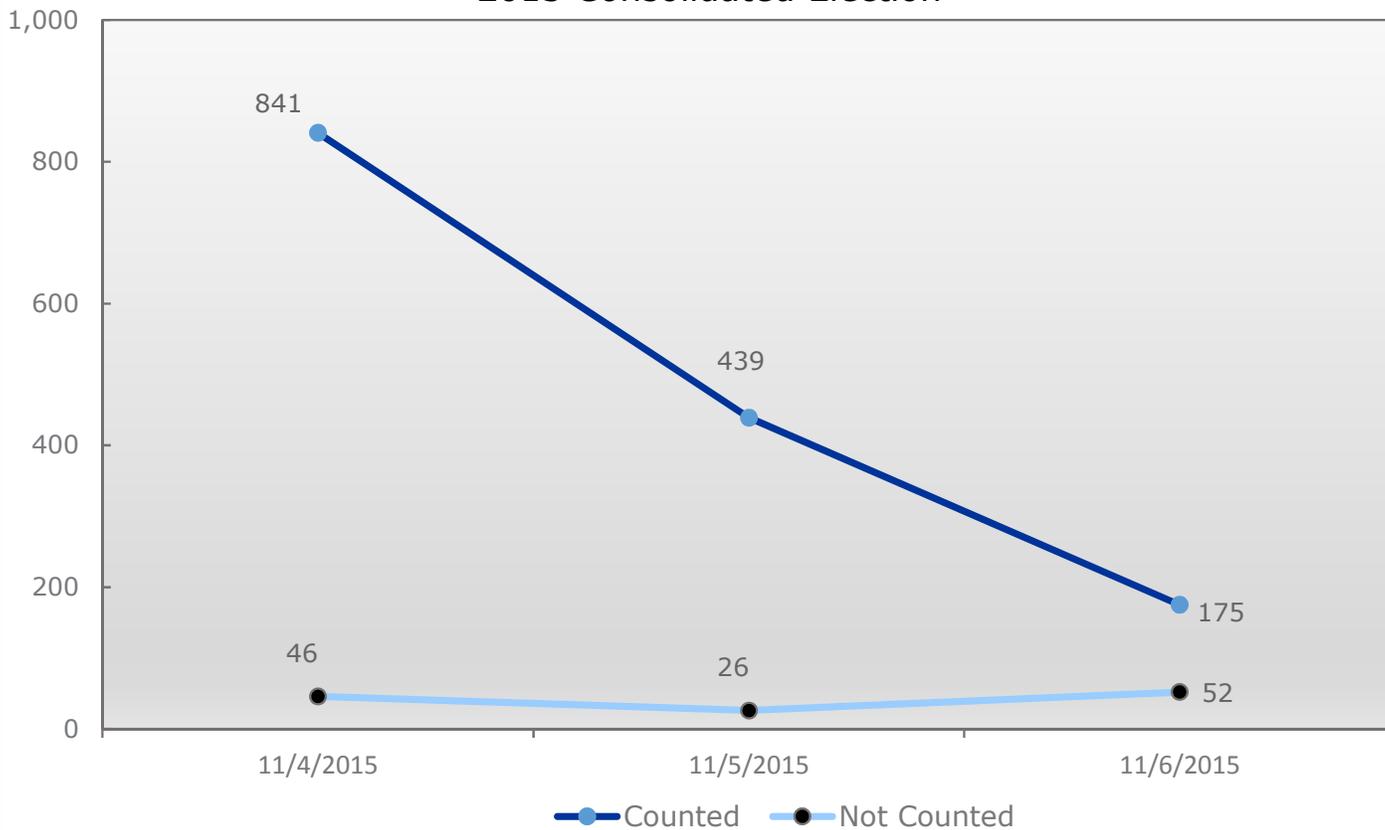
Reason	Explanation	No.
Deceased	Voter has passed away before Election Day	3
Signature Does Not Match	Signature on envelope does not match signature in voter's file	31
No Signature	Voter did not sign the envelope	24
Received Too Late	Received after deadline	155
Void	Voter ineligible to vote for another reason	2

Though the vast majority of vote-by-mail ballots are verified and counted, some are not counted each election for a variety of reasons, usually because the ballots were received too late.

FAQ

- Q:** What does it mean when a vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot is **challenged**?
- A:** A challenged VBM ballot is one that must be verified before it can be counted. A VBM ballot would be challenged when the envelope is not signed by the voter or the envelope appears to be signed by someone other than the voter. Challenged ballots are flagged by a sorting machine and manually verified by Registrar of Voters staff, which sometimes involves contacting the voter to obtain the proper signature. If verified, the ballots are counted as normal. If not, they are not counted.

E+3 Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Ballots Counted, Not Counted 2015 Consolidated Election



According to state law, the Registrar of Voters must count vote-by-mail ballots received up to three days after Election Day as long as the envelope is postmarked on or before Election Day. This year, the Registrar of Voters received 1,579 vote-by-mail ballots after Election Day, with 1,455 of those ballots being correctly postmarked and counted. Unfortunately, 124 either were missing the postmark or were postmarked too late to be counted.

E Date	Date
E+1	11/4
E+2	11/5
E+3	11/6

FAQ

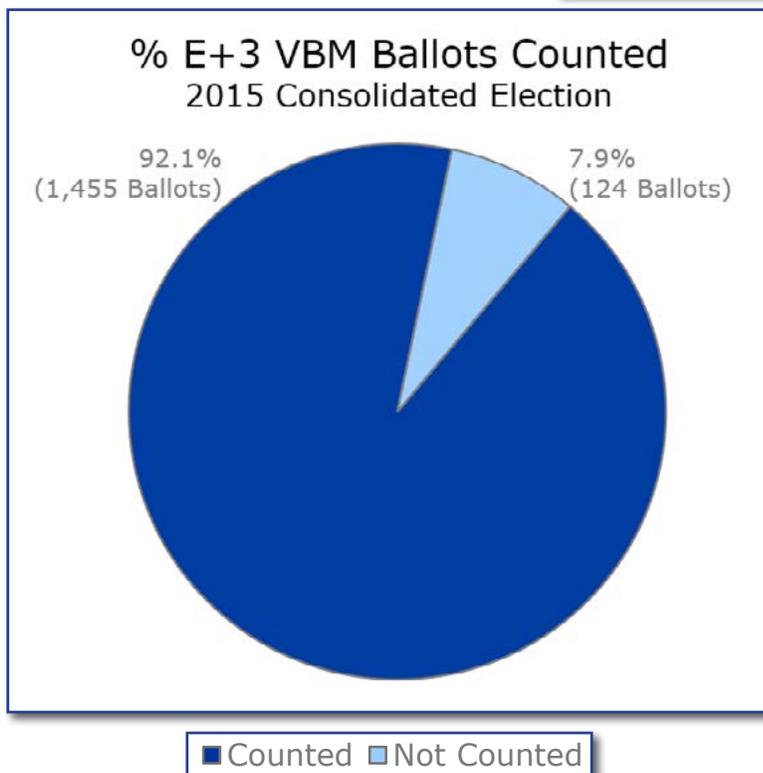
Q: What does **E+3** mean?

A: Like the days preceding an election, the Registrar of Voters tracks days following an election in relation to Election Day. Just as **E-60** denotes the 60th day before an election, **E+1** denotes the first day after an election. **E+3**, therefore, is three days after Election Day.

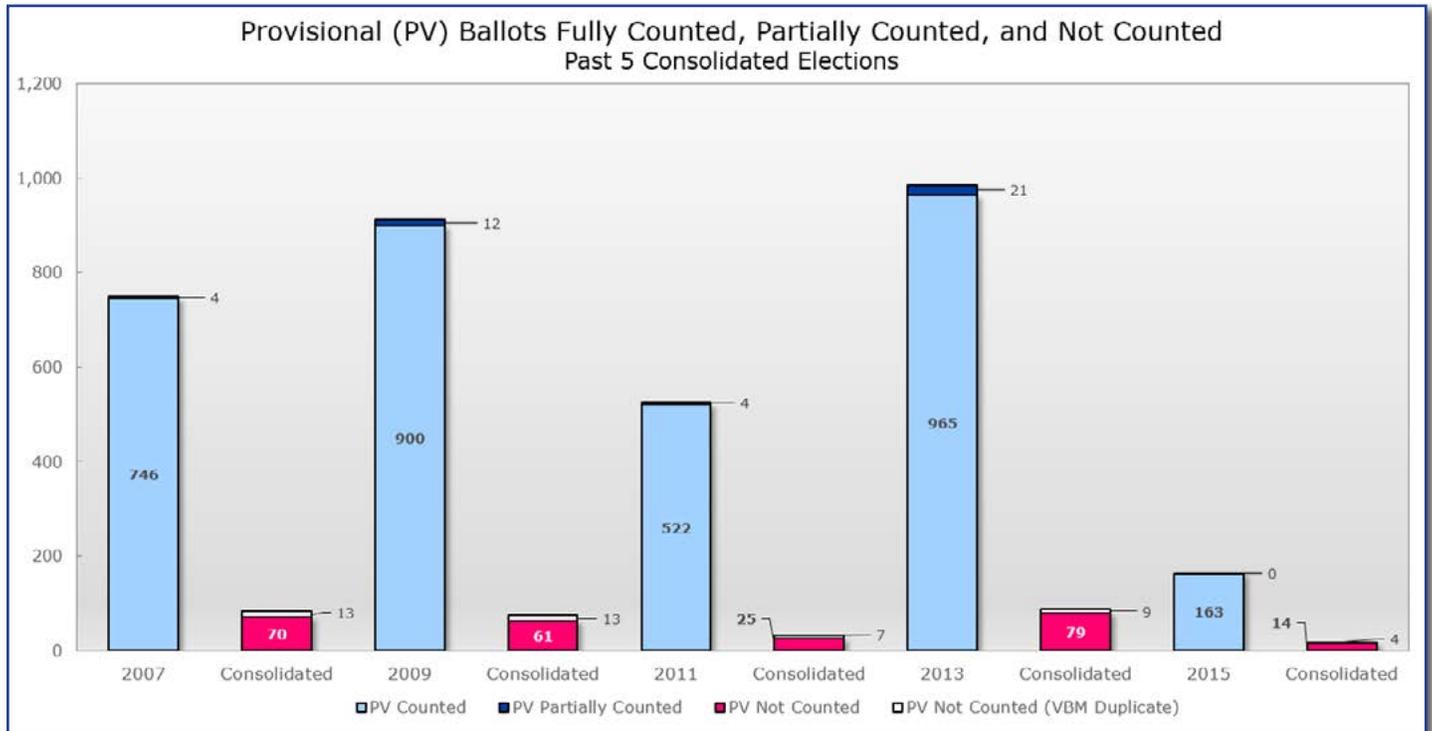
FAQ

Q: Why is the postmark important?

A: Under state law, a vote-by-mail envelope must have a postmark indicating that it was mailed on or before Election Day in order for the ballot inside to be counted. Although most mail that goes through the United States Postal Service (USPS) receives a postmark of some sort, some envelopes may not receive a proper mark when large volumes of mail move through the postal service around election time. The Registrar of Voters continues to work with the USPS to minimize the number of unpostmarked vote-by-mail return envelopes and therefore minimize the number of ballots that will not be counted.



Provisional Votes



The vast majority of provisional ballots ultimately are counted. As the graph below shows, only about 5-10% of provisional ballots are not counted for various reasons. The graph above shows that of the provisional ballots not counted, some were not counted because the voter had already voted with a vote-by-mail ballot. In these cases, the vote-by-mail ballot is counted and the provisional ballot is not. Voters sometimes vote provisionally on Election Day at the polls when they worry that their vote-by-mail ballot will not arrive in time.

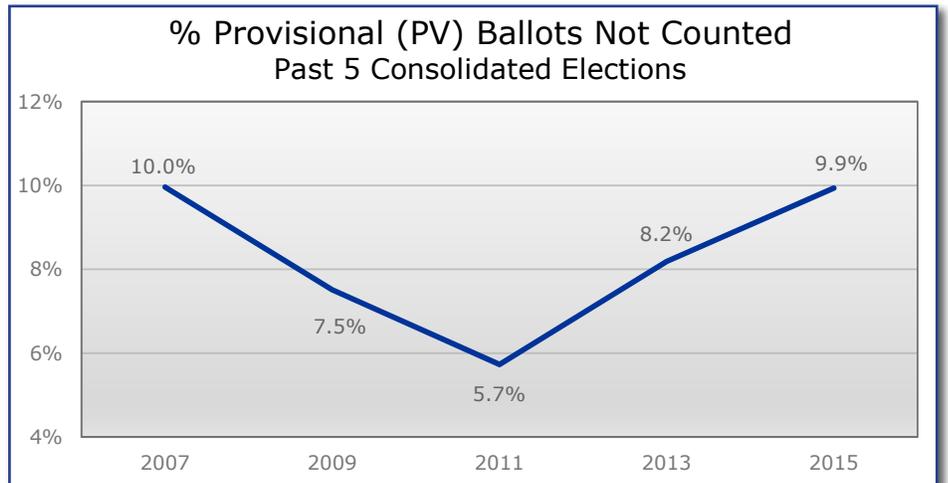
FAQ

Q: When do voters cast provisional ballots?

A: In a consolidated election, a voter casts a provisional ballot when:

- The voter's name could not be located on the official roster index for the precinct;
- The voter's eligibility could not be verified; or
- The voter was issued a vote-by-mail ballot that the voter could not produce.

Provisional ballots are sealed in an envelope for verification later at the Registrar of Voters' office. In the November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election and in most cases, the voter is later determined to be eligible to vote, and the ballot is counted. If the voter already submitted a valid vote-by-mail ballot, then only the vote-by-mail ballot will be counted. If the voter is ineligible for this election – because the voter is unregistered, registered in another jurisdiction, or has already cast a ballot – then the provisional ballot will not be counted.

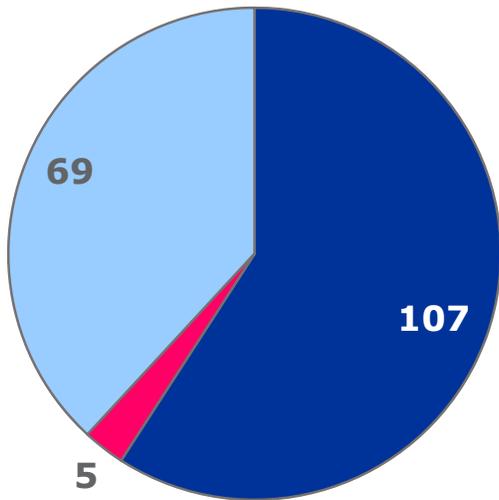


FAQ

Q: How can a provisional ballot be partially counted?

A: A provisional ballot is partially counted when the voter is determined to be eligible for some of the contests but not all. This usually occurs when the voter votes at a polling place other than his or her normal polling place, because the contests on the ballot can differ depending on where the voter lives. Votes on a provisional ballot will only be counted in the contests for which the voter was eligible. Because each voter only voted in a single contest during the November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election, there were no partially counted provisional votes.

PV Ballots Cast by Jurisdiction 2015 Consolidated Election



Reasons Provisional Ballots Are Not Counted

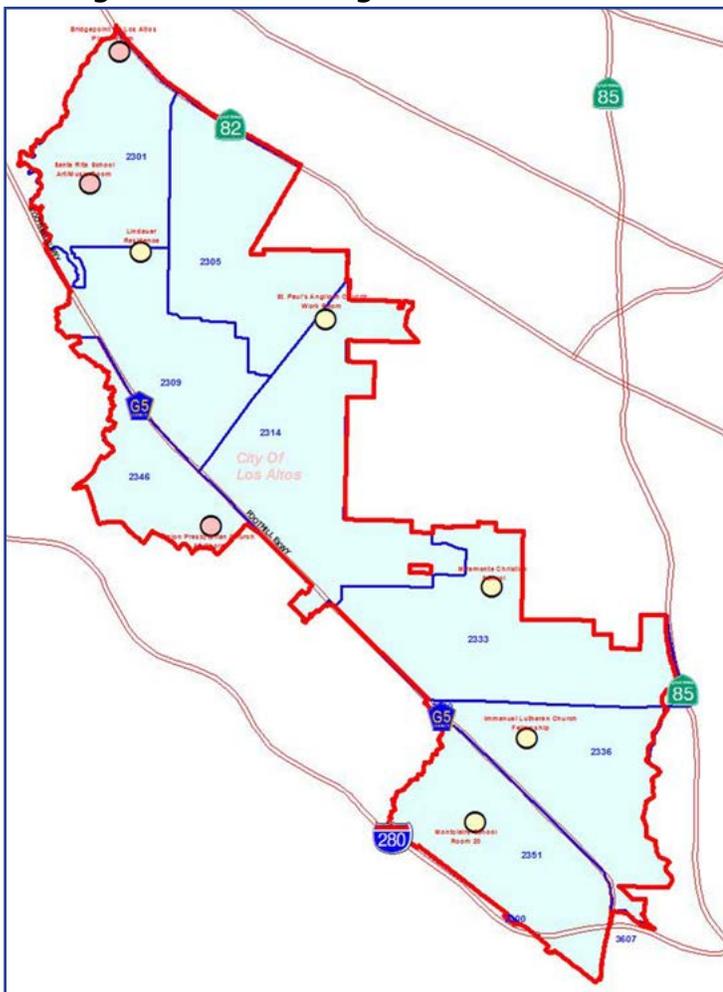
Reason	Explanation	No.
Not Eligible	Voter does not live in a local jurisdiction with a contest on the ballot	2
Not Registered	Voter is not registered	10
Registered Late	Voter registered after the 15th day before Election Day	2
Vote-by-Mail Counted	Voter already voted by mail and vote-by-mail ballot was counted	4

Though the vast majority of provisional ballots are verified and counted, some are not counted each election for a variety of reasons.

■ Los Altos ■ Orchard ■ Union

Polling Places

Polling Places with Highest Turnout



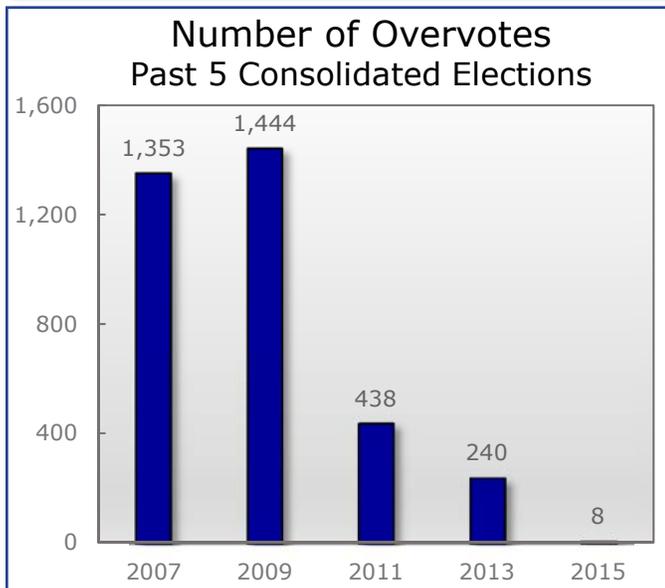
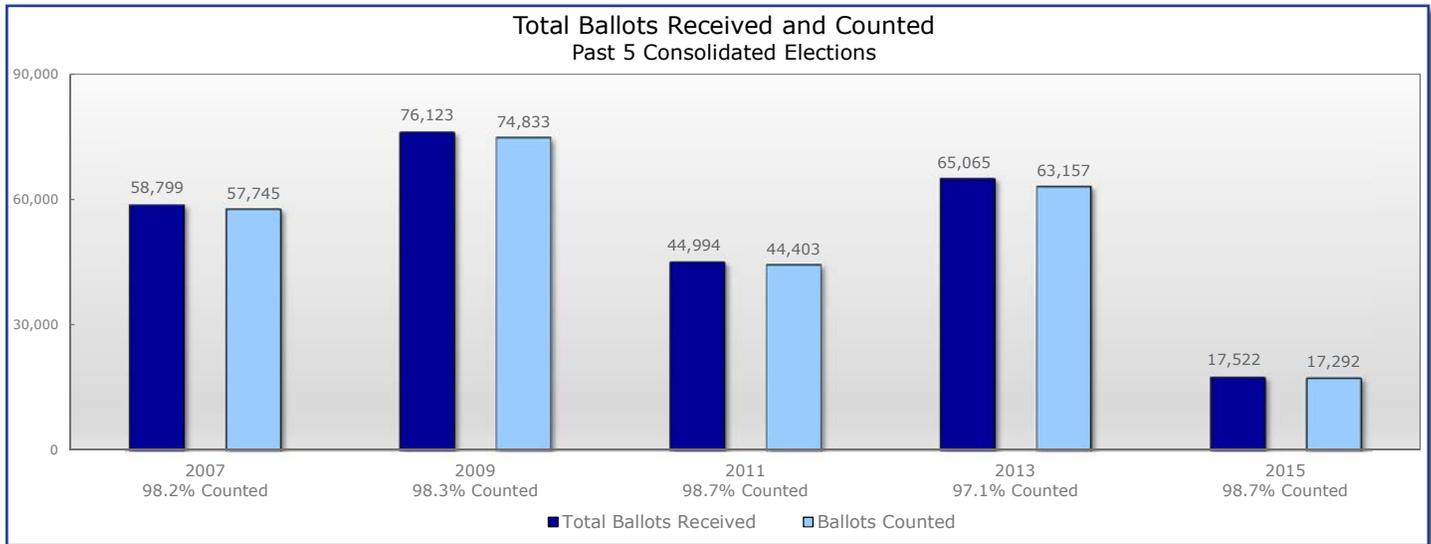
Precinct No.	Turnout	Location
2314	230	St. Paul's Anglican Church 100 block of N. El Monte Ave.
2336	216	Immanuel Lutheran Church 1700 block of Grant Rd.
2333	177	Miramonte Christian School 1100 block of Altamead Dr.
2309	170	Private Residence 300 block of Cherry Ave.
2351	157	Montclair School 1100 block of St. Joseph Ave.

Polling place turnout can vary widely depending on how many voters live in the area, the percentage of vote-by-mail voters, and voter interest in the contests on the ballot. For the November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election, all five of the precincts with the highest turnout of polling place voters were in the City of Los Altos.

- Top 5 Polling Places with Highest Turnout
- Other Polling Places



Vote Tallying



FAQ

Q: What is an **overvote**?

A: An overvote is when a voter votes for too many choices in a specific contest. For example, if a city council contest specifies to vote for no more than two candidates, and the voter votes for three, this would be an overvote.

FAQ

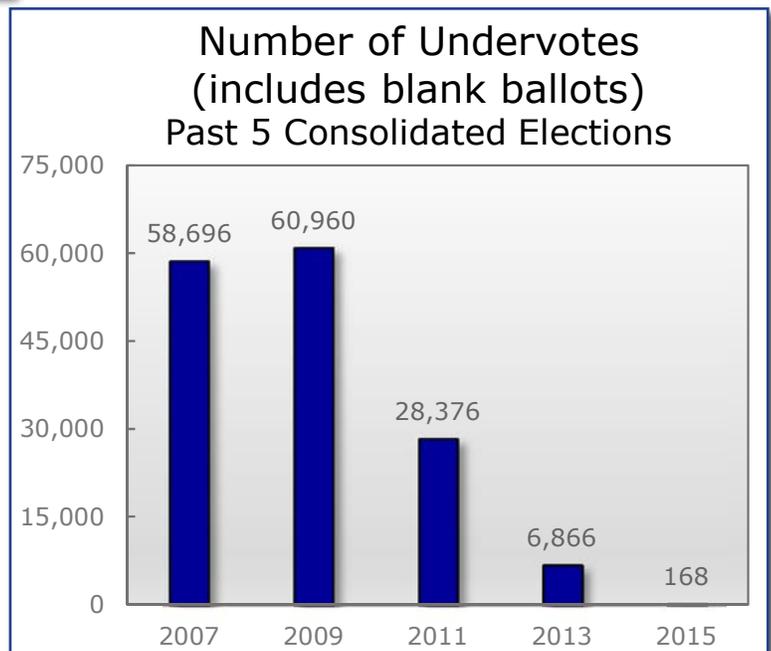
Q: What is an **undervote**?

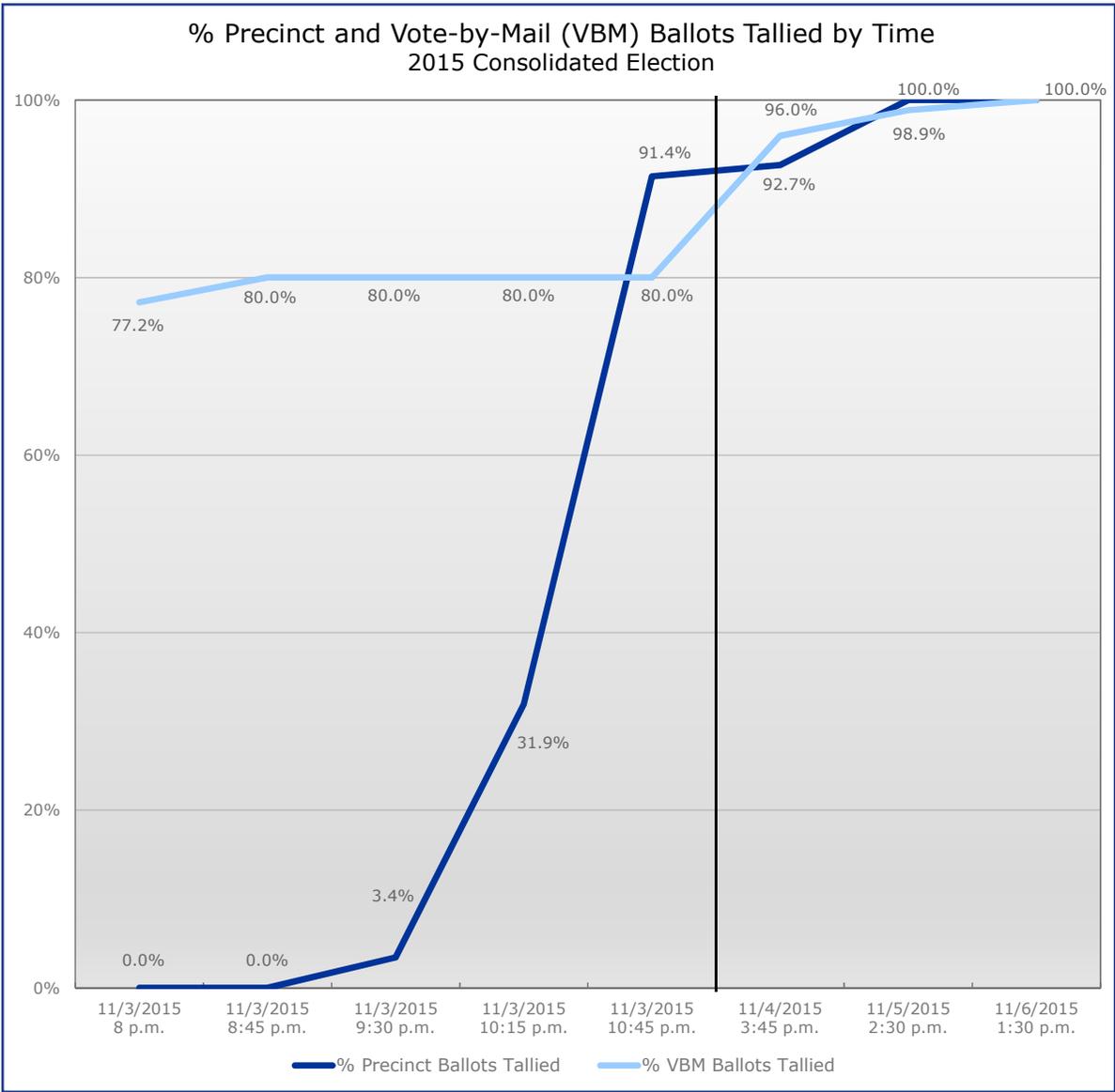
A: An undervote is when a voter votes does not vote for all of the choices in a specific contest. For example, if a city council contest specifies to vote for no more than two candidates, and the voter votes only for one, this would be an undervote.

FAQ

Q: Why do some elections show so many undervotes?

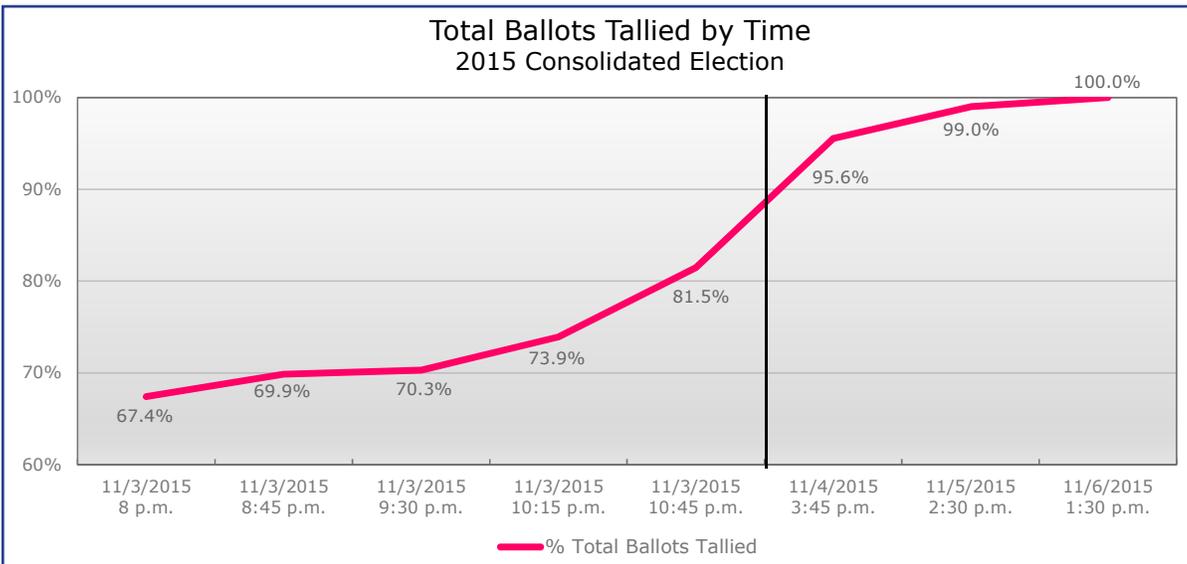
A: In most elections, each voter is eligible to vote in a number of contests. The vote-tallying machine will record an undervote for each contest in which the voter either purposely or inadvertently did not vote for the maximum number of possible choices. For example, if a city council contest specified to vote for no more than three candidates, and the voter only voted for one, this would register as two undervotes because the voter could have voted for two additional candidates in that contest. Undervotes like this can occur multiple times on the same ballot when many contests are included in the election. Undervotes like this can occur multiple times on the same ballot when many contests are included in the election. Therefore, the same ballot could be registered as an undervote in several contests, resulting in an apparently high number of undervotes. Accidental undervotes are one of the issues that the Registrar's office is currently seeking to solve by exploring new voting technologies that could be implemented in future elections.





All of the vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots received prior to Election Day are processed and tallied before 8 p.m. State law, however, does not allow the Registrar of Voters to release the first results until the polls close. The first point on each of these graphs – showing the percentage tallied as of 8 p.m. on Election Day – represents the VBM ballots that were tallied in the days prior to Election Day. With more than 77% of all VBM ballots and more than 67% of all ballots tallied by 8 p.m., the Registrar often tallies the majority of votes in the weeks before Election Day.

The black vertical line separates pre-Election Day and Election Day on the left from post-Election Day on the right.



The black vertical line separates pre-Election Day and Election Day on the left from post-Election Day on the right.

1% Tally Facts and Figures

	1% Tally	Election Total	% Counted in 1% Tally
No. Precincts	3	29	10.3%
Registered Voters	4,249	44,085	9.6%
Ballots Counted	1,882	17,292	10.9%
Turnout	44.3%	39.2%	n/a
Qualified Write-Ins	0	0	0.0%
Overvotes	3	8	37.5%
Undervotes	9	128	7.0%
Blank Ballots	4	40	10.0%
Discrepancies	0	n/a	n/a

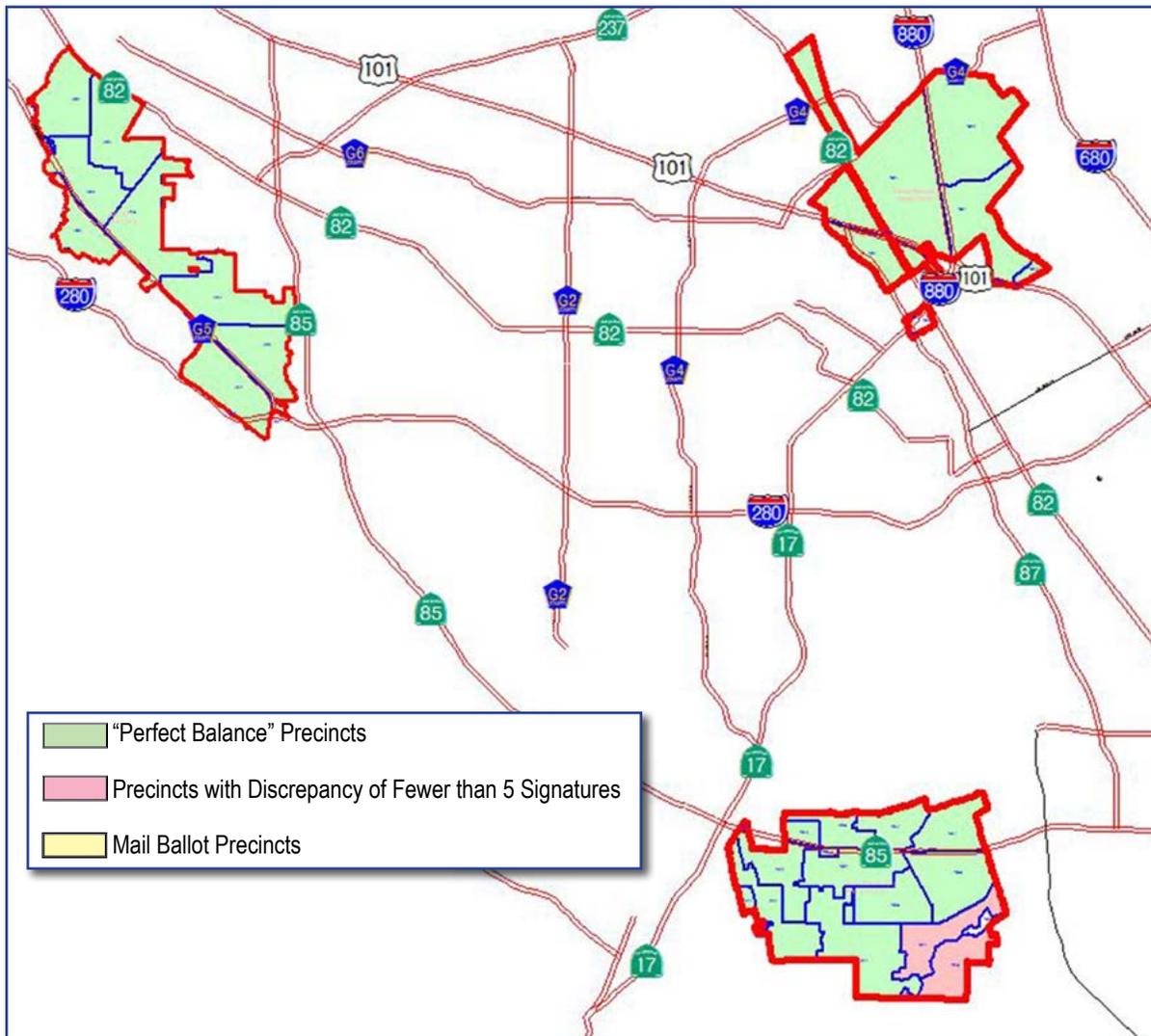
FAQ

Q: What is the 1% tally?

A: Before the results of an election are official, state law requires the Registrar of Voters to verify the accuracy of the vote-tallying machines' count by manually tallying the votes of 1% of the total number of precincts that participated in the election, with a minimum of one precinct per local jurisdiction. Registrar of Voters staff members review each ballot cast by voters in the precinct – both by mail and at the polling place – and compare the total to the tally produced by the vote-tallying machines.

Because this election included so few local jurisdictions and precincts, the 1% tally actually encompassed a higher percentage of voters, precincts, and ballots than is required.

"Perfect Balance" Precincts



Although not every precinct in this election was in "perfect balance," the discrepancies were small. The number of signatures on the roster index and the number of ballots issued were off by five or fewer for only two precincts.

FAQ

Q: What is a "perfect balance" precinct?

A: A precinct is in "perfect balance" if every ballot issued is accounted for by a signature in the roster index. When voters come to the polling place, they sign the roster index to indicate that they have come to vote. When voters at a precinct are issued ballots without signing the roster index, or vice versa, that precinct will not be in perfect balance.

FAQ

Q: What is a mail ballot precinct?

A: Setting up polling places in some precincts can be difficult or impractical due to the small number of voters living there or because there are no polling place locations that meet accessibility, proximity, or other legal requirements. These precincts become mail ballot precincts, and all voters living there are issued vote-by-mail ballots.

Postscript

Thanks to the thousands of hours of hard work by Registrar of Voters staff members and volunteer election officers before, during, and after Election Day, the November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election ran as smoothly as could have been hoped. As this report illustrates, however, many factors and issues continue to arise affecting election operations and the final release of election results:

- The November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election was the **fourth election administered by the Registrar of Voters (ROV) this year**, which matches the average number of elections that the ROV has managed per year since 2010 – about one election every three months;
- The **percentage of permanent vote-by-mail voters** continues to rise for consolidated elections, now accounting for **more than 73%** of all registered voters;
- **More than 88% of all ballots cast** in the November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election were **vote-by-mail ballots**, which are processed continuously prior to, during, and after Election Day;
- **More than 3,500 vote-by-mail ballots** – nearly a quarter of all vote-by-mail ballots received – were **received on or after Election Day**;
- Virtually **all vote-by-mail voters took advantage of the County's postage-paid envelopes**, with only 15 voters – or less than 0.1% – stamping the return envelope;
- The ROV **tallied all received vote-by-mail ballots prior to Election Day**, though the high volume of ballots that typically arrives on or after Election Day from polling places and in the mail can take days to process, verify, and tally;
- Due to a new state law, **the ROV counted 1,455 vote-by-mail ballots** – nearly 10% of all vote-by-mail ballots cast – that were received after Election Day;
- The November 3, 2015, Consolidated Election was the first among the past five consolidated elections in which **more than half of election officers were bilingual**; and
- The ROV **certified the results of this election 13 days earlier** than the state-imposed deadline.



Register, Update, and Participate

The best way to ensure that your voice is heard is to vote. The Registrar of Voters (ROV) offers numerous ways you can register to vote, update your registration information, stay informed regarding election news, track your ballot, and locate your polling place.

Register to Vote

- **In Person:** Visit the ROV's office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, in San Jose.
- **By Mail:** Obtain a voter registration affidavit from a library, post office, or other government office.
- **Online:** Visit www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Register/Pages/Online.aspx.

Find Your Voting Information

- **By Mobile App:** Visit www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx and click on "SCCVOTE Mobile App" to download the ROV's app for Android or Apple.
- **Access Candidate and Measure Information:** View information about the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election at www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Info/Jun2016Info/Pages/Jun2016Info.aspx.
- **Keep Up to Date:** Look up your districts and polling place, verify that your ballot was received and counted, and more at eservices.sccgov.org/rov.

Volunteer

- Learn how to serve as a paid election officer by visiting www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Volunteer/Pages/Volunteer.aspx.

Update Your Registration

- Update your registration information or provide changes to your address, party affiliation, or language preference at www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Register/Pages/ChangeRegistration.aspx.

Connect with the ROV

- **By Phone:** 1-866-430-VOTE (8683) or 1-408-299-VOTE (8683).
- **On the Web:** Visit www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx.
- **Facebook:** Become part of the ROV's network at www.facebook.com/sccvote.
- **Twitter:** Get up-to-the-minute tweets at twitter.com/sccvote.
- **YouTube:** Watch videos at www.youtube.com/user/sccvote.
- **RSS:** Subscribe to the ROV feed at www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/RSS/Pages/RSS.aspx.