

County of Santa Clara

Registrar of Voters

Public and Legislative Affairs

1553 Berger Drive, Bldg. 1
San Jose, CA 95112

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 612350, San Jose, CA 95161-2350
1 (408) 282-3008 1 866-430-VOTE (8683) FAX: 1 (408) 282-3115
www.sccvote.org



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CONTACT: Philip Chantri
Media Officer
1-408-282-3008

AUTOMATIC RECOUNTS TO CONTINUE PAST CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF. – The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Office will continue to conduct automatic recounts past the deadline for certification of election results.

Registrar of Voters Shannon Bushey stated, "It is imperative that the voters and candidates in these close contests have complete faith in the integrity of the results. For that reason, we will continue with the automatic recounts past the certification deadline. Transparency has been paramount throughout all of our election processes and will continue until all ballots have been recounted."

State law requires election results to be certified by December 8, 2016. Because the ten automatic recounts will not have been completed by that date, the Registrar of Voters' Office will certify the machine-tabulated election results on December 8.

All machine-tabulated results have been reviewed and vetted through the official canvass process, which is an internal audit of the election to ensure accuracy of the results. The canvass entails numerous manual processes that verify the accuracy of the computer count, including a hand tally of ballots cast in 1% of randomly selected precincts, a 100% recount of all ballots cast using touch screen voting machines, checking all vote by mail signatures, researching and verifying provisional ballots, reconciling polling place rosters of voters, and conducting a thorough review of all ballots cast.

This November's Election had the longest ballot with the highest number of contests, the highest number of registered voters, the highest number of ballots cast, and the highest number of close contests in County history. Although the Registrar of Voters' Office planned for months in order to expedite normal canvass operations, hired hundreds of additional employees, and worked 12-14 hours per day, 7 days per week, there was insufficient time to complete the unprecedented number of recounts during the canvass period before certification.

The Registrar of Voters' Office will continue to conduct the automatic recounts through completion, with staff continuing to work extended hours 7 days per week. Recounts are a complicated process requiring several stages, including a hand count of approximately one million ballot cards, compilation of thousands of individual tally sheets, comparison of the thousands of hand-counted tally sheets with the machine-counted results, reconciliation of any differences between the hand and machine counts, and extensive final auditing before release.



The recount results will be released when they have been completed, but they will not be considered certified election results under State law.

The ten contests that are being automatically recounted are Governing Board Member – Cupertino Union School District; Governing Board Member – Gilroy Unified School District; Governing Board Member – Palo Alto Unified School District; Council Member – City of Gilroy; Council Member – City of Los Altos; Council Member – City of Monte Sereno; Council Member (District 8) – City of San Jose; Council Member – Town of Los Altos Hills; Chief of Police – City of Santa Clara; and Measure Y – San Jose Unified School District.

Per the direction of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the following conditions were required in order to trigger an automatic recount:

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- The district in which the contest is being held is entirely within the boundaries of Santa Clara County;
- The contest is not for any state or federal office; and
- The margin of victory for the candidate or measure is within 0.5% of the total number of ballots cast or 25 votes.

For the purposes of determining whether to conduct an automatic recount, the margin of victory refers to the difference between winning and losing candidates or passing and failing measures.

Upon completion of the currently ongoing automatic recounts, if a different result is attained for any of the contests, such as a different winning candidate or a measure changing from passing to failing, the Registrar of Voters' Office will initiate the process for starting a County-funded, post-certification recount specified in Elections Code 15610. The results of a recount under this section ultimately would be certified.

For more information, contact the Registrar of Voters' Office at 1-408-299-VOTE (8683) or toll-free at 1-866-430-VOTE (8683), or visit www.sccvote.org.

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