

County of Santa Clara

Registrar of Voters

Public and Legislative Affairs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BALLOTS REMAINING TO BE COUNTED FOR NOVEMBER 8, 2016 PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF. – The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Office continues to report Election Night Results. All precincts have reported and all Vote by Mail ballots and Early Voting ballots received prior to Election Day have been counted, but "last minute" Vote by Mail ballots are still being processed.

The estimated figure for outstanding ballots includes both Provisional ballots and Vote by Mail ballots that were dropped off by voters at their polling places and ballot drop-off locations on Election Day.

However, the exact number of outstanding Vote by Mail ballots will be known only after November 16, as the Registrar of Voters' Office may count Vote by Mail ballots that are postmarked by Election Day and received by November 14, and unsigned Vote by Mail ballots when an [Unsigned Ballot Statement](#) has been completed and returned by 5:00 p.m. on November 16.

Approximate Number of Ballots Remaining to be Processed

Provisional: 40,000

Vote by Mail: 200,000

The Registrar of Voters' Office will process and tally Vote by Mail ballots 24 hours per day until all have been counted, and will post these results at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily. Once all Vote by Mail ballots have been counted, the remaining results consisting of provisional, write-in, damaged and/or unreadable ballots will be updated once daily by 5 p.m. Updated results will be made available on the sccvote.org website, as well as posted on the Registrar of Voters' [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

Post-Election Canvass

California Elections Code requires the Registrar of Voters' Office to perform a Post-Election Canvass before certifying the final results of the election. The Canvass should be completed, and the November 8, 2016 Presidential General Election should be certified, by Thursday, December 8.

During the Post-Election Canvass, the Registrar of Voters' Office counts all remaining valid ballots and performs a series of mandated audits to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the election. One such audit is the 1% manual tally, a manual recount of ballots from a random 1% sample of the polling place precincts.



Ballots Counted after Election Day

There are four types of ballots that are counted after Election Day – “last minute” Vote by Mail ballots, provisional ballots, damaged and/or unreadable ballots, and ballots that contain write-in votes.

“Last Minute” Vote by Mail Ballots: Vote by Mail ballots that arrived on Election Day are processed 24 hours per day once they are received in our office. Vote by Mail ballots that were postmarked on Election Day and arrive by Monday, November 14, are also processed and counted after Election Day.

Vote by Mail ballots that were cast in unsigned envelopes were not counted unless the Registrar of Voters’ Office received an [Unsigned Ballot Statement](#) form. Voters who forgot to sign their return envelopes must complete and return their form by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 16.

Provisional Ballots: These are ballots cast by voters whose eligibility could not be determined in the polling places on Election Day or who had received Vote by Mail ballots but did not have them to surrender at the polls and wanted to vote in person. These are the last ballots counted because they have to be researched and verified.

Damaged/Unreadable Ballots: Some ballots are torn, damaged, or marked in such a way that the tallying machines cannot read them. These ballots require additional processing.

Write-In Votes: When a voter writes in the name of a qualified candidate, that vote must be tallied manually.

Audits

A review of all paperwork completed at the precincts to make sure all ballots are accounted for will be conducted. A manual recount of ballots from a random 1% sample of the precincts will be done to ensure that the vote tabulation equipment is working accurately.

Media outlets that want to capture footage at the Registrar of Voters’ Office should contact us at media@rov.sccgov.org or 1-408-282-3008.

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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