

# 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



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 2, 2015

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

## Media Information: November 3, 2015 Consolidated Election

**About This Election:** The November 3, 2015 Consolidated Election includes a contest for a seat on the Board of Orchard School District, a renewal of an expiring parcel tax measure for Union School District and a bond measure for the City of Los Altos.

Total Registration (as of 10/19/15)	44,085				
Permanent Vote By Mail (as of 10/19/15)	32,607				
Military & Overseas Voters (as of 10/19/15)	257				
Voters by Language (as of 10/19/15)	English: 42,645	Chinese: 602	Spanish: 205	Tagalog: 67	Vietnamese: 508
	Japanese 11	Korean: 42	Hindi: 4	Khmer: 0	Thai: 2

### Candidates for Orchard School District Governing Board Member:

Diana Nazari, Incumbent

Katherine Kasolas-Jacobson, Incumbent

Marvic Olaivar, Superior Court Clerk

### Local Measures:

City of Los Altos – Measure A, Bond Measure

Union School District – Measure B, Renewal of Expiring Parcel Tax

**Election Night Results and Information** will be available at [sccvote.org](http://sccvote.org). The first press information with preliminary Vote by Mail ballot tallies will be issued online at approximately 8:05 p.m. The Registrar of Voters' Office will post updated results on its website at [Election Results](#) and on its [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages at approximate intervals of 45 minutes.

**Voting Machine Testing:** Those wishing to observe the testing and sealing of high-speed optical scan readers and polling place voting machines were invited to do so on October 16, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. (High Speed Optical Scan Readers) and October 21, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. (Polling Place Touch Screen Voting Machines). All voting machine testing occurred at the Registrar of Voters' Office, 1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, San Jose, CA 95112.

Board of Supervisors: Mike Wasserman, Cindy Chavez, Dave Cortese, Ken Yeager, S. Joseph Simitian  
County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith



**Interview/Media Requests** should be directed to our media telephone line at 1-408-282-3008 or to our media email address at [media@rov.sccgov.org](mailto:media@rov.sccgov.org). We would be happy to assist in your requests to visit polling places, view our ballot opening/sorting/counting operations or schedule interviews. Arrangements should be made prior to arriving at our offices and/or polling places. A media room will be available at 1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, Room 181 in San Jose on Election Day. Credentials will be required for entry.

You are encouraged to film/take photos of:

- \*Polling Places and Ballot Tally Operations
- \*Election Officers/Employees processing ballots
- \*Election Headquarters

Please do not:

- \*Take images of Election Officers/Voters without their permission
- \*Obstruct/disrupt voting
- \*Take images of voted ballots

**November 3, 2015 Consolidated Election**

The November 3, 2015 Consolidated Election includes a contest for a seat on the Board of Orchard School District, a renewal of an expiring parcel tax measure for Union School District and a bond measure for the City of Los Altos.

Orchard School District consists of 4,298 registered voters. Union School District consists of 21,949 registered voters and the City of Los Altos consists of 17,838 registered voters.

Only registered voters who live in the City of Los Altos and Orchard or Union School Districts are eligible to participate in the election. Voters who want to find out if they live within these jurisdictions can look up their districts using the online tool [Look Up Your Districts](#).

**Returning Ballots**

Vote by Mail voters account for approximately 75% of the 44,085 voters in this election. Vote by Mail ballots were mailed to registered voters on October 5, 2015.

Beginning with this election, the Registrar of Voters has included a postage-paid return envelope with every Vote by Mail ballot. In previous elections, voters had to pay the cost of return postage, which frequently exceeded a single first-class stamp.

Notably, Santa Clara is only the second county in the state to feature prepaid postage for Vote by Mail ballots. Registrar of Voters Shannon Bushey stated, "There is no more important action in a democracy than voting. The Registrar of Voters' Office is passionate about increasing voter turnout and we hope that we will make it easier to vote by providing prepaid postage for all Vote by Mail ballots."

Vote by Mail ballots that are returned in-person must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day, November 3. Vote by Mail ballots that are returned by mail must be postmarked on or before Election Day and must be received by Friday, November 6 (three days after the election). Voters must sign the return envelope themselves so the signature can be compared to the voter registration form to confirm the voter's identity.

Vote by Mail ballots can be returned in person at the Registrar of Voters' Office, any Santa Clara County polling place on Election Day or at a designated ballot drop-off site. A complete list of ballot drop-off locations and hours is included in the Vote by Mail ballot packet and online at [November 3 Special Consolidated Election Ballot Drop-Off Sites](#). Voters can track the status of their ballots online at [www.sccvote.org](http://www.sccvote.org) or by using the free [SCCVOTE mobile app](#).

**First In, First Counted**: Voters are encouraged to mail their ballots as soon as possible. Completed ballots that are received prior to Election Day are included in the results released at 8 p.m. on the night of the election.

**Early Voting** was open to all registered voters in Santa Clara County. Any voter could vote early at the Registrar of Voters' Office, which is located at **1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, San Jose, CA 95112**.

<b>Day(s)</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Monday – Friday	October 5 – November 2	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday	October 24	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday	October 31	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday	November 3 (Election Day)	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Ballot Drop-Off Sites:** Beginning October 5, 2015 through Election Day, Vote by Mail voters have the option of dropping off their completed ballots at the following locations:

**Open during normal business hours**

Los Altos City Hall – City Clerk's Office – 1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022  
Los Altos Main Library – near front entrance – 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022  
Santa Clara County Government Center – 1st Floor, 70 W. Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 95110  
San Jose City Hall – City Clerk's Office, 200 E. Santa Clara Street, Wing 2, San Jose, CA 95113  
Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Office – 1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, San Jose, CA 95112  
Vineland Branch Library – outside of Community Room – 1450 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose, CA 95118

**Drive-Thru Ballot Drop-Off Site:** Open Saturdays (October 24 & 31, 2015) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vote by Mail voters had the option of dropping off their ballots without getting out of their vehicles at convenient Drive-Thru Ballot Drop-Off Sites. The sites were located at:

Hillview Community Center – 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022  
Park and Ride VTA – Camden Avenue at Highway 85, San Jose, CA 95124

**Polling Place Voting** locations can be found by looking up the address of the Polling Place on the back of the Sample Ballot Voter Information Pamphlet, visiting [sccvote.org](http://sccvote.org), using the [SCCVOTE mobile app](#) or calling 1-866-430-VOTE (8683). After voters arrive at their Polling Place, they will sign into the roster index, receive an official ballot and cast their vote. Election Officers are available to answer questions and provide assistance in filling out a ballot. The [25 Polling Places](#), as well as the polls located at the Registrar of Voters' Office, will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

**Counting the Vote:** Following the last voter in line at 8 p.m., Election Officers count the number of ballots voted and the number of signatures processed, reconcile the number of ballots received, and begin to disassemble the voting machines and polling places. Courier Teams of two travel to each of the polling places and retrieve the voted ballots (including Provisional and Vote by Mail ballots), electronic voting machine memory cartridges and voter verified paper audit trail records. These materials are returned to the Auditorium at the Registrar of Voters' Office in San Jose for processing.

As precinct materials arrive, ballots are counted by high-speed scanners, then added to the total election results and posted online. The posted results are updated regularly throughout the night. The Registrar of Voters' website shows how many precincts have reported, the number of votes counted and the time of the last results update on its [Election Results](#) page. When all precincts have reported, the Election Night counting is done; however, there are still more ballots to count and a lot more work to do before the results become official.

A new law took effect January 1, which allows for Vote by Mail ballots to be counted if they are postmarked on Election Day and arrive in our office by Friday, November 6. The Registrar of Voters is required to wait until Friday to determine the exact number of outstanding ballots.

**Post-Election Canvass:** California Elections Code requires the Registrar of Voters to perform a Post-Election Canvass before certifying the final results. The Canvass should be completed and the November 3, 2015 Consolidated Election should be certified by Tuesday, November 10.

During the Post-Election Canvass, the Registrar of Voters counts all remaining valid ballots and performs a series of mandated audits to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the election. Election results will be updated daily by 5:00 p.m. during the Canvass period. Updated results will be made available on the Registrar of Voters' website at [Election Results](#), as well as posted on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

**Ballots Counted after Election Day:** "Last Minute" Vote by Mail Ballots: Vote by Mail ballots that arrive on Election Day or are postmarked on Election Day and arrive by Friday, November 6 are processed and counted starting Wednesday, November 4. These take longer to count than a precinct ballot because they have to be signature-verified; however, most of these ballots will be counted by Friday, November 6.

**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, but every valid vote will be counted.

**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.

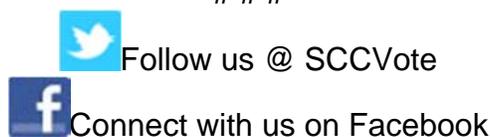
**Registering to Vote in the Election:** The last day to register to vote in the election was October 19 and could be done online at [Register to Vote](#). Voters can check their registration status on the Registrar of Voters' website at the [Check Your Registration Status](#) link.

A voter should complete a new registration form if he or she has moved, changed a name(s), or wants to change his or her political party preference. To register to vote in Santa Clara County, a voter must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old on or before Election Day, a Santa Clara County resident and not imprisoned or on parole for a felony.

Online registrations were accepted as long as they were completed before midnight on October 19. Paper registration forms that were postmarked on that date were also accepted. Paper registration forms are available at post offices, public libraries, fire stations, city halls and most local government offices.

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](http://www.sccvote.org).

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