

County of Santa Clara

Registrar of Voters

Public and Legislative Affairs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRST BALLOTS MAILED FOR MAY 3 ELECTION

200 Ballots Mailed to Military and Overseas Voters

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF. – The first ballots for the May 3, 2016 Special Mail Ballot Election were mailed today to military and overseas voters. These 200 ballots include a parcel tax measure for the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District.

Because this is an all-mail ballot election, polling places will not be open on Election Day. Instead, beginning on April 4, all registered voters in the district will automatically be mailed a ballot and a postage-paid return envelope. No postage is required to return ballots.

Mail ballot elections typically have voter turnout rates in the 35-45% range. The turnout tends to be higher than most other local special elections but lower than countywide primary or general elections. Special mail ballot elections have become common in Santa Clara County; there have been more than ten held in the last five years.

Both federal and state law require the Registrar of Voters' Office to mail ballots early to voters who live abroad or who are on active duty in the military. Military and overseas ballots begin mailing somewhere between 60 and 45 days before an election, while ballots for other voters can only be mailed starting 29 days before Election Day.

The last day to register to vote in the May 3, 2016 Special Mail Ballot Election is April 18 and can be done online at [Register to Vote](#). Voters wishing to check their registration status may do so on the website at [Check Your Registration Status](#).

Voters should complete a new registration form if they have moved, changed their name or would like to change their political party preference. To register to vote in Santa Clara County, a voter must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, a Santa Clara County resident and not imprisoned or on parole for a felony.

Online registration will be accepted as long as it is completed before midnight on April 18; paper registration forms postmarked on that date will also be accepted. Paper registration forms are available at post offices, public libraries, fire stations, city halls and most local government offices.



Voters wishing to find out if they live within the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District may do so online at [Look Up Your Districts](#).

Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District consists of 30,096 registered voters. Ballots for all voters will begin mailing on April 4.

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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