

# 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 3, 2015 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF.** – The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters reported Unofficial Semi-Final Election Night Results at approximately 10:30 p.m. last night after all precincts had reported and all Vote by Mail ballots received prior to Election Day had been counted. The results show that an estimated 14 percent of outstanding ballots needs to be processed during the Canvass period.

The estimated figure for remaining 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.

This estimate also includes Vote by Mail ballots that are expected to be received this week with postmarks on or before Election Day. A new law that took effect on January 1, 2015 requires the Registrar of Voters to accept ballots with valid postmarks until Friday, November 6. The exact number of outstanding Vote by Mail ballots will be known only after these ballots are added to the final results tally.

### **Approximate Number of Ballots Remaining to be Processed**

Provisional: 180

Vote by Mail: 1500

### **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' Office 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 [sccvote.org](http://sccvote.org) website at [Election Results](#), as well as posted on the Registrar of Voters' [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

**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 ballots take longer to count than a precinct ballot because they have to be signature-verified; however, most will be counted by Friday, November 6.

**Postmarked Vote by Mail Ballots:** Under California law, ballots may be counted even if they arrive after Election Day, as long as they are received by mail no later than three days after the election and are postmarked on or before Election Day.

**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 will be conducted of all paperwork completed at the precincts. This review ensures that all ballots are accounted for. Additionally, 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](mailto:media@rov.sccgov.org) or 1-408-282-3008.

For updated election results, follow the Registrar of Voters on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or on the [sccvote.org](http://sccvote.org) website at [Election Results](#). Election results will be updated daily by 5:00 p.m. during the Canvass period.

The November 3, 2015 Consolidated Election included a contest 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 or in Orchard or Union School Districts were eligible to participate in this election.

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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