

# County of Santa Clara

## Registrar of Voters

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 1, 2016

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## FIRST BALLOTS MAILED FOR AUGUST 16 SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

*429 Ballots Mailed to Military and Overseas Voters*

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF.** – The first ballots for the August 16, 2016 Special Municipal Election were mailed today to military and overseas voters. This Special Municipal Election will be held to fill a vacancy in the Sunnyvale City Council for an unexpired term.

Both federal and state law require ballots for voters who are on active duty in the military or who live abroad to be sent earlier than other mail ballots. Military and overseas ballots are mailed between 60 and 45 days before an election, while ballots for other voters can only be mailed starting 29 days before an election.

Military and overseas voters are mailed their ballots earlier than local voters to ensure that they have enough time to return their ballots by the deadline. In order to be counted in the August 16, 2016 Special Municipal Election, Vote by Mail ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and must be received by Friday, August 19. Military and overseas voters must sign the ballot's return envelope themselves so that their signature on the envelope can be compared to their signature on the voter registration form and their identity can be confirmed.

Registrar of Voters Shannon Bushey emphasized the importance of enfranchisement for military and overseas voters, stating: "There is no more important action in a democracy than voting. By mailing ballots early to the men and women who are serving and living abroad, we are safeguarding their right to vote."

The last day to register to vote in the August 16, 2016 Special Municipal Election is August 1 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.



There are 55,228 registered voters in the City of Sunnyvale. Of those, 39,057 are permanent Vote by Mail voters and 429 are military and overseas voters.

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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