

County of Santa Clara

Registrar of Voters

Public and Legislative Affairs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REGISTRAR OF VOTERS ANNOUNCES THAT VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS WILL BE POSTAGE-PAID BEGINNING WITH THE NOVEMBER 3, 2015 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF. – On the fiftieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters Shannon Bushey announces that Vote by Mail ballots will feature prepaid postage beginning with the November 3, 2015 Consolidated Election.

Under direction from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the Registrar of Voters will include a new postage-paid return envelope with every Vote by Mail ballot. Previously, voters had to pay the cost of return postage, frequently exceeding a single first-class stamp.

Noting that Santa Clara is only the second California county to provide postage-paid Vote by Mail ballots, Ms. Bushey stated, “There is no more important action in a democracy than voting. The Registrar of Voters’ Office is dedicated to promoting democratic participation. We are passionate about increasing voter turnout and we hope that, by providing prepaid postage on Vote by Mail ballots, we will make it easier for busy residents to vote.”

Ms. Bushey added that this initiative may be particularly beneficial to Santa Clara County voters because 70% of the county’s voters have chosen to vote by mail. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked by Election Day and received within three days of the election in order to count. Ballots returned at drop-off sites and polls must be received by 8 pm.

The last day to register to vote in the November 3, 2015 Consolidated Election is October 19. Registration can be done online at www.sccvote.org or by using the free [SCCVOTE mobile app](#), which is available for download on Android and Apple devices. Voters can also request a Vote by Mail ballot at www.sccvote.org or by using the [SCCVOTE mobile app](#).

A voter should complete a new registration form if he or she has moved, changed a name(s) or would like 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 in prison or on parole for a felony.



Online registrations will be accepted as long as they are completed before midnight on October 19; paper registration forms that are postmarked prior to or on October 19 will also be accepted. Paper registration forms are available at post offices, public libraries, fire stations, city halls and most local governmental offices. October 27 is the last day to request a Vote by Mail ballot.

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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