

# County of Santa Clara

## Registrar of Voters

Public and Legislative Affairs

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SANTA CLARA COUNTY POLLS CLOSED FOR JUNE 7, 2016 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION**

*189,407 Vote by Mail Ballots Tallied and Reported*

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF.** – The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Office declared the polls closed at 8:00 p.m. today and released the first election night results for the June 7, 2016 Presidential Primary Election. The results released at 8:01 p.m. include 189,407 returned Vote by Mail and Early Voting ballots out of 609,327 Vote by Mail and Early Voting ballots issued.

The Registrar of Voters' Office will post updated [Election Results](#) on the homepage of its website, [www.sccvote.org](http://www.sccvote.org), as well as on its [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

Results will be updated every 45 minutes until all precincts have reported, which will likely occur in the early morning hours of Wednesday, June 8. The Registrar of Voters' Office will process and tally Vote by Mail ballots 24 hours per day until they have all been counted, and will post those results at 9 a.m. and at 5 p.m. daily. Once all Vote by Mail ballots have completed being counted the remaining results consisting of provisional, write-in, damaged and/ or unreadable ballots will be updated once daily by 5 p.m.

### **About Election Night**

Following the last voter in line at 8 p.m., Election Officers at the polls 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.

Ballots are then either driven by teams of two Election Officers to assigned Return Centers or are picked up by Courier Teams. In order to speed up processing time, Courier Teams performed a mid-day pickup of ballots at 200 precincts; however, ballots cast at the remaining 604 precincts will not be picked up or delivered to a Return Center until after the polls closed.

Supplies returned from each of the polling places include 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 Registrar of Voters' Office in San Jose for processing.

As precinct materials arrive, ballots are counted by high-speed scanners, added to the total election results, and posted online 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 and all ballots from the polling places are counted, the Election Night counting is done; however, Vote by Mail ballots will continue to be until all have been counted. Provisional ballots do not begin to be processed until after all Vote by Mail ballots have been counted.

### **Post-Election Canvass**

California Elections Code requires the Registrar of Voters' Office to perform a Post- Election Canvass before certifying the final results. The Canvass should be completed and the June 7, 2016 Presidential Primary Election should be certified, by Thursday, July 7.

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.

### **Ballots Counted after Election Day**

There are four types of ballots that are counted after Election Day – “last minute” Vote by Mail ballots, provisional ballots, damaged and/or unreadable ballots, and ballots that contain write-in votes.

#### **"Last Minute" Vote by Mail Ballots**

Vote by Mail ballots that arrived on Election Day are processed 24 hours a day once they are received in our office. Vote by Mail ballots that were postmarked on Election Day and arrive by Friday, June 10, are also processed and counted after Election Day.

Vote by Mail ballots that were cast in unsigned envelopes were not counted unless the Registrar of Voters' Office received an [Unsigned Ballot Statement](#) form. Voters who forgot to sign their return envelopes must complete and return their form by 5:00 p.m. on June 16<sup>th</sup>, the eighth day after the election.

#### **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 provisional vote is 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.

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 at 1-408-282-3008.

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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