

# II. Executive Summary

## Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters Post-Election Report

The June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary Election saw 369,332 total ballots cast out of 846,228 registered voters in Santa Clara County, for a total turnout rate 43.6%.

Being a countywide election, the June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary also took longer to tally than the most recent smaller elections held in Santa Clara County in 2017. Due to the high volume of ballots, extended ballot receipt deadlines, and ballot processing procedures, tallying of all ballots was not concluded until 27 days after Election Day (July 2, 2018).

The counting process was also prolonged by the implementation of recently-passed regulations allowing voters even more opportunity to cast their ballots. Examples include **Conditional Voter Registration (CVR)** and the **E+3 deadline**, which provides voters with a three-day post-election grace period to have their ballots received by the Registrar of Voters' (ROV) Office, as long as their postmark date is on or before Election Day.

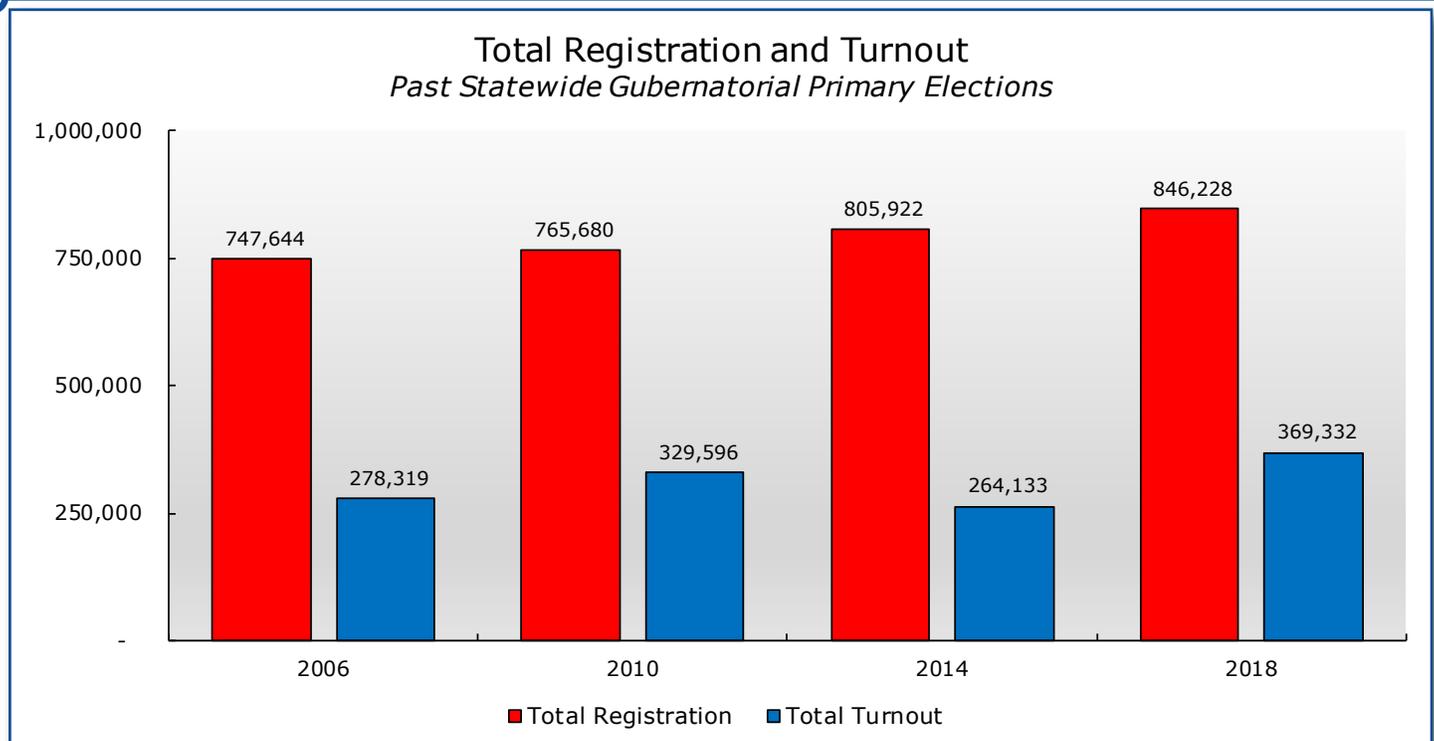
One unique aspect of the June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary Election was the presence of a recall contest on the ballot. The

recall was the first one since 2003, and concerned the office of Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge. Only four judges have been recalled in California since 1911 when recalls became legal in the state. One was in San Francisco in 1913 and three were on the same ballot in Los Angeles in 1932. This contest generated significant controversy as well as national attention, but also may have contributed to increased public interest, and as a result, a higher rate of voter participation for the largest peer counties in the state of California.

This report compares the data from the June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary Election to the data derived from past statewide primary elections held since 2006.

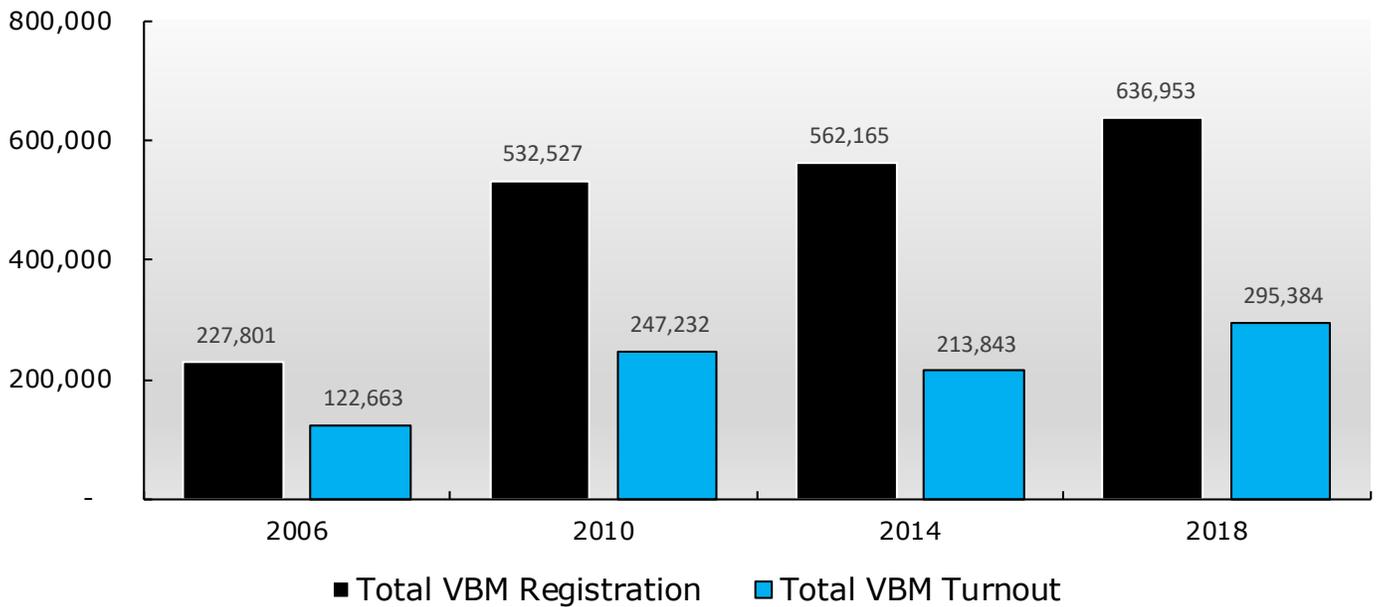


## Results Overview



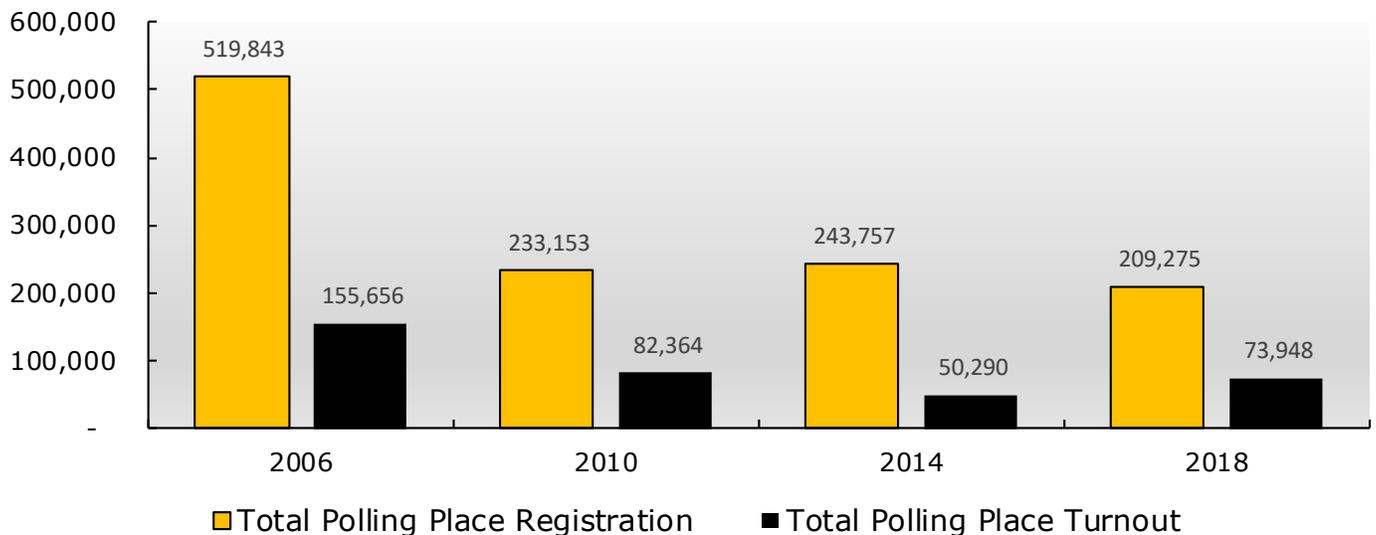
In spite of the increasing number of registered voters in Santa Clara County, voter turnout between elections remain somewhat random. This could be attributed to the varying number of contests of interest to voters. In the June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary election, the total turnout was the highest over the past four statewide primary elections. The next highest total turnout was seen during the 2010 statewide primary election.

## Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Registration & Turnout *Past Statewide Gubernatorial Primary Elections*



In 2001, the California Legislature passed a law to allow residents to become permanent vote-by-mail (VBM) voters. The percentage of vote-by-mail voters in Santa Clara County has trended upward ever since. These charts indicate that voters are increasingly favoring voting by mail, especially with the ever-increasing variety of voting options available. The main reason for this increase is likely greater convenience and ease. The ROV offers many options for VBM voters to cast their ballots whether via mail, one of the twenty-three 24-hour drop off locations, or one of 19 ballot drop-off locations. The ROV strives to make voting convenient and easy for Santa Clara County voters.

## Polling Place Registration & Turnout *Past Statewide Gubernatorial Primary Elections*

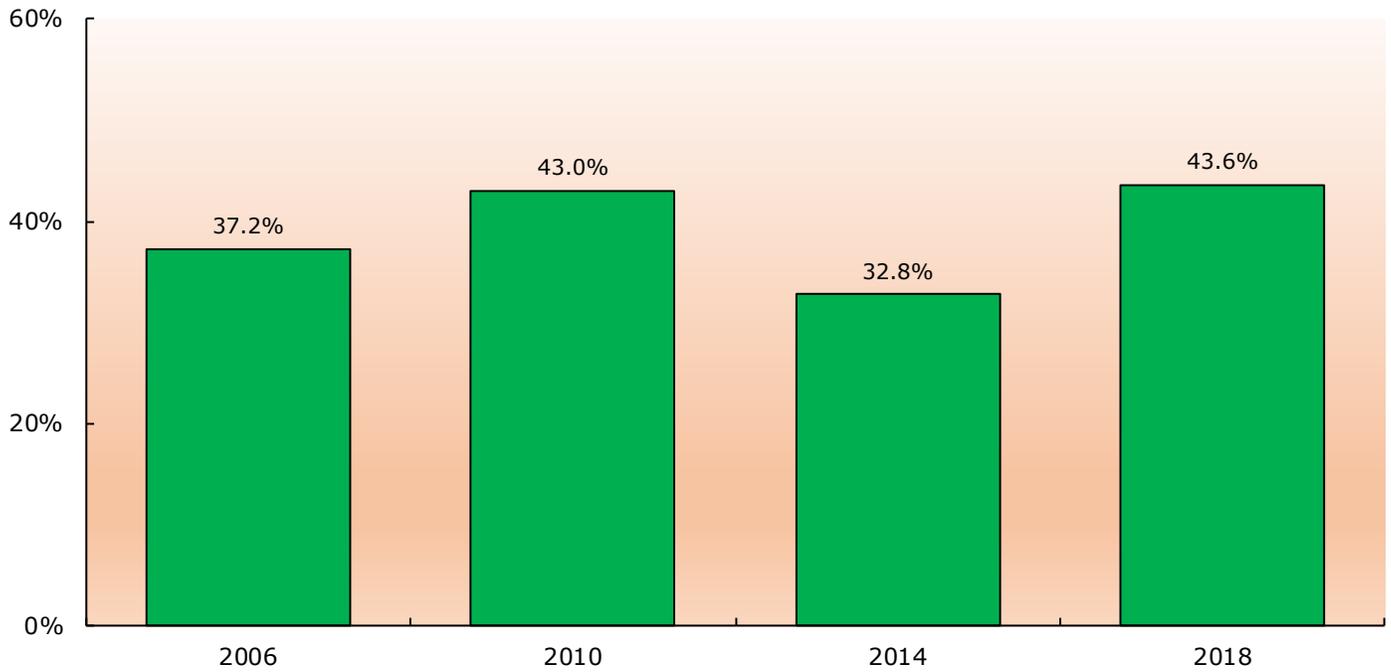


### FAQ

**Q:** What is the difference between vote-by-mail (VBM) and polling place voters?

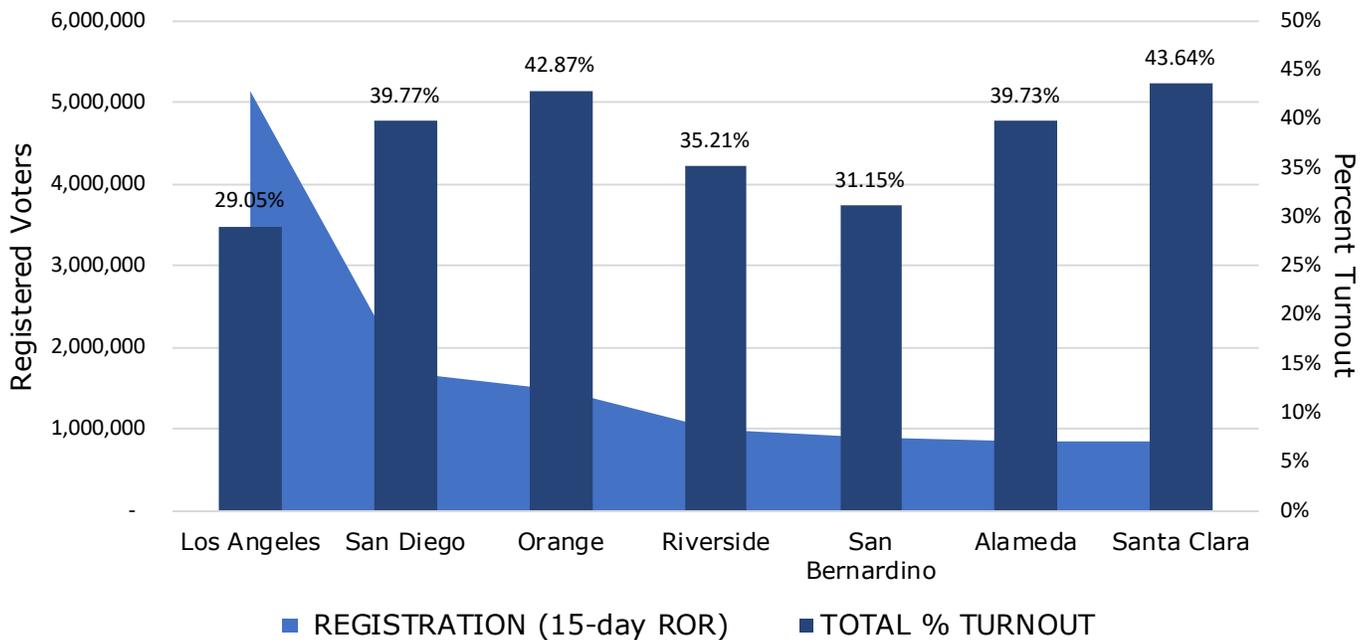
**A:** VBM voters are voters who have registered to permanently vote by mail, meaning that for every election, these voters receive their ballot in the mail. Polling place voters are voters who typically vote at the polls and do not usually receive a ballot by mail.

### Voter Turnout Percentages Past Statewide Gubernatorial Primary Elections



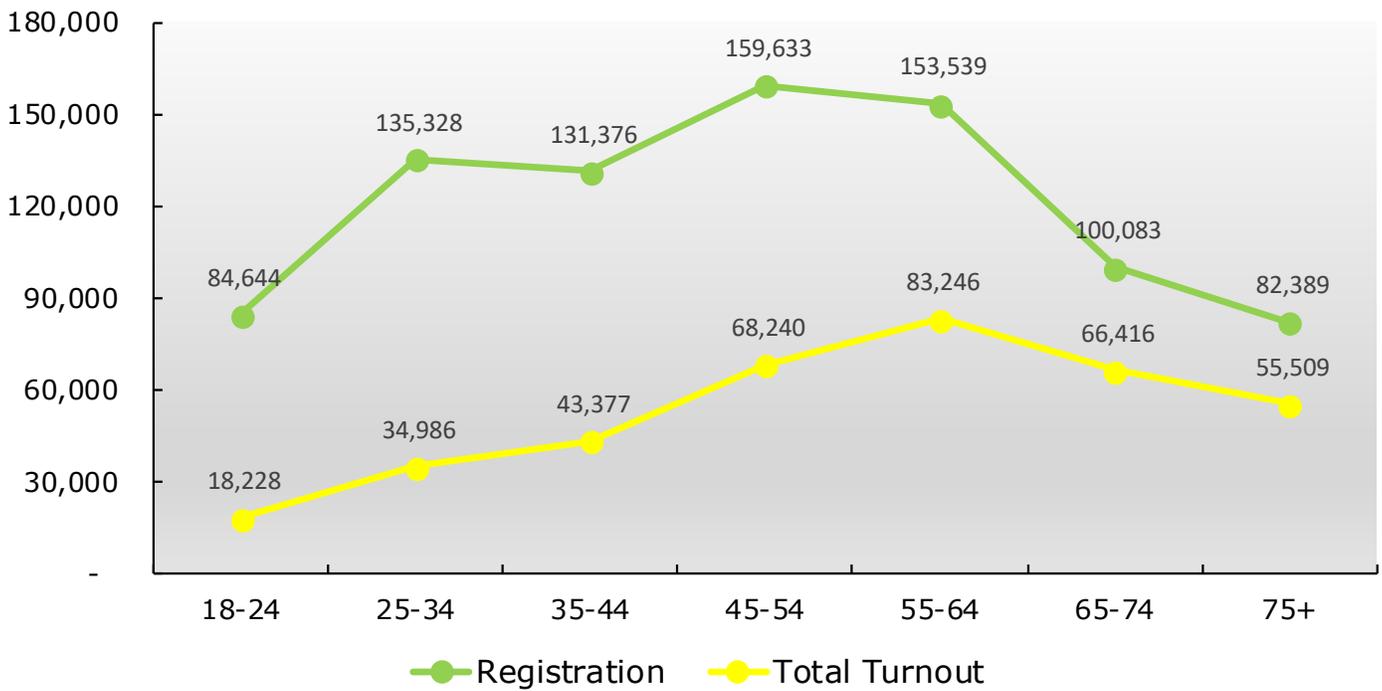
Over the past four statewide primary elections, voter turnout percentages were between 32-44%. The June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary election saw a turnout of 43.6%, the highest turnout of the seven largest peer counties in California. This was also the highest turnout of the past four statewide primary elections. This could be due to interest in the recall efforts of a Superior Court Judge, the many voter outreach events, or the 9-week election advertising campaign preceding the election.

### Multi-County Registration and Percent Turnout

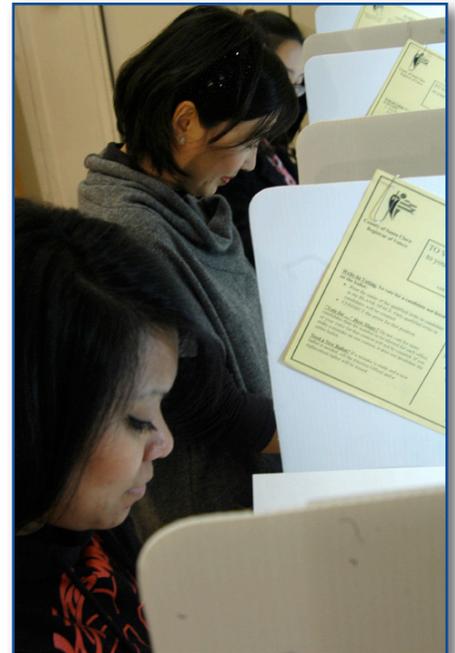
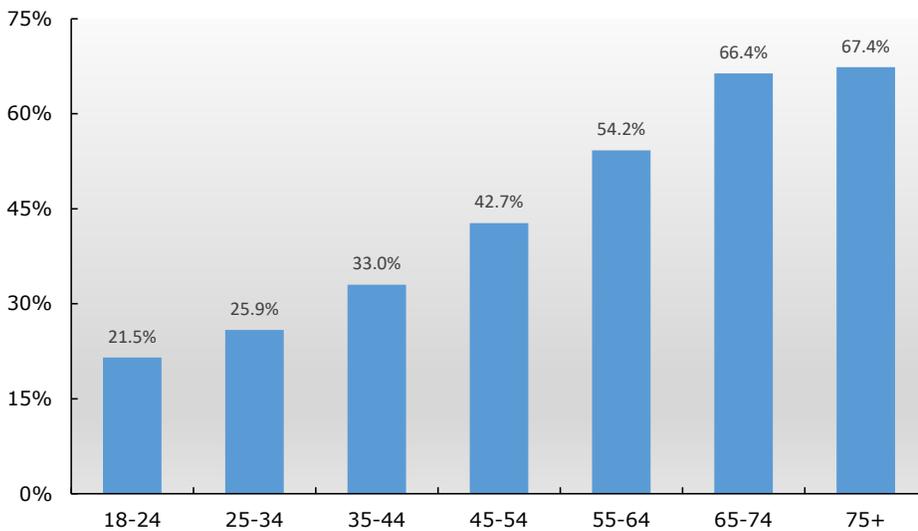


\*15-day ROR (Report of Registration) is the official tally of voters who completed registration by the registration deadline. Voters need to register by the 15th day before the upcoming election in order to be qualified to vote in that election.

## Voter Turnout by Age Group June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary Election



## Voter Turnout by Age Group June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary Election



Voters of different age groups completing their ballots at a polling place.

In general, older voters tend to be more active than younger voters in terms of casting ballots. The charts above show the voter turnout by age group for the June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary Election. It should be noted that although age demographics were available for most voters, they were not available for all. The charts show that the lowest voter turnout was among voters aged 18-24. The highest voter turnout was in the 55-64 age group, but in terms of percentage relative to the number of registered voters, the highest turnout rate was actually among those aged 75 and older at about 67%. Roughly 55,000 of the approximately 82,000 registered voters 75 and older cast a ballot for this election.

# Regional Measure 3

Regional Measure 3 (RM3), the result of SB595 sponsored by Senator Beall and signed by Governor Brown in 2017, was enacted by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. This required a coordinated effort between the Bay Area's nine counties (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma) to relieve the area's massive traffic congestion issues. According to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), between now and 2040, the Bay Area's economy is expected to add 1.3 million jobs, increasing the population of the area's nine counties to 9.6 million residents. To keep up with the area's ever-growing population, RM3 was created to, "reduce auto and truck traffic; relieve crowding on BART; unclog freeway bottlenecks; improve bus, ferry, BART and commuter rail service; and enhance bicycle and pedestrian mobility in the bridge corridors."<sup>1</sup>

Fifty-five percent of all Bay Area residents voted in favor of the \$4.5 billion traffic relief plan which includes 35 projects across all nine counties. Four main projects have been identified which directly affect residents of Santa Clara County:

1. **BART to San Jose & Santa Clara:** Complete the BART extension to downtown San Jose and Santa Clara
2. **Eastridge to BART Regional Connector:** Extend VTA light rail to link with BART at the Eastridge Transit Center
3. **San Jose Diridon Station:** Expand and modernize Diridon Station to accommodate an electrified Caltrain and future BART, high-speed rail and bus services
4. **Highway 101 Managed Lanes:** New Highway 101 lanes that are to be actively managed to be congestion-free at all times



1. Data about the RM3 project, as well as the map used was sourced from the Regional Measure 3 Bay Area Traffic Relief Plan prepared by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

# Challenges Resolved

Due to a combination of factors ranging from the size and scope of the election to legally mandated deadlines, the June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary Election presented several unanticipated challenges that the Registrar of Voters (ROV) resolved throughout the election preparation process. Listed below are some of the issues that emerged during the process and were solved by the ROV to prevent these issues from affecting voters' experiences at the polls.

## Election Officer Recruit Abstainment

### What happened?

The Election Officer recruitment team placed tremendous effort in searching for, interviewing, and training Election Officers to work at the polling stations for the night of the election. ROV standard practice is to compile a large number of election officers, as well as a significant reserve pool of additional officers. Officers in the reserve pool are placed on standby, and can be called upon to fill unanticipated gaps in polling place staffing. However, during the last few weeks before the election, an unusually high number of Election Officers abstained due to unexpected changes in their schedule, such as work, school, or family obligations.

### Why was this challenging?

Election Officer recruitment is among the most time-consuming and labor-intensive aspects of preparing for an election, requiring immense outreach efforts and advanced logistical planning. The recruitment team devoted a significant portion of their schedule toward this task, including reviewing applicants, conducting media interviews in various languages, and providing training classes for new Election Officer recruits. As a result of the large number of abstainments, the election preparation process was delayed and more difficult.

### How was this solved?

Efforts by employees were amplified, such as increased work hours and weekend shifts, to recruit more Election Officers by Election Day. ROV employees from different divisions also assisted in the process by working with and collaborating with the recruitment team.

## Expanded Language Assistance Services

### What happened?

For the first time in Santa Clara County history, language assistance services were offered to voters in 19 alternate languages--a county record. Traditionally, the ROV has offered services in only five federally-mandated languages: English, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin), Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Facsimile ballots are offered in the state-mandated languages: Korean and Khmer. They were also offered in Hindi and Japanese.

### Why was this challenging?

This was a nearly four-fold increase in languages offered, which presented the outreach, recruitment, and media teams with a significant logistical trial. The campaign to reach out to voters and recruit Election Officers had to be more geared towards language specialization. This translated to a heavier focus on demographic trends research by the outreach and recruitment teams, as well as longer budget considerations and vendor analysis by the media team.

### How was this solved?

On the part of the outreach and recruitment teams, more specifically targeted outreach campaigns were conducted, including radio and television spots. On the part of the media team, budget considerations and vendor negotiations were conducted to adjust and fit the budget within the expanded language services. Demographic data analysis of voting precinct history was also conducted to gain a more comprehensive understanding of how to reach out to Election Officers specializing in various languages to work at the polling places.

**Support Democracy and Become an  
ELECTION OFFICER**

Volunteer Stipend \$115 to \$200

Election Officers must be:	High school students must:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ At least 18 years old</li> <li>✓ A U.S. Citizen and Registered Voter or Legal Permanent Resident</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Be at least 16 years old</li> <li>✓ Be a U.S. Citizen or Legal Permanent Resident</li> <li>✓ Have a GPA of 2.5 or higher</li> </ul>

Now recruiting bilingual Election Officers in the following languages: Gujarati, Japanese, Khmer, Nepali, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Syriac, Tamil, and Telugu. You may sign up by phone: <b>1-408-299-POLL (7655)</b> or online at <a href="http://www.sccvote.org">www.sccvote.org</a> , or by mail or fax using the form below.	<b>1-408-299-POLL (7655)</b> (English) 1-408-282-3086 (Chinese: Mandarin, Cantonese & Taiwanese) 1-408-282-3095 (Spanish) 1-408-282-3089 (Tagalog) 1-408-282-3097 (Vietnamese) 1-408-299-7655 (Hindi) 1-408-299-7655 (Korean)
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**ELECTION OFFICER AND/OR POLLING PLACE APPLICATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # Daytime **1** - □□□□ - □□□□ - □□□□

Evening **1** - □□□□ - □□□□ - □□□□

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a U.S. Citizen and Registered Voter in California: Yes  No

I am a Legal Permanent Resident: Yes  No

I have transportation: Yes  No

I am willing to travel to serve another precinct: Yes  No

In addition to English, I also speak \_\_\_\_\_ (Language) fluently

I have a facility for use as a polling place: Yes  No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** SANTA CLARA COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS  
PO BOX 612350, SAN JOSE CA 95161-2350

**Fax:** 1-408-282-3115

FP-07-1ENG

# Takeaways

The June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary Election encompassed more than 840,000 voters, a total of 988 voting precincts, including 824 polling places and 164 **mail ballot precincts**, and nearly 370,000 ballots cast. Despite the introduction of new rules and services, the election went smoothly. Thousands of Registrar of Voters (ROV) staff members, Election Officers, and Election Day volunteers put in tremendous effort and worked tirelessly to prepare for, conduct, and verify the election.

This experience has provided numerous key facts and lessons to keep in mind for future elections:

- **Turnout in Santa Clara County was the highest among the state's largest counties, at more than 43%.** Extensive voter outreach through advertising and the wealth of voting opportunities available – including early voting sites, drop-off boxes, and postage-paid envelopes – were likely factors contributing to this higher turnout. Another factor was likely the presence of the recall contest on the ballot.
- This was the first election in which **language assistance services were offered in 19 alternate languages** - a record for Santa Clara County, and a testament to the ever-increasing diversity of the County.
- Although the ROV offers a wide variety of voting options to voters, **approximately 29,000 vote-by-mail (VBM) voters, or nearly 10% of participating VBM voters, dropped off their completed VBM ballots on Election Day** rather than mailing them in early. Additionally, this election had a rather large number of provisional voters for a non-presidential primary election.
- A new law that came into effect on January 1, 2017, known as **Conditional Voter Registration (CVR)**, allows voters who are unable to make the 15-day registration deadline to come to the ROV Office and conditionally register to vote in the election. Ballots by CVR voters are treated similarly to provisional ballots. Upon receipt of a CVR ballot, the voter's information is researched and verified, and their ballot will be counted upon confirmation of voter's information. For this election, **352 voters took advantage of CVR** and cast a ballot using this method.
- **In this election, voters registered without a party preference as the second largest voting bloc in Santa Clara County** in terms of party affiliation. In this election, nearly 91,000 total ballots, approximately 25% of total turnout, were cast by voters who were registered as not belonging to any specific party.
- **Approximately 20% of the ballots cast for the June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary Election were via polling places**, which is reflective of the approximate 3:1 ratio of registered VBM voters to polling places voters in Santa Clara County.
- **12,663 voters opted to vote provisionally** in the June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary Election.
- This election saw the **2nd highest number of total Election Officers recruited** in recent past primary elections, but the **lowest number of returning Election Officers** of the same recent primary elections.
- **Permanent VBM registration has been steadily increasing**, and was the highest of any recent primary election, and **polling place registration has been steadily decreasing**, and similarly, was the lowest of recent years. This trend is expected to continue in the future.

## FAQ

**Q:** What is a Mail Ballot Precinct?

**A:** A Mail Ballot Precinct is a precinct that has less than 250 voters residing within it. This means that there will be no polling place for the precinct, but rather each voter will receive a vote-by-mail ballot. Once a precinct contains 250 or more voters, it automatically becomes a voting precinct – meaning it requires a physical polling place for voters.



Precinct supplies awaiting shipment to polling places.

# Additional Information

- **Data compiled in this report is derived from multiple ROV sources, and may occasionally contain infinitesimal differences.**
- **Election information is subject to continuous change and updates, and may vary daily.**
- **This report is intended to provide a general snapshot of the June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary Election.**
- **Many possible factors, such as redistricting or voter inactivity, may also cause minuscule differences in data.**

## Register, Update, and Participate

The best way to ensure that your voice is heard is to vote. The Registrar of Voters (ROV) offers numerous ways you can register to vote, update your registration information, stay informed regarding election news, track your ballot, and locate your polling place.

### **Register to Vote**

- **In Person:** Visit the ROV's office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, in San Jose.
- **By Mail:** Obtain a voter registration affidavit from a library, post office, or other government office.
- **Online:** Visit [www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Register/Pages/Online.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Register/Pages/Online.aspx).

### **Find Your Voting Information**

- **By Mobile App:** Visit [www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx) and click on "SCCVOTE Mobile App" to download the ROV's app for Android or Apple.
- **Access Candidate and Measure Information:** View information about recent and upcoming elections at [www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Info/Pages/CandidateINFO.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Info/Pages/CandidateINFO.aspx).
- **Keep Up to Date:** Look up your districts and polling place, verify that your ballot was received and counted, and more at [eservices.sccgov.org/rov](http://eservices.sccgov.org/rov).

### **Volunteer**

- Learn how to serve as a paid election officer by visiting [www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Volunteer/Pages/Volunteer.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Volunteer/Pages/Volunteer.aspx).
- Learn about other volunteer opportunities on Election Day by visiting [www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Volunteer/Pages/Opportunities.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Volunteer/Pages/Opportunities.aspx).

### **Update Your Registration**

- Update your registration information or provide changes to your address, party affiliation, or language preference at [www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Register/Pages/ChangeRegistration.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Register/Pages/ChangeRegistration.aspx).

### **Connect with the ROV**

- **By Phone:** 1-866-430-VOTE (8683) or 1-408-299-VOTE (8683).
- **On the Web:** Visit [www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx).
- **Facebook:** Become part of the ROV's network at [www.facebook.com/sccvote](http://www.facebook.com/sccvote).
- **Twitter:** Get up-to-the-minute tweets at [twitter.com/sccvote](http://twitter.com/sccvote).
- **YouTube:** Watch videos at [www.youtube.com/user/sccvote](http://www.youtube.com/user/sccvote).
- **RSS:** Subscribe to the ROV feed at [www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/RSS/Pages/RSS.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/RSS/Pages/RSS.aspx).

### Post-Election Reports

Find this and past post-election reports online by visiting [www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Resources/Pages/Statistics.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Resources/Pages/Statistics.aspx).