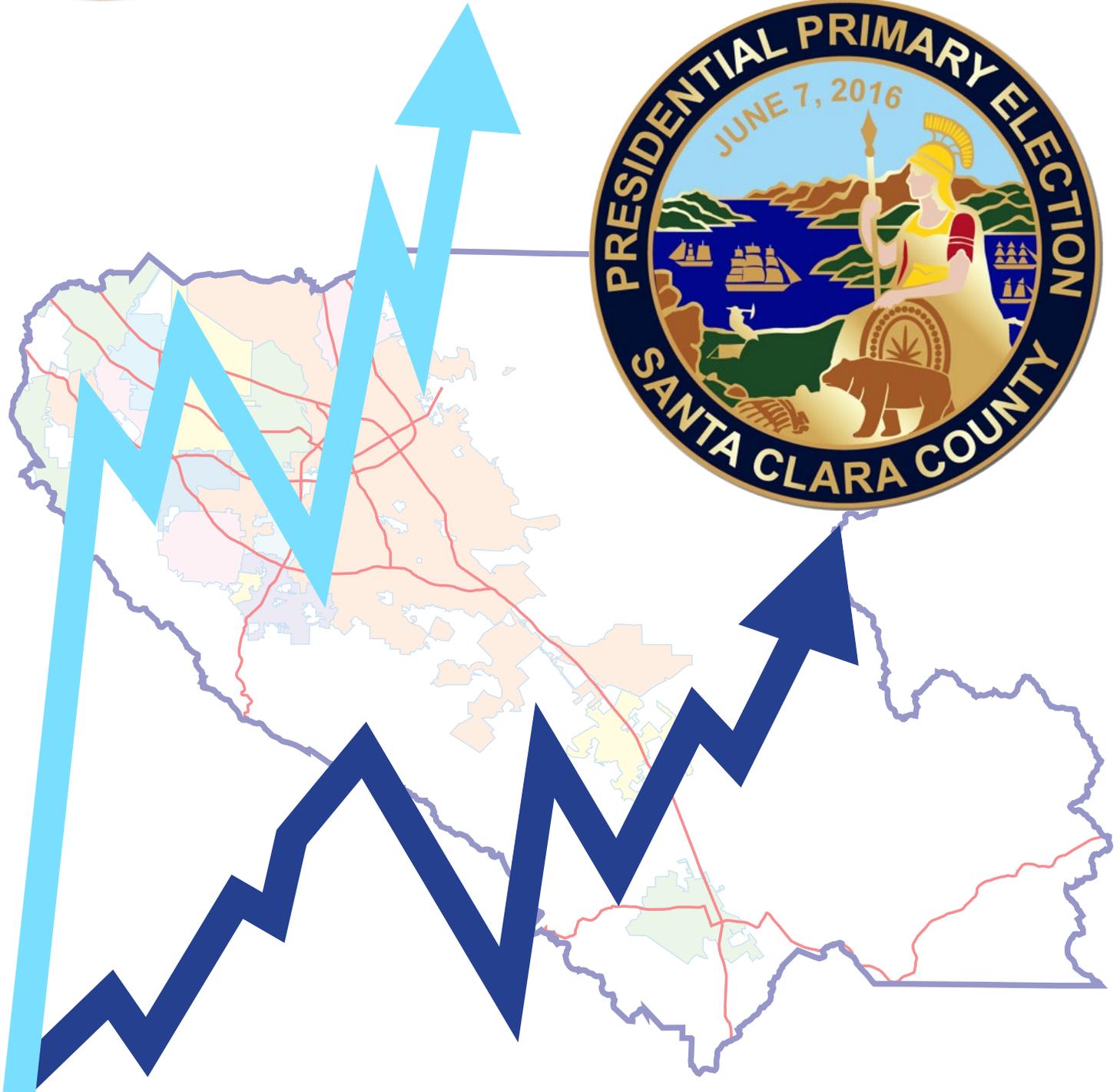




# June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary



## Registrar of Voters Post-Election Report

# June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary

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

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Twitter: [twitter.com/sccvote](http://twitter.com/sccvote)  
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/sccvote](http://www.youtube.com/sccvote)

#### On the Web

<https://www.sccvote.org>



#### Note

The figures, charts, and graphs in this report come from a variety of internal and external data sources and are intended for informational and historical purposes only. For official election results, please refer to the Statement of Vote, available at [www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Resources/Pages/PastEResults.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Resources/Pages/PastEResults.aspx).

# A Message from the Registrar

I am pleased to present the County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters' Post-Election Report for the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election.

This report is intended to provide a glimpse into how this major election compares with past presidential-year primary and general elections with regard to voter participation and turnout, election preparation, and vote tallying. Additionally, FAQ boxes and explanations spaced throughout the report provide a wealth of information about election procedures, logistics, and laws, as well as the behind-the-scenes work required to conduct a successful election.

Among the facts and figures in this report, you will find statistics showing how many nonpartisan voters chose to cross over and vote in a party presidential contest, information about how ballots are tallied, and a breakdown of a recount effort for a San Jose City Council race. Also included in the report is an Executive Summary providing an overview of the most prominent statistics of the election, as well as the challenges that we overcame to ensure the integrity and efficiency of the election.

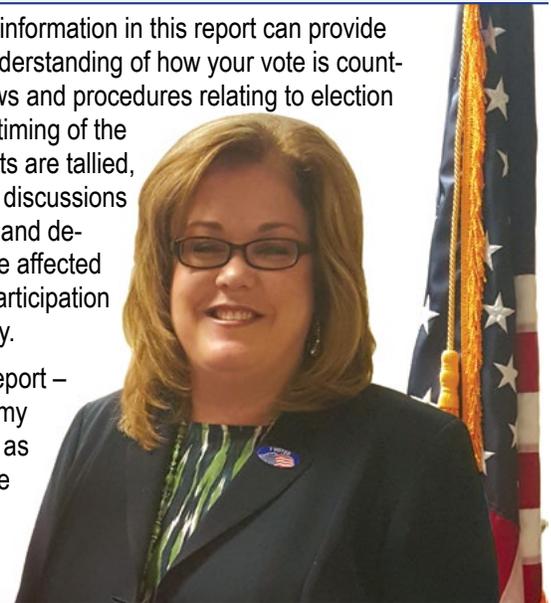
It is my wish that the information in this report can provide you with a deeper understanding of how your vote is counted, how the many laws and procedures relating to election processes affect the timing of the results and way ballots are tallied, and how the national discussions about voter behavior and demographics may have affected voter behavior and participation in Santa Clara County.

I hope you find this report – the third such report my office has released – as useful and informative as I do.

Sincerely,

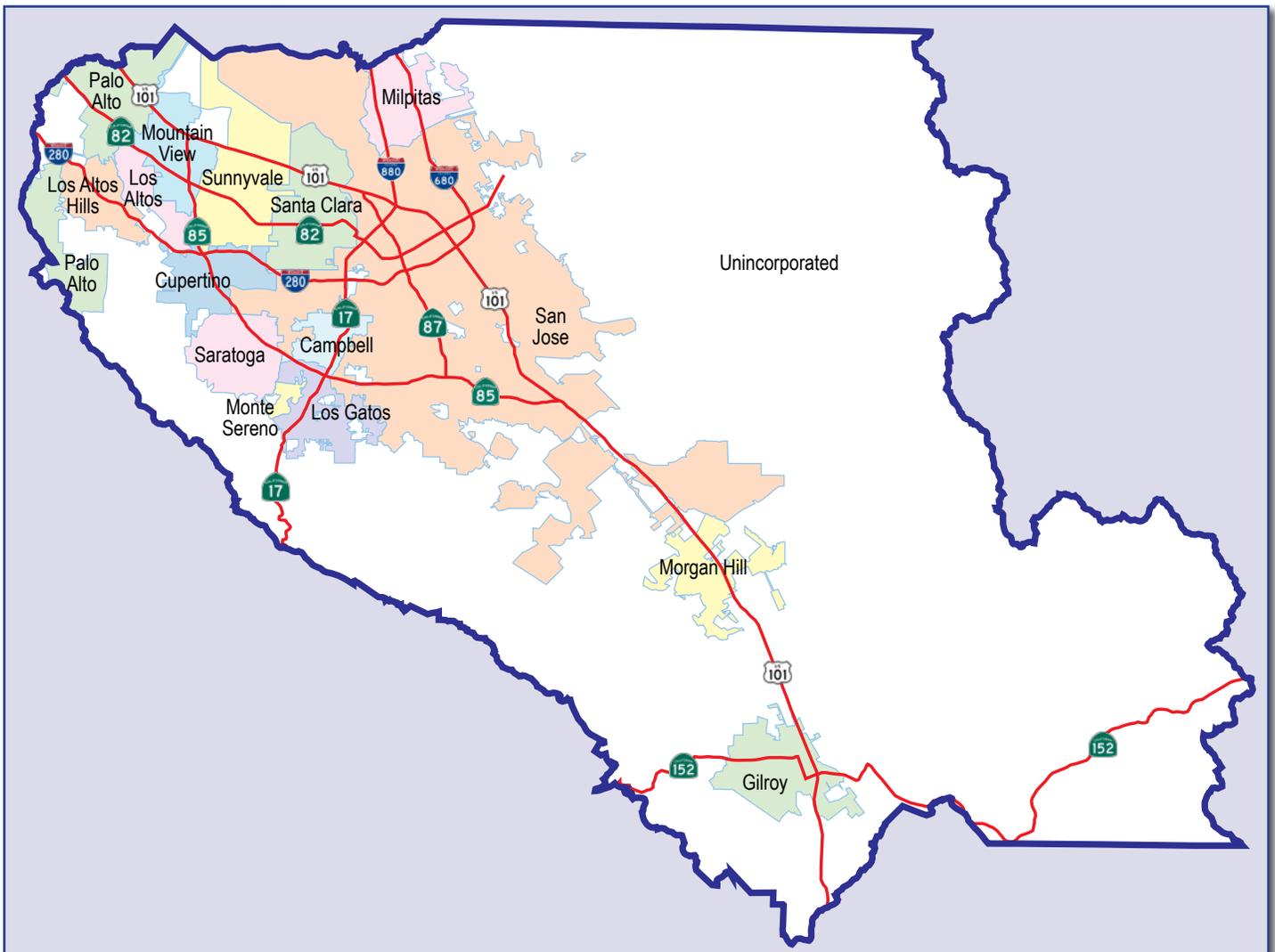


Shannon Bushey  
Registrar of Voters



**Shannon Bushey**  
Registrar of Voters

## Santa Clara County



# I. Introduction

## About This Election

For Santa Clara County, the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election included a total of 44 **contests**, four of which were countywide races in which all of the county's nearly 800,000 voters could participate.

Santa Clara County contains many districts, including congressional districts, state legislative districts, cities, school districts, and special districts. Each presidential primary election typically includes presidential, congressional, and state legislative contests. Since 2010, the only local jurisdictions to consistently appear on the presidential primary election ballot are the County of Santa Clara and City of San Jose. This year, the election additionally included a contest for the Morgan Hill Unified School District. Depending on the number of candidates for a County or San Jose office and the percentage of the vote that these candidates receive, a winner could be declared in the **primary**, or a runoff could be held in the subsequent general election held in November.

### FAQ

**Q:** What is a **primary**?

**A:** A primary is a preliminary election in which voters nominate party candidates for office, or narrow the field of candidates for office. California primaries are held in June of even-numbered years. Except for occasionally placing ballot measures and filling vacancies, local jurisdictions outside of the County of Santa Clara and City of San Jose typically do not participate in the primary election.

For voters registered with a political party, presidential primary elections also provide an opportunity to vote for county central committee members.

Because the voted ballots in presidential primaries are tallied according to political party preference, this report is able to compare voter participation by political party in the 2016 and recent presidential primary elections.

Continued on page 5

### FAQ

**Q:** What is a **contest**?

**A:** A contest is a single issue voted on by the people. Races for elected office and ballot measures, such as parcel taxes, are both examples of contests.

One unique aspect of the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election was the presence of Measure AA, a parcel tax ballot **measure** related to San Francisco Bay restoration that appeared on the ballot in all nine Bay Area counties. As the most populous county in the region, the County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters' office coordinated the measure's ballot placement with the state agency that proposed the measure, as well as with the eight other Bay Area county election offices.

## Contests on the Ballot

Contest	Voting Jurisdiction	Parties Voting
President	Countywide, by party	Democratic Republican American Independent Green Libertarian Peace and Freedom
Democratic Party Central Committee	24th State Assembly District 27th State Assembly District 28th State Assembly District	Democratic
Republican Party Central Committee	1st Supervisorial District 2nd Supervisorial District	Republican
U.S. Senator	Countywide	All
Congress	17th District 18th District 19th District 20th District	All
State Senator	13th District 15th District 17th District	All
State Assembly	24th District 25th District 27th District 28th District 29th District 30th District	All
Morgan Hill Unified School District Board Member	Morgan Hill Unified School District	All
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors	District 2 District 3 District 5	All
City of San Jose	District 2 District 4 District 6 District 8 District 10	All
Proposition 50	Countywide	All
Measure AA	Countywide	All
Measure A	Countywide	All
Measure B	City of San Jose	All
Measure C	City of San Jose	All
Measure E	Gilroy Unified School District	All
Measure G	Moreland School District	All
Measure H	Franklin-McKinley School District	All
Measure I	Alum Rock Union School District	All
Measure J	Lakeside Joint School District	All

### FAQ

**Q:** What is a **measure**?

**A:** A measure is an item placed on the ballot to ask the voters a question, such as whether the voters of a school district wish to enact a parcel tax. A measure can also be added to the ballot by an initiative or a referendum.

Continued from page 4

### Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act

California primaries are conducted in accordance with the Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act. In 2010, the California Legislature passed the law that changed how voters choose elected officials by establishing “voter-nominated” offices in congressional and state contests in place of party-nominated offices. Under this law, the top two vote getters running for a voter-nominated office in the primary election, regardless of political party, advance to the general election in November. The law does not apply to President, party **central committee** seats, or local offices.

### How Elections Are Made

Once all congressional, state legislative, central committee, local offices, and local ballot measures are set, the Registrar of Voters creates voting precincts countywide. By state law, voting precincts may contain no more than 1,000 voters, not including permanent vote-by-mail voters, and are further divided according to the combination of districts and offices appearing on the ballot. For the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, the ROV created 932 voting precincts, including 804 polling places. The 128 other precincts did not have enough residents to create a polling place, and therefore were created as mail ballot precincts. Voters in mail ballot precincts could mail in their vote-by-mail ballot, drop it off at any polling place, or vote at an early voting site.

### Contests Not Appearing on the Ballot

Contest	Voting Jurisdiction	Parties Voting
American Independent Party Central Committee	24th State Assembly District 25th State Assembly District 27th State Assembly District 28th State Assembly District 29th State Assembly District 30th State Assembly District	American Independent
Democratic Party Central Committee	25th State Assembly District 29th State Assembly District 30th State Assembly District	Democratic
Republican Party Central Committee	3rd Supervisorial District 4th Supervisorial District 5th Supervisorial District	Republican
Green Party County Council	Countywide	Green
Peace and Freedom Party Central Committee	Countywide	Peace and Freedom
San Benito County Board of Education	Trustee Area 1	All
Superior Court Judges (25)	Countywide	All

When the number of candidates who file to run for a specific office is equal to or less than the number of available seats, that contest typically would not appear on the ballot. The candidates who have filed are declared the winners without the need for an election.

### FAQ

**Q:** What is a **central committee**?

**A:** Each political party is governed by elected local central committees, which help guide party activities and policy. In Santa Clara County, Democratic Party and American Independent Party central committee members are elected by state assembly district, while Republican Party central committee members are elected by county supervisorial district. Green Party and Peace and Freedom Party central committee members are elected countywide.

### Election Facts

**932** voting precincts:

- **804** polling places
- **128** mail ballot precincts

**9** languages – Chinese, English, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese

**104** ballot types

### Ballot Size

**2** number of ballot cards

**1-2** columns per card

**9.75" by 17.25"** ballot dimensions

### FAQ

**Q:** What is a **ballot type**?

**A:** To ensure that voters only vote for the contests in the districts in which they live, the Registrar of Voters creates different ballots with different combinations of contests. Each ballot with its own unique combination of contests is a ballot type. The ROV often must create many ballot types because districts frequently overlap in ways where not all voters vote in both contests. The 104 ballot types used in the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election do not include variations by language or political party preference. Including these variations, the ROV created 3,328 paper ballot styles and 4,160 touchscreen and audio ballot styles for the election.

### FAQ

**Q:** What is a **ballot card**?

**A:** A **ballot card** is a single piece of heavy-stock paper containing the ballot contests on which a voter can vote. In special elections, there is usually only one ballot card. There are typically multiple cards for voters' consideration in statewide elections like the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary, which featured two cards. Because of a higher number of state propositions and local ballot measures, the November 8, 2016, Presidential General Election is expected to require more than two cards for at least some districts.

### FAQ

**Q:** Why do the number of cards matter?

**A:** The size of the ballot changes depending on the number of contests. It takes longer for ROV staff members to run multiple ballot cards through the vote-tallying machines. Multiple ballot cards therefore could extend the wait for results, because the ballots are tallied at a slower pace.

# What's New for This Election

As the first countywide election of 2016, the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election served as the first opportunity for the Registrar of Voters (ROV) to implement a new state law allowing the pickup and delivery of ballots before the polls close in order to more quickly count the votes. To further this aim, the ROV introduced 24-hour vote counting and vote-by-mail ballot processing for several days after Election Day. Finally, the June 7, 2016 Presidential Primary provided an opportunity for the ROV to carry out a County-initiated automatic recount for an election contest with a narrow margin of victory.

## **Midday Pickup**

A new state law took effect on January 1, 2016, that allowed county elections offices to pick up ballots from polling places during the day in order to count and process a percentage of the ballots before the polls close. Along with San Bernardino County, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the ROV had supported this legislation as a way to speed up the counting of ballots, and the reporting of results, on Election Day.

The June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election served as the first opportunity for the ROV to carry out the new practice. The ROV recruited and assigned 100 teams of two couriers to drive to two select polling places each to pick up ballot bags containing voted ballots and replace them with new empty bags. Working with election officers to prevent disruption to voters, the courier teams sealed and secured the ballot bags before returning them to the ROV to begin the counting process.

Including polling place, vote-by-mail, and provisional ballots, more than 23,000 ballots were collected during the midday pickup on Election Day. Nearly 13,000 of these were polling place ballots that the machines could tally immediately, which was helpful to the election process because the ROV must tally all polling place ballots before it can release the final results on Election Night. The ROV estimates that the successful midday pickup campaign enabled election results to be reported approximately one hour earlier than they would have been had the ROV waited until all precinct ballots were delivered after the polls closed.

For more about the midday pickup program, see page 49.

## **24-Hour Ballot Processing**

In past elections, ROV staff members would process the polling place ballots long into the night after the polls closed on Election Day, then begin processing the vote-by-mail ballots the following morning. For the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election,



the ROV processed ballots without interruption. With increased resources from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the ROV was able to hire additional temporary workers to process ballots on a 24-hour basis for the four days following Election Day.

The ROV's 24-hour ballot processing team worked in three shifts to sort vote-by-mail envelopes for processing, verify the signatures on the envelopes, open the envelopes and prepare the ballots, and tally the ballots with the vote-tallying machines. The addition of four new vote-tallying machines to the ROV's existing 14 also supported this effort, enabling the ROV to continue processing more ballots simultaneously over a longer period of time.

## **Automatic recount**

A pilot program approved by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors made history by initiating the first full manual recount of an election contest in at least 15 years. Under the pilot program, the ROV was to conduct an automatic recount of the votes in any local election with a margin of victory of fewer than 25 votes or less than 0.5% of the total ballots cast.

As the final votes were being tallied, the ROV found that the tight race between two candidates running for the City of San Jose District 4 Councilmember seat was won by a margin of 36 votes, which calculated to a little more than 0.1% of the vote. This met the requirements for the county's new automatic recount, which the ROV promptly began once all votes were tallied. The recount confirmed the winning candidate.

As the automatic recount was wrapping up, a voter filed a request on behalf of the trailing candidate to conduct a second recount. The voter-initiated recount concluded on August 2 and also confirmed the winning candidate.

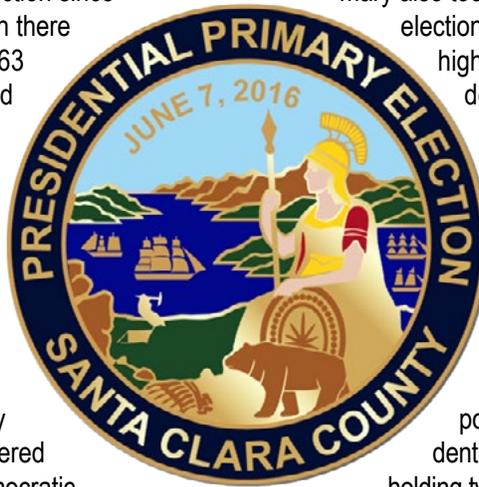
For more about the automatic recount, see page 61.

# II. Executive Summary

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

The June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election saw the largest voter turnout in a presidential primary election since 2008, the last presidential election year when there was no presidential incumbent. Out of 788,063 registered voters, a total of 430,779 cast valid ballots for a total turnout rate of 54.7%. This rate, as well as the turnout rate for vote-by-mail voters, was higher than in the 2012 presidential primary election. Polling place voters turned out at a rate of more than double that of 2012.

One unique feature of the presidential primary is the participation of crossover voters. In the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, more than one-third of voters registered without a party affiliation opted to vote a Democratic ballot. While more than 63% of voters registered without a party preference voted nonpartisan ballots, 2.8% and 0.4% chose to vote American Independent and Libertarian ballots, respectively.

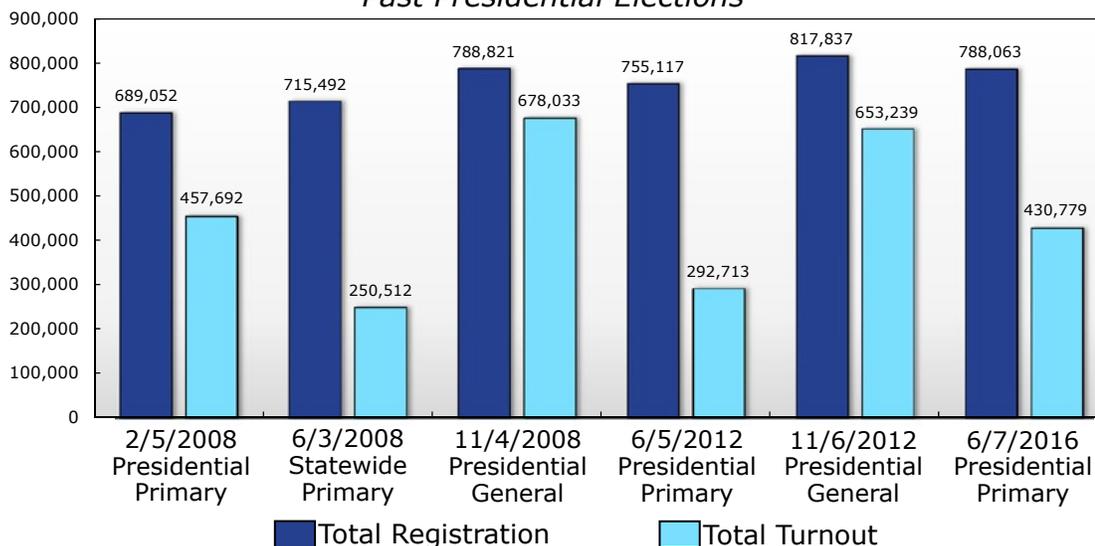


Being a countywide election, the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary also took longer to tally than the most recent smaller elections held in Santa Clara County. Due to the high volume of ballots, extended ballot receipt deadlines, and ballot processing procedures, the Registrar of Voters' office did not finish tallying the polling place ballots until June 23, 16 days after Election Day.

This report compares the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election with similar primaries and the presidential general elections held in 2012 and 2008. Presidential primaries also offer a unique view of voter behavior by political party. In 2008, California split its presidential primary election from the other primaries, holding two primary elections that year – the presidential primary held on February 5, 2008, and a statewide primary held on June 3, 2008. The charts and graphs in this post-election report include both of these primaries for comparison purposes.

## Results Overview

Total Registration and Turnout  
Past Presidential Elections



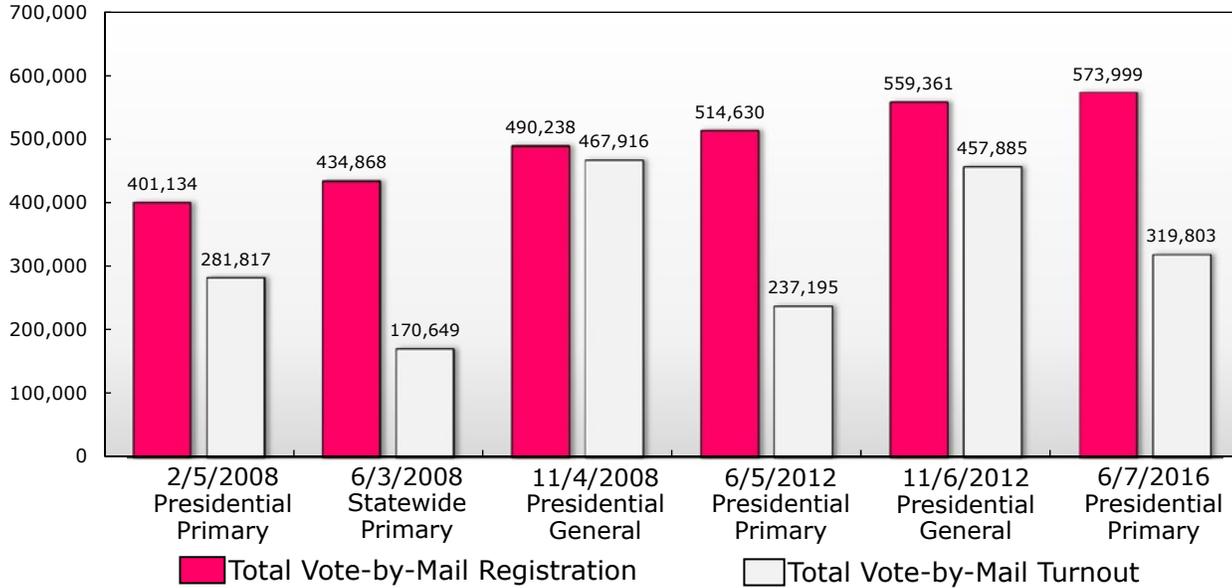
Voter turnout for primary elections is generally lower than in presidential general elections. As in the 2008 presidential primary, the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election saw a voter turnout rate of between 50% and 60%, while the presidential general elections in 2008 and 2012 saw a much higher turnout rate. By contrast, the 2008 statewide primary had the lowest turnout rate among presidential-year elections in the past eight years.

### FAQ

**Q:** Why were there two primaries in 2008?

**A:** California had always held its presidential primary in June until 1996, when the election was moved up to March with the goal of having a greater effect nationally on presidential races. By 2005, California lawmakers viewed the large gap between the March primary and the November general election as contributing to increasing campaign costs, so the primary was moved back to June. As the 2008 presidential election approached, however, many still wanted California to have a greater impact on the presidential race, so a law was passed splitting the primaries in 2008, with the presidential primary held in February – the earliest ever in California. The primaries were recombined to be held together in June beginning in 2012.

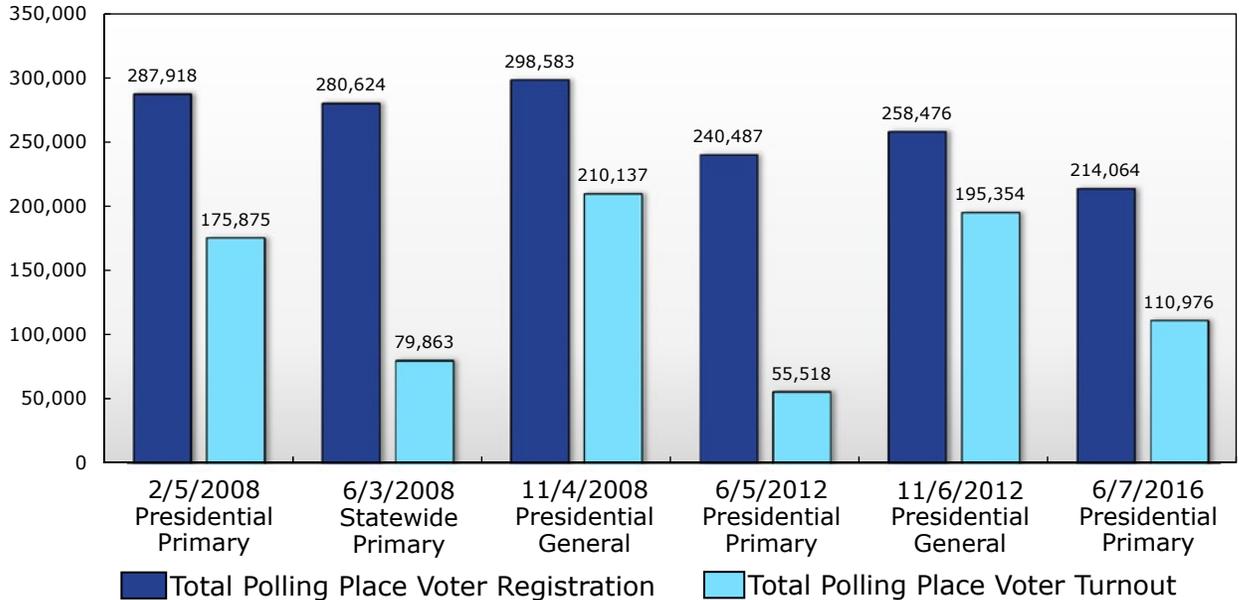
## Vote-by-Mail Registration and Turnout Past Presidential Elections



In 2001, the California Legislature passed a law to allow residents to become permanent vote-by-mail voters. Since the law went into effect the following year, the percentage of vote-by-mail voters in Santa Clara County has trended upward. On the other hand, vote-by-mail turnout, and turnout

in general, depends on a number of factors, including voter interest in the election and whether an incumbent is up for re-election. These charts reveal a stark contrast between presidential primary and general election turnout for both voting methods.

## Polling Place Voter Registration and Turnout Past Presidential Elections

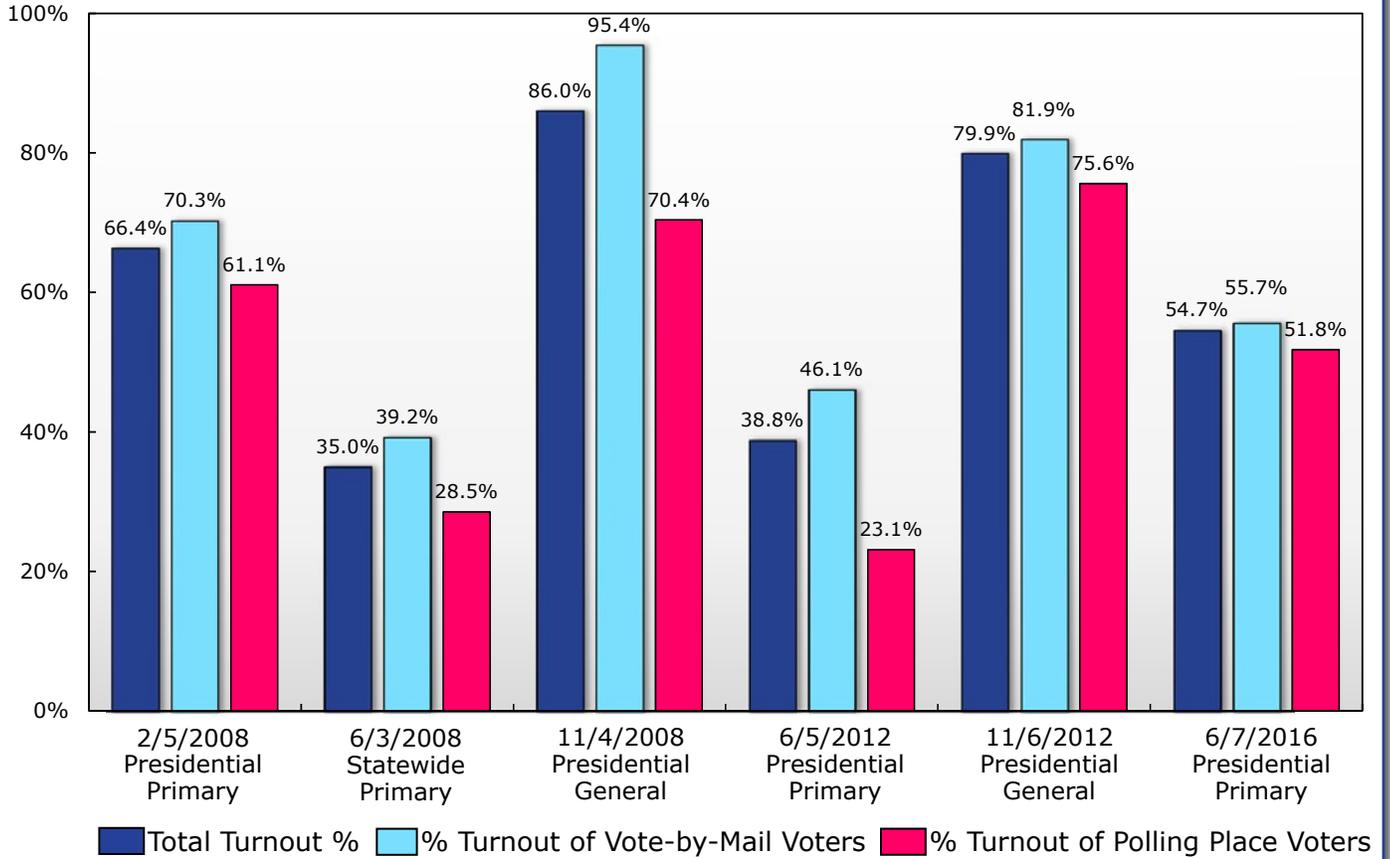


### FAQ

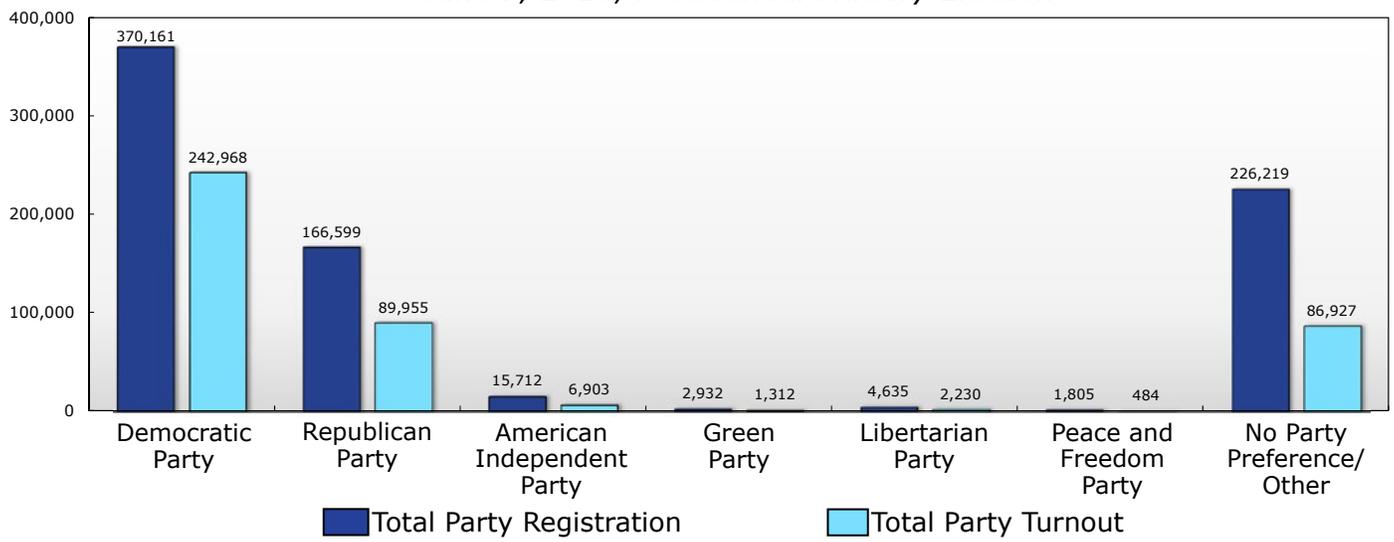
**Q:** What is the difference between vote-by-mail (VBM) and polling place voters?

**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. Sometimes, due to how precincts are drawn, polling place voters can be assigned to mail ballot precincts. These voters may alternatively cast their ballot at a polling place if they wish.

### Voter Turnout Percentages Past Presidential Elections

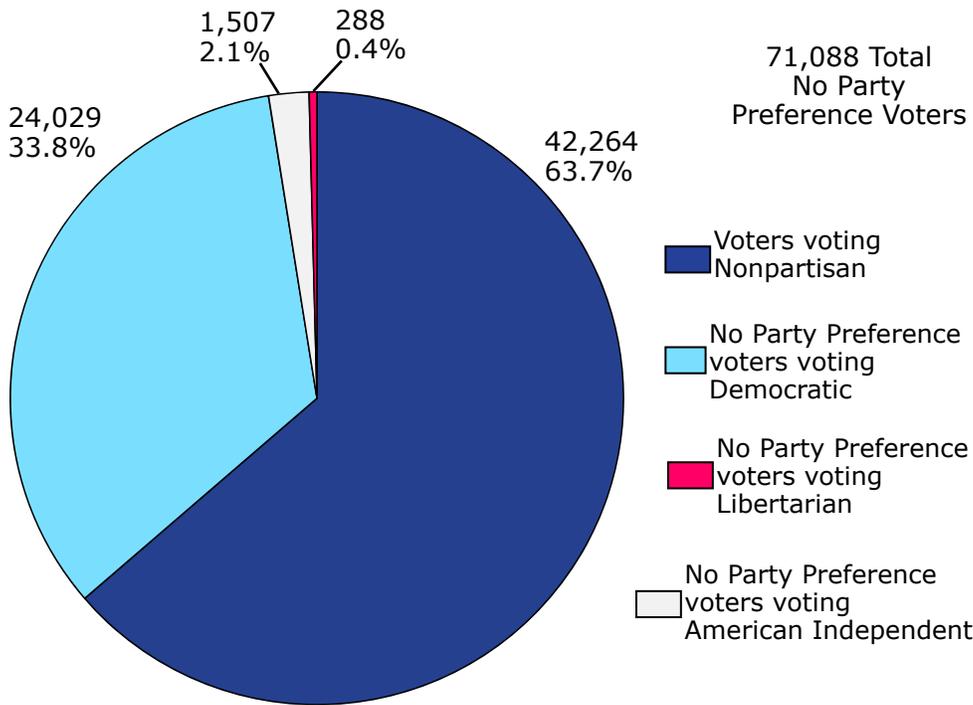


### Voter Turnout by Party June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election



Historically, a higher percentage of vote-by-mail voters have voted in presidential-year elections than have polling place voters. In the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary, only the Democratic and Republican parties saw a majority of their voters cast a ballot.

### Crossover Voters June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election



71,088 Total  
No Party  
Preference Voters

Even though voters without a party preference could request a ballot to cast a vote for an American Independent, Democratic, or Libertarian presidential candidate, a sizable majority of **No Party Preference** voters cast a regular nonpartisan ballot without the contest for president.

### FAQ

**Q:** What does **No Party Preference** mean?

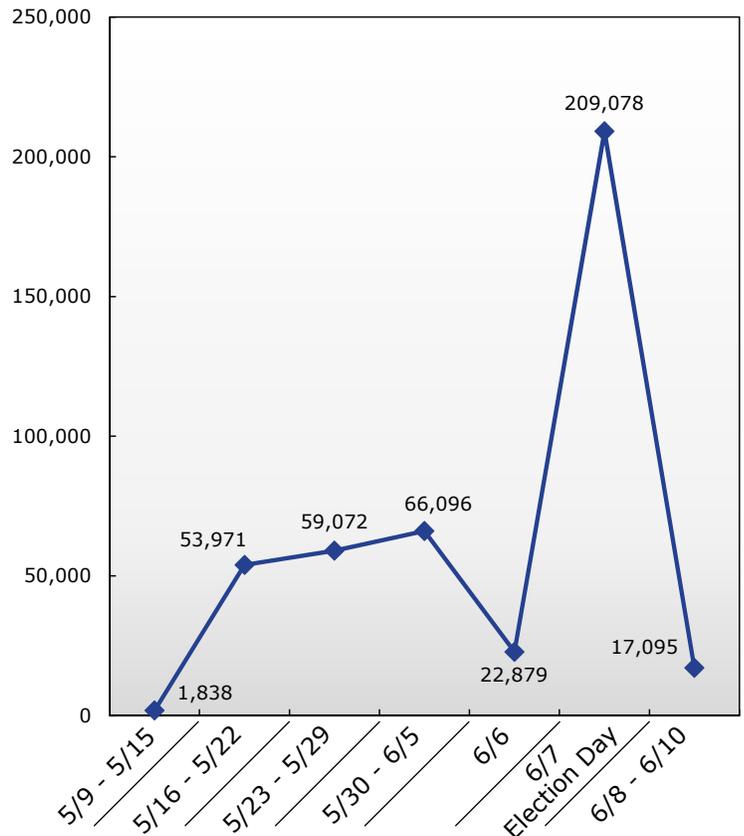
**A:** Voters who registered to vote without specifying a political party are known as No Party Preference voters. These voters were formerly referred to as "decline-to-state" voters.



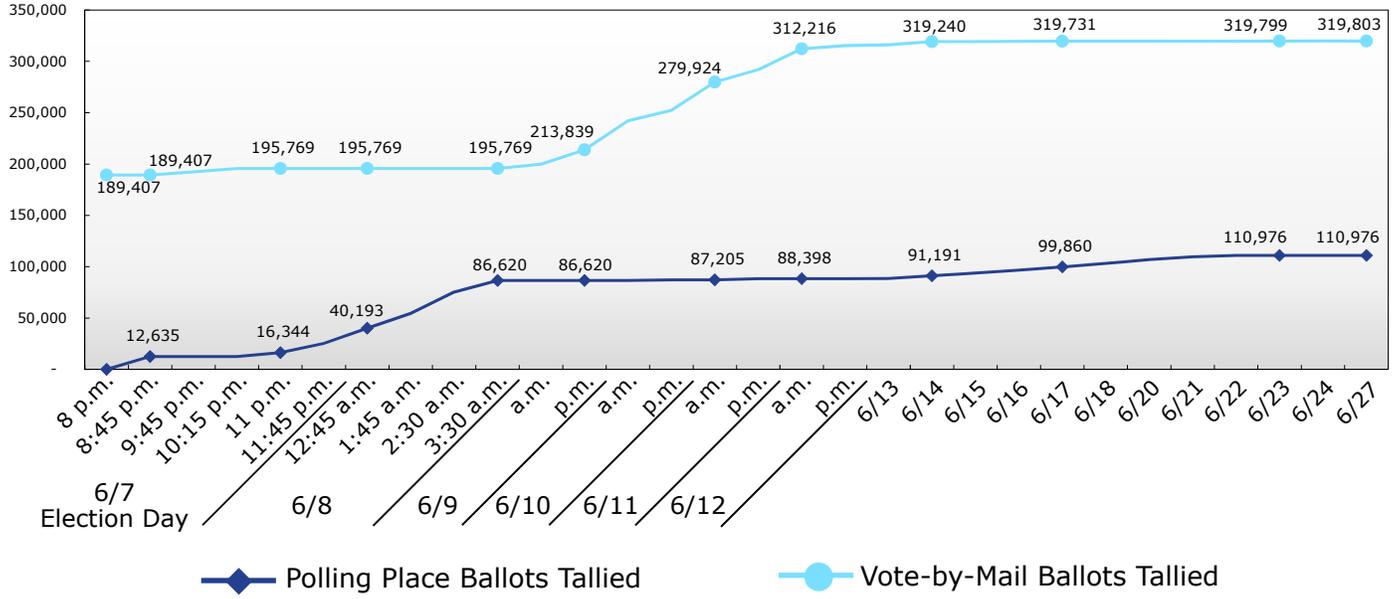
Pallets containing tens of thousands of vote-by-mail ballots are stored while awaiting tallying on Election Night. Because California law does not allow the Registrar of Voters (ROV) to open vote-by-mail envelopes and count the ballots until 10 days before Election Day, the ROV must securely store upwards of 100,000 ballots until the 10-day mark passes.

The ROV received nearly half the ballots cast in the election prior to Election Day, nearly half the ballots on Election Day, and the remaining almost 5% of the ballots after Election Day. While ballots received at polling places on Election Day are tallied first, vote-by-mail ballots received on Election Day and later are not tallied until staff can verify voters' signatures on the ballot envelopes.

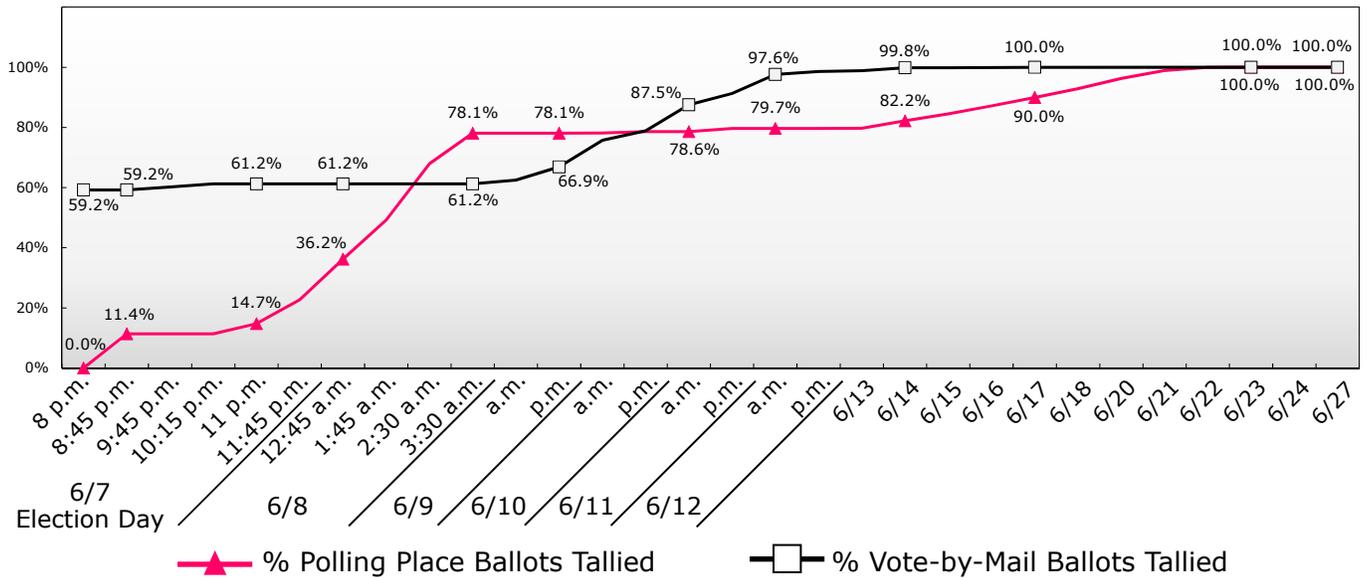
### Ballots Received Over Time June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election



### Ballots Talled Over Time June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election

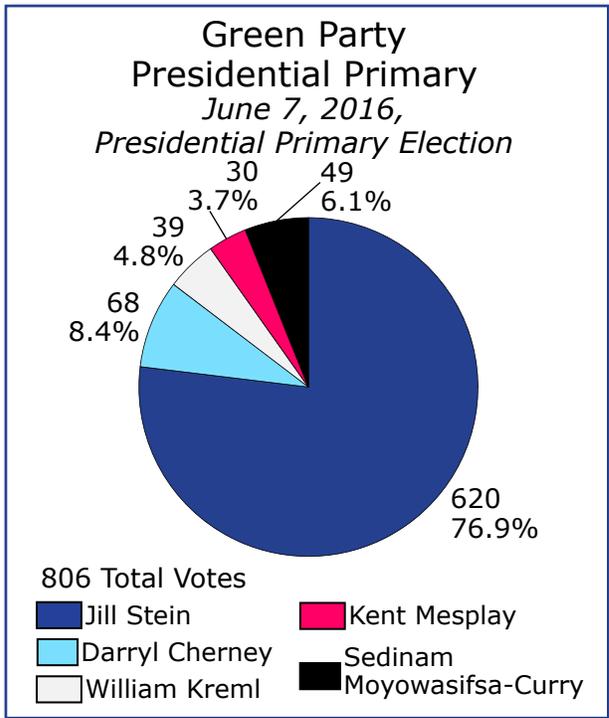
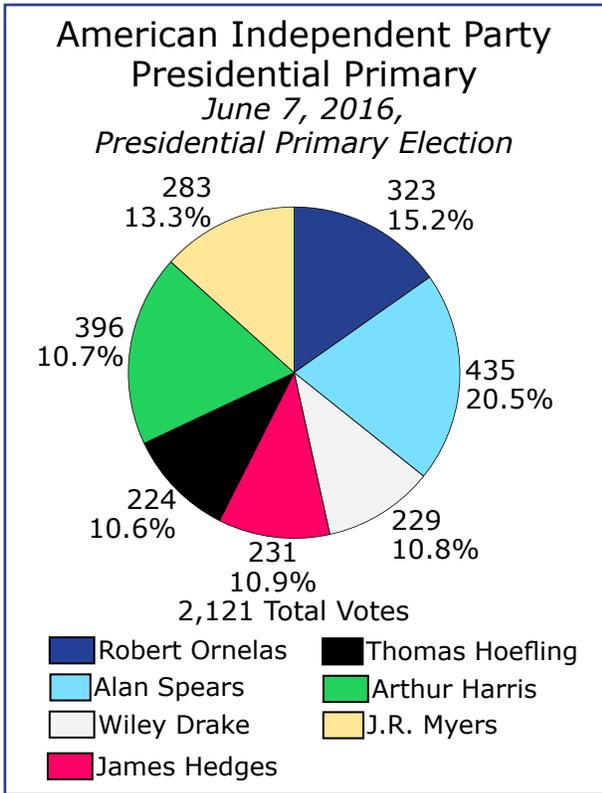
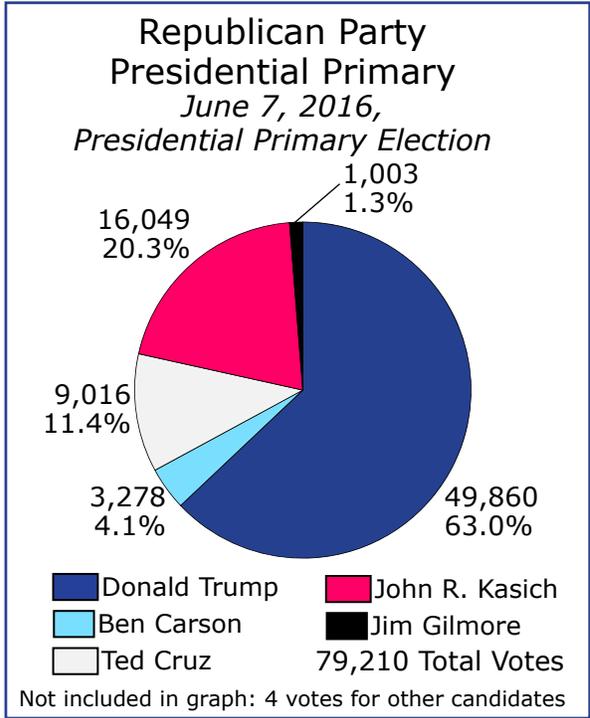
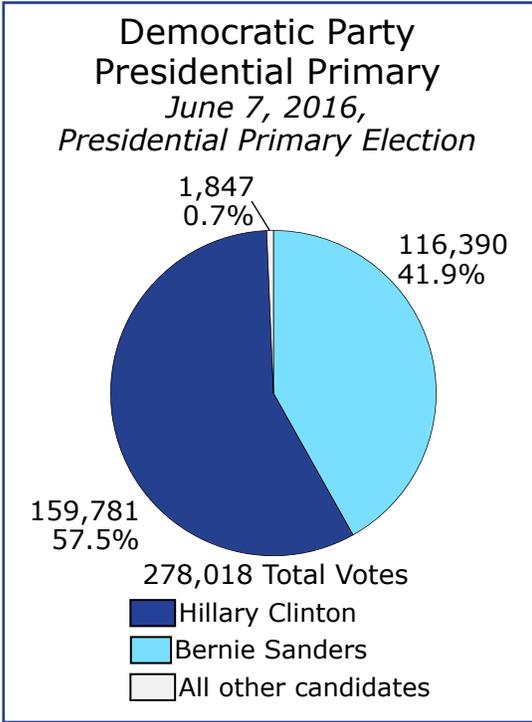


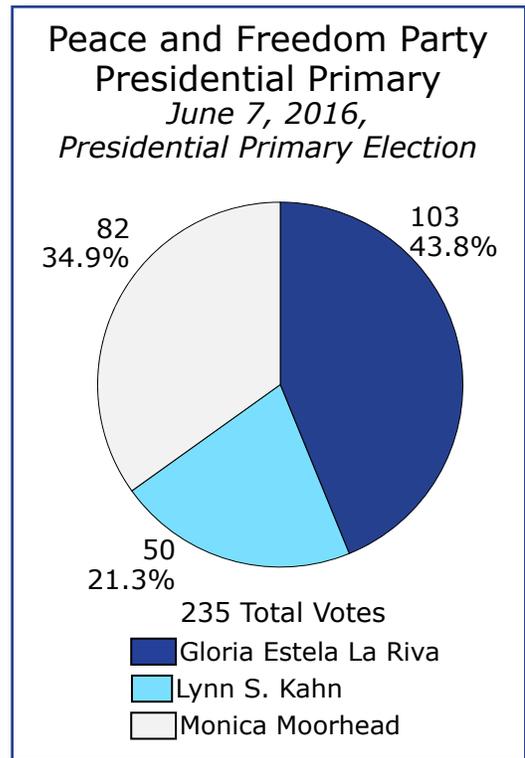
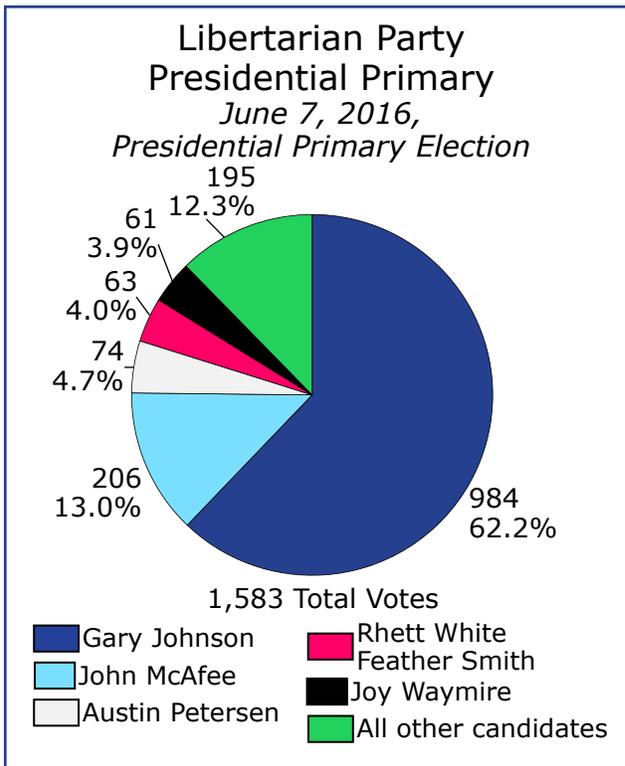
### % Ballots Talled Over Time June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election



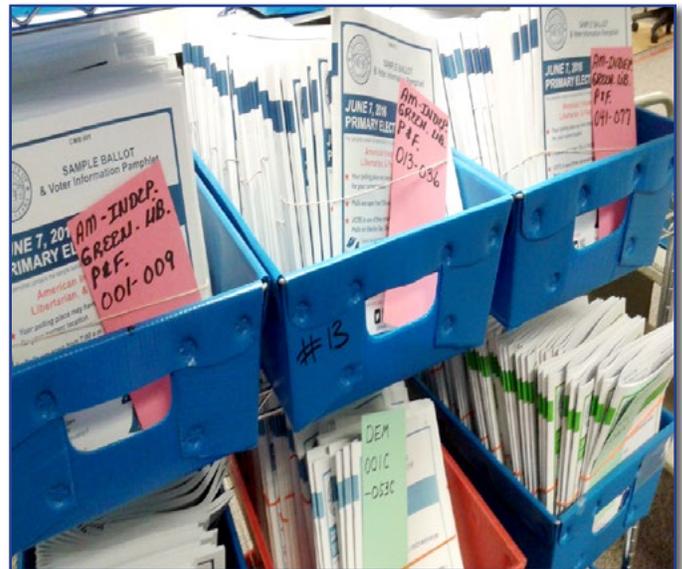
Starting 10 days before the election, all of the vote-by-mail ballots received prior to Election Day are processed and tallied before 8 p.m. State law, however, does not allow the Registrar of Voters to release the first results until the polls close. The first point on each of these graphs – showing the percentage tallied as of 8 p.m. on Election Day – represents the VBM ballots that were tallied in the days prior to Election Day. The second point at 8:45

p.m. on Election Day represents the tallied polling place ballots that were retrieved during Election Day as part of the midday pickup program. The polling place ballots tallied last in the graph are mostly provisional ballots, which need to be verified for voter and contest eligibility. In some cases, these ballots must be further processed to ensure that provisional voters only cast votes in contests for which they were eligible to vote.





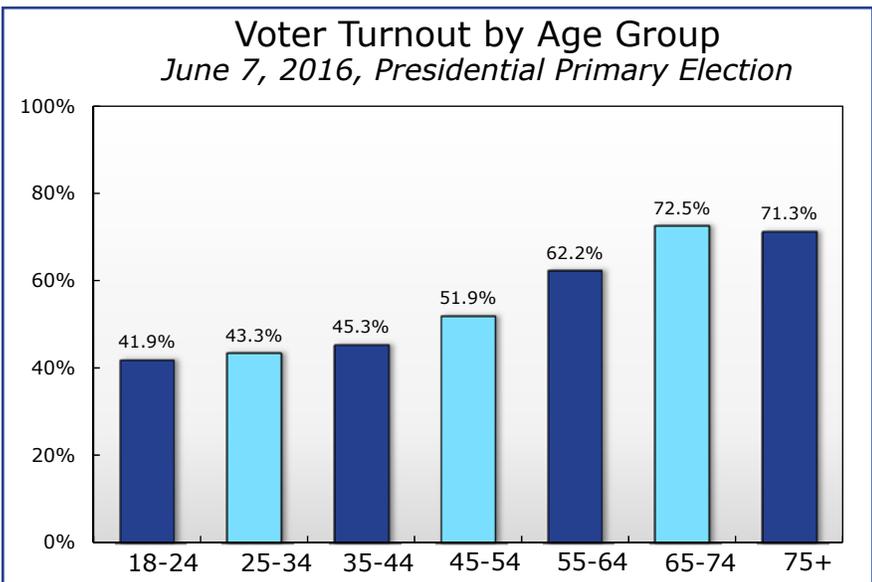
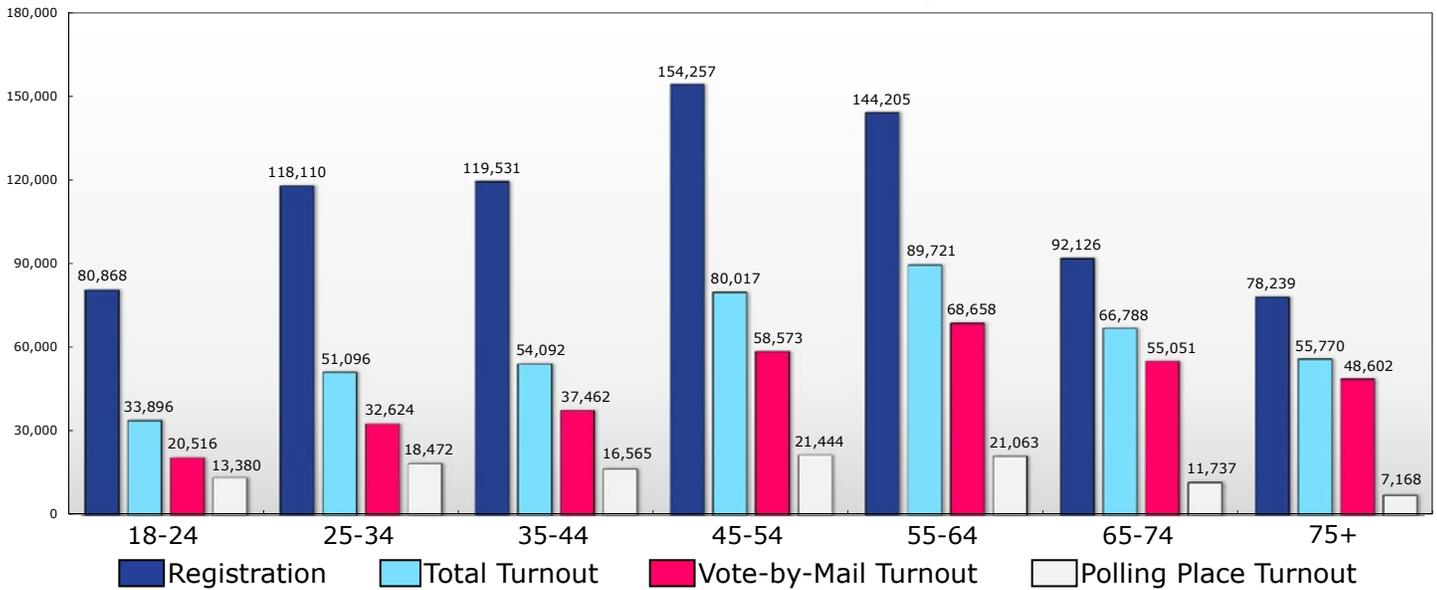
PARTY-NOMINATED OFFICES CARGOS NOMINADOS POR LOS PARTIDOS	
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS	
Presidential Preference Preferencia Presidencial	
	Vote for One Vote por Uno
JAMES HEDGES	← →
THOMAS HOEFLING	← →
ARTHUR HARRIS	← →
J.R. MYERS	← →
ROBERT ORNELAS	← →
ALAN SPEARS	← →
WILEY DRAKE	← →
	← →



Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlets (SBVIPs) are prepared for mailing to voters. For the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, each voter received an SBVIP that correlated with the voter's party preference. This was the case because in a presidential primary election, the voter's party affiliation determines what kind of ballot the voter receives.

The sequence of contests on the ballot is determined by state law, with the presidential contest always appearing first. The sequence of candidates for a given contest, on the other hand, is determined by a randomized alphabet drawing overseen by the California Secretary of State 82 days before the election. In conducting the randomized alphabet drawing for the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, the Secretary of State drew the letter "H" before the letter "D" and drew "E" before "A," as illustrated above by the image of the American Independent presidential contest as appearing on the Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet for that party. The letter sequence applies not only to the first letters of the candidates' surnames, but to each additional letter in their names, which is why James Hedges appears above Arthur Harris.

## Voter Turnout by Age Group June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election



Generally, no matter the voting method, the higher the age group, the higher the turnout in the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election. The rate of turnout by age group rises and crests at 72.5% among voters between 65 and 74, before decreasing slightly among voters at least 75.

Voters complete their ballots at a polling place in Santa Clara County.



# Challenges Resolved

Due to a combination of factors ranging from the size and scope of the election to legally mandated deadlines, the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election presented several unanticipated challenges that the Registrar of Voters (ROV) resolved throughout the election preparation process. Below are some of the issues that were solved by the ROV's dedicated staff behind the scenes to prevent these issues from affecting voters' experiences at the polls.

## State Initiative Petitions

### *What happened?*

In addition to conducting elections, the ROV reviews the signatures on petitions for state initiatives to ensure that all signors are registered voters from the county. According to state law, these signatures must be checked within a certain timeframe after being received.

### *Why was this challenging?*

This year, the state has received an extraordinarily high number of petitions. Additionally, the deadlines and workload involved fell right in the middle of the ROV's preparations for the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election. As a result, the ROV was required to review about 1 million signatures in addition to this workload.

### *How was this solved?*

Team members from less-impacted ROV divisions worked overtime to meet the state deadlines, and the State Legislature also approved one-time funding to cover these additional costs.

## Widely Contested U.S. Senate Seat

### *What happened?*

The contest to replace a retiring U.S. senator drew 34 candidates, an unusually large number of candidates for a contest.

### *Why was this challenging?*

The U.S. senate contest usually appears on the front of the first ballot card along with information about the election and the presidential race. However, the large number of candidates running for U.S. senator would have required the ROV to place all the candidates in two columns. This could cause voter confusion if voters mistook the two columns for two separate races and accidentally voted for too many candidates.

### *How was this solved?*

The ROV moved the U.S. senate contest to the back of the first ballot card, where it could be designed using a single column to prevent voter confusion. Although this caused some ballots to have no contests appear on the front of the first ballot card, it likely prevented many voter mistakes.

## Midday Ballot Pickup

### *What happened?*

A new law now allows voted ballots to be retrieved from polling places before the polls close in order to relieve the burden of a high volume of returns on Election Night.

### *Why was this challenging?*

The law requires specific procedures to ensure ballot security and uniform processing of ballots.

### *How was this solved?*

The ROV drafted new procedures, created a video to inform the public of the midday pickup process, and trained all election officers and ballot couriers in the proper procedures. See page 49 for more about the midday pickup program.

## Automatic Recount for City of San Jose Contest

### *What happened?*

As part of a pilot program approved by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the ROV conducted an automatic recount for the City of San Jose District 4 Councilmember contest, a close race with a margin of victory within 0.5%.

### *Why was this challenging?*

Due to the high voter turnout, the ROV could not begin the recount until after the election results were finalized and sent to the Secretary of State. The ROV counted every vote in the open, where each candidate could verify the count's accuracy. After the ROV completed its manual tally, a voter requested a second recount on behalf of one candidate. The second recount concluded on August 2.

### *How was this solved?*

The ROV closely monitored all contests that could trigger an automatic recount and alerted the candidates for City of San Jose District 4 Councilmember of the upcoming recount as early as possible. The ROV also mobilized a team of dedicated workers to focus solely on the recount efforts in order to complete it as efficiently and accurately as possible.

## Postal Service Upgrades

### *What happened?*

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) upgraded its software, causing some vote-by-mail ballots in other counties to be returned to the voters rather than delivered to the elections office.

### *Why was this challenging?*

Ballots not received by the elections office within a specified deadline cannot be counted, pursuant to state law.

### *How was this solved?*

The ROV worked with the local USPS to ensure all ballots were delivered to the ROV. As a result, there were no reports of ballots returned to voters in Santa Clara County.

## Temporary Worker Regulations

### *What happened?*

New rules for hiring temporary workers created challenges in recruiting sufficient election workers due to changes resulting from the Affordable Care Act, IRS regulations, and County collective bargaining agreements.

### *Why was this challenging?*

The ROV heavily relies on thousands of short-term temporary workers and paid volunteers to process all ballots and election materials on Election Night.

### *How was this solved?*

The County adopted a new volunteer policy for election volunteers, and the ROV found creative solutions for recruitment, including the use of social media.

# Takeaways

For an election encompassing nearly 800,000 voters, more than 800 polling places, and more than 430,000 ballots cast, the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election went as smoothly as could have been hoped. Thousands of Registrar of Voters (ROV) staff members, election officers, and Election Day volunteers 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:

- Despite several prominent candidates dropping out of the running early on, and one major party arriving at a presumptive nominee the day before Election Day, **turnout in Santa Clara County was higher than in many peer counties, the statewide average, and the national average.** Extensive voter outreach through advertising and the wealth of voting opportunities – including early voting sites, drive-thru locations, drop-off boxes, and postage paid envelopes – likely contributed to this higher turnout.
- While the ROV has increased early voting opportunities, **approximately 70,000 vote-by-mail (VBM) voters, or about 22% of participating VBM voters, dropped off their completed VBM ballots on Election Day** rather than mailing them in early. Additionally, a higher than average number of VBM voters voted provisionally at the polls.
- Although **more than 60% of No Party Preference voters voted a nonpartisan ballot**, more than **25,000 such voters crossed over to vote party ballots**, including just over 24,000 votes cast on limited Democratic ballots.
- New laws extending the time during which the ROV can accept VBM ballots likely have contributed to a late influx of VBM ballots as voters become increasingly aware of the later deadlines. **Nearly 17,000 valid VBM ballots were received after Election Day**, more than triple the amount of ballots received after Election Day in the most recent high-turnout presidential election.
- A new law allowing **midday pickups** of voted ballots at polling places **enabled the ROV to retrieve about 15% of the polling place ballots cast and tally them early**, which reduced the burden of tallying more than 100,000 polling place ballots after the polls close.
- Although the ROV augmented its vote-tallying operations by purchasing additional vote-tallying machines, conducting 24-hour processing of VBM ballots, and conducting midday pickups – all of which ultimately led to faster ballot counting than in past elections – **Santa Clara County still trails similarly sized counties with respect to reporting times.** Santa Clara County is currently in the process of replacing its aging voting system with a modern one, which would significantly increase tallying efficiency.
- A **county-initiated automatic recount of a San Jose City Council contest confirmed the outcome** reported by the ROV. A voter-initiated recount conducted after the automatic recount also confirmed the contest's outcome.
- Voters registering to vote and updating their registration information online now exceed those using paper forms, with **more than 60% of registration documents submitted over the internet.**
- Party turnout varies depending on the election, with **only voters registered without a party preference turning out to vote in increasingly higher numbers** since the 2008 Presidential Primary Election.
- The **turnout among polling place voters was more than double the rate in the 2012 presidential primary**, and was the closest to the overall countywide turnout in any presidential-year election since prior to 2008.
- The rate of voters voting provisionally was similar to that of the 2008 presidential primary, which also saw high turnout numbers. Of the **provisional voters** in the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, **70% were VBM voters who could not produce the original VBM ballot** mailed to them.



Orange ballot bags and precinct supplies await shipment to polling places.

# III. Election Preparation

Preparing for a major election involves much more than simply ensuring that every voter receives a ballot. Each election takes months of preparation by the Registrar of Voters' office (ROV) and hundreds of volunteers. A major presidential election such as the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election requires much of the same preparations as any other election. Additionally, however, each process in such an election is performed at a much larger scale and to account for a larger variety of ballot types, requiring more staff, resources, and election materials.

Prior to the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, the ROV:

- Processed tens of thousands of voter registration applications and updates to ensure every eligible voter was registered and affiliated with the party that he or she preferred;
- Mailed nearly 550,000 ballots to vote-by mail, overseas, and military voters;
- Replaced nearly 26,000 nonpartisan ballots with Democratic, American Independent, or Libertarian ballots as requested by crossover voters;
- Recruited more than 4,200 election officers to staff more than 800 polling places and scheduled nearly 150 election officer training classes;

- Arranged for 41 ballot drop-off locations, five drive-thru voting sites, and five early voting sites to provide more opportunities for voters to cast their ballots at their convenience;
- Conducted more than 32 voter outreach events;
- Publicized key election deadlines in dozens of posts on social media and through press releases; and
- Conducted numerous stress tests to ensure the integrity of the ROV's equipment and voting system.

Additionally, ROV staff members issued and recorded candidate nomination paperwork, as well as received candidate and measure information from city jurisdictions. The ROV also tracked candidates' campaign finance filings to enforce filing deadlines.

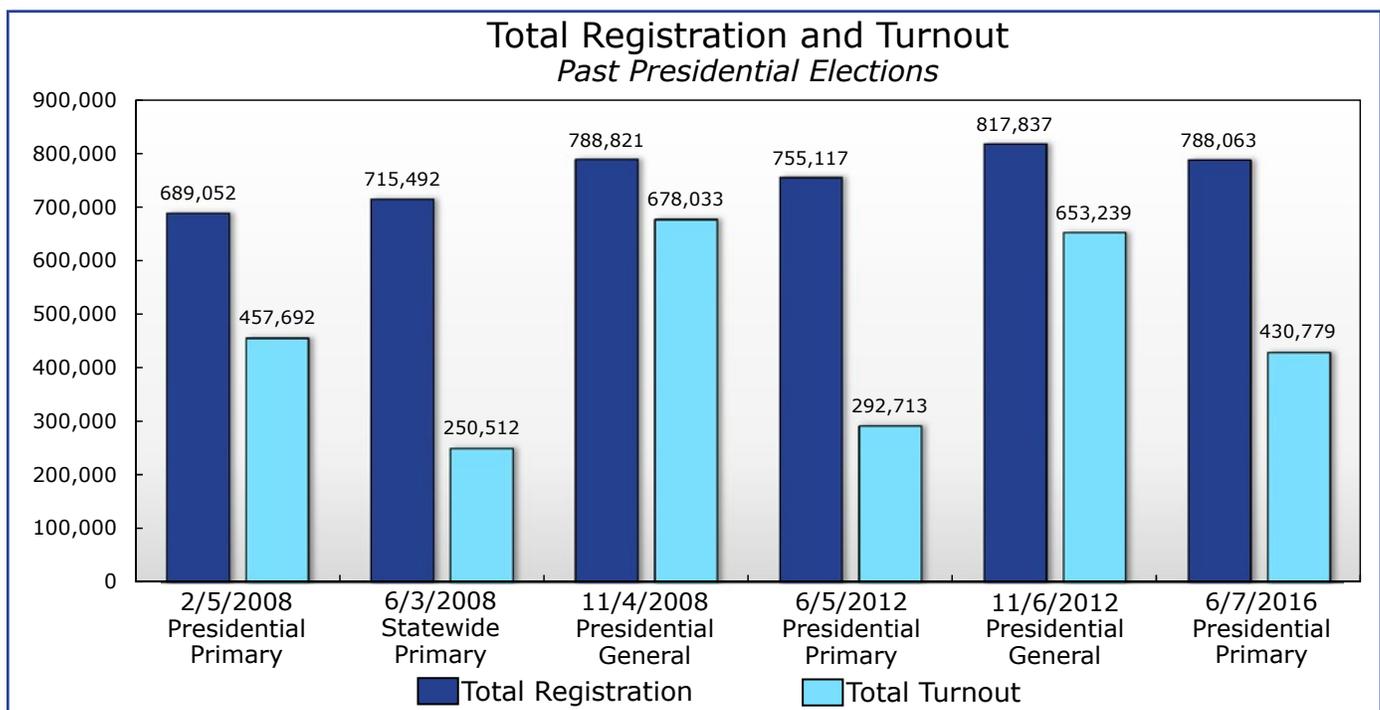


Ballot bags are unloaded to be delivered to polling places in preparation for Election Day.

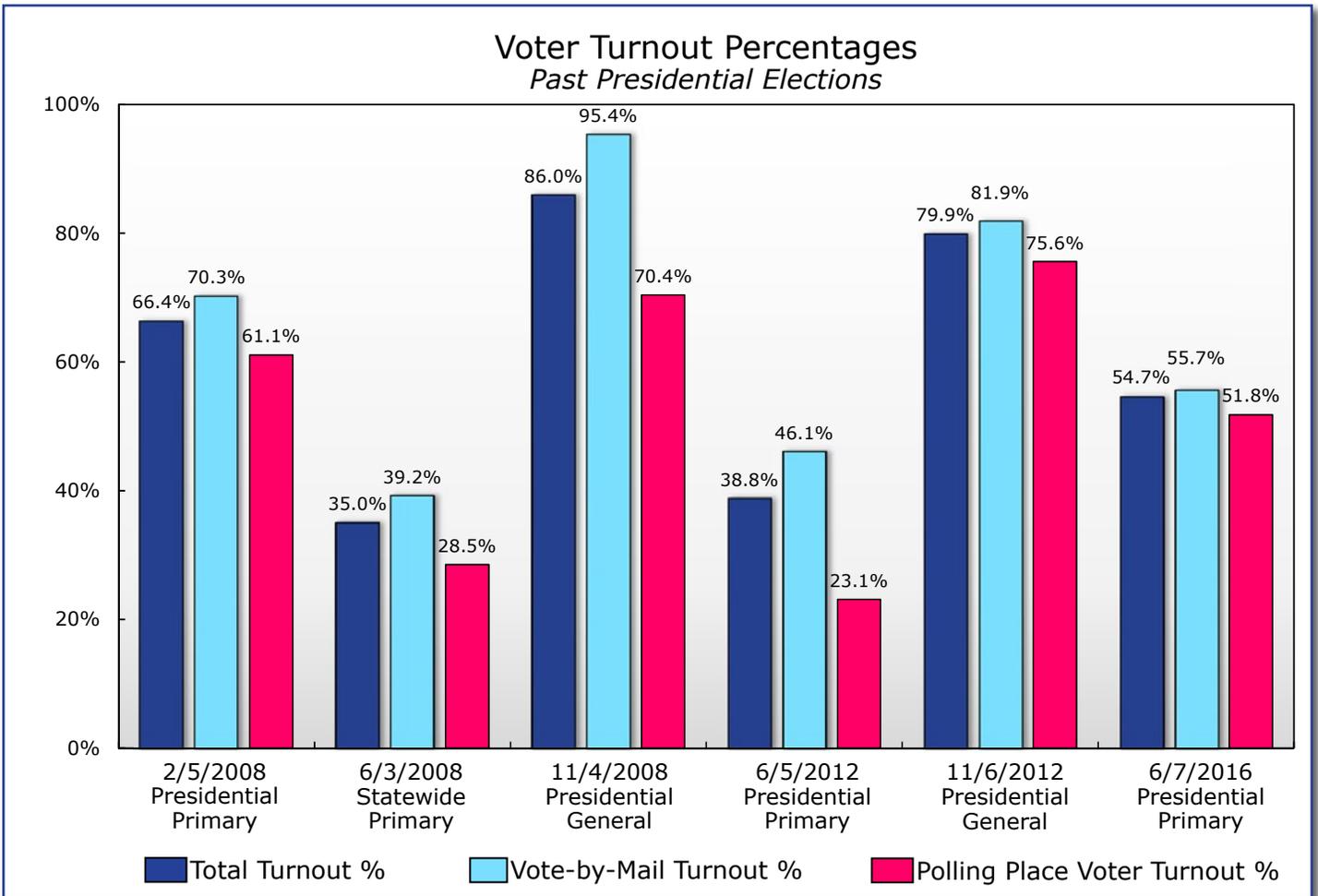
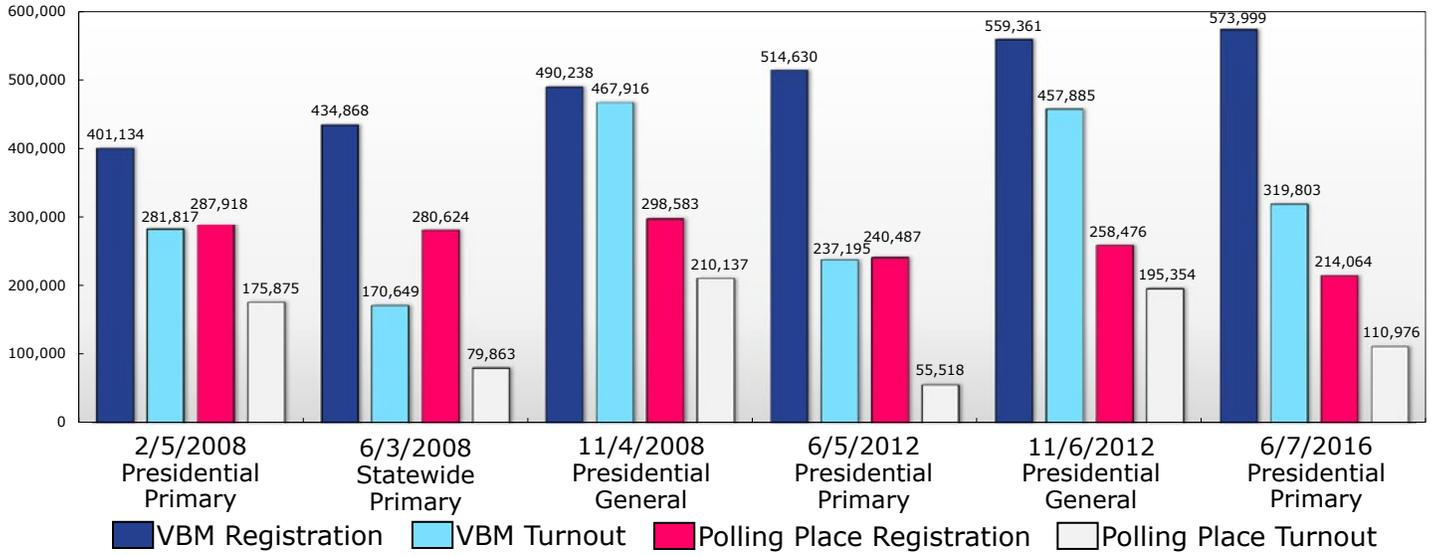
## Voter Registration

Although voter registration often increases just prior to any major election, presidential primary elections often additionally produce a larger increase in voters updating or changing their registration information. Because the presidential contest is divided by party for the primary election, the ROV often sees vot-

ers seeking to change their party preference in order to vote for a specific candidate. Because only the presidential primary and party central committee contests require voters to be registered in a specific party to participate, far fewer voters seek to change their party preference in other elections.



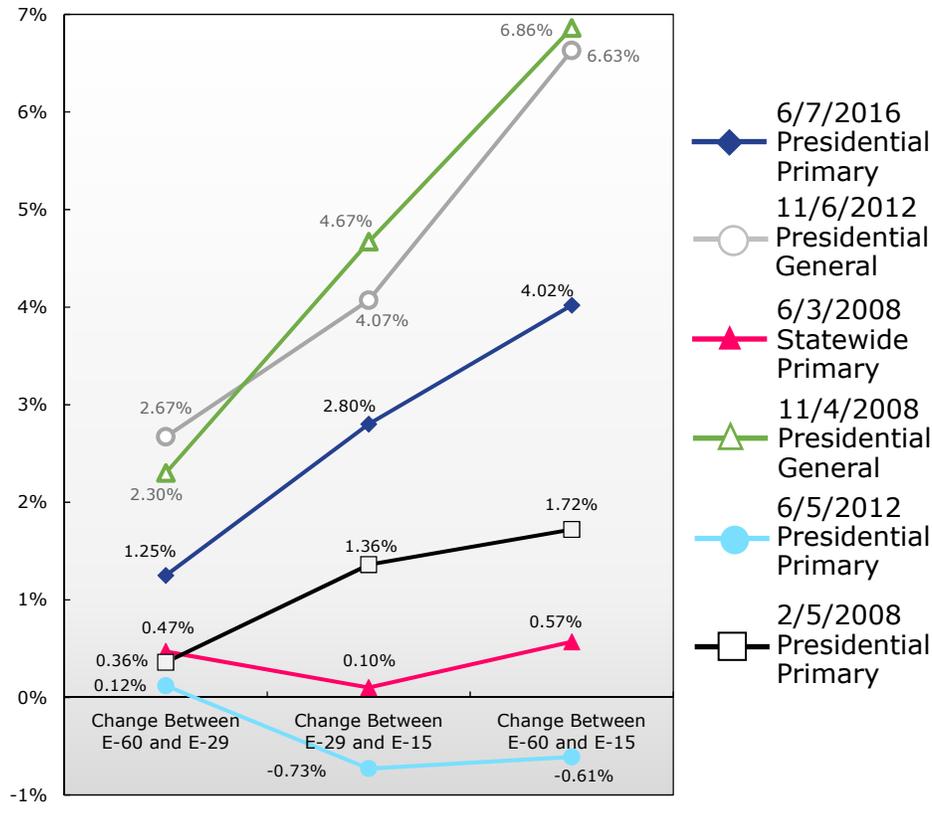
## Vote-by-Mail (VBM) and Polling Place Registration and Turnout Past Presidential Elections



In every presidential-year election in the past eight years, the vote-by-mail turnout rate has been higher than the total turnout rate, while the polling place turnout rate has been lower. The difference between the two, however, depends on the type of election. The polling place turnout rate was lowest compared with

the total and vote-by-mail turnout rates for the 2008 general and 2012 primary elections. However, the polling place turnout rate for the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election is the closest to the total and vote-by-mail turnout rates among the compared elections.

## % Registration by Date Prior to Election Day Past Presidential Elections



Countywide registration generally grows over time relative to population increases but remains relatively stable from election to election. Total registration will frequently jump significantly before a presidential primary or general election, due in large part to increased public interest and voter registration drives conducted by political parties or nonprofit groups. In the previous presidential primary in June 2012, countywide registration actually declined in the two-month period prior to the election, whereas countywide registration for the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary increased by over 4% in the two-month period prior to the election – the highest increase in total registration in the past four presidential-year primaries. By comparison, countywide registration surged nearly 7% in the two months leading up to both the 2008 and 2012 presidential general elections.

### FAQ

**Q:** What do **E-60**, **E-29**, and **E-15** mean?

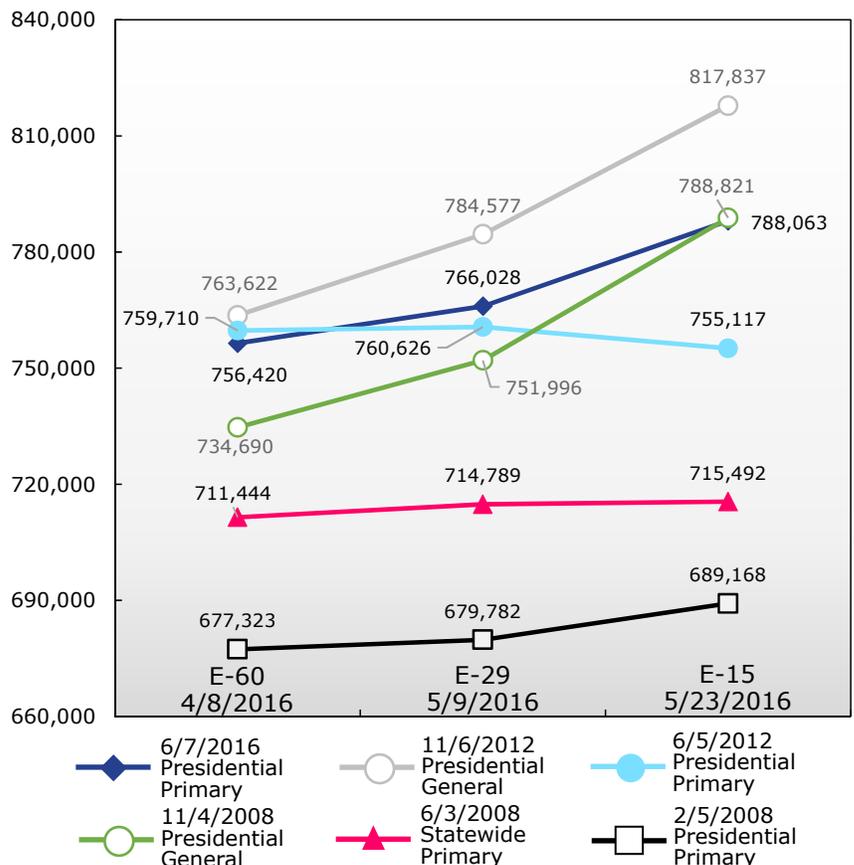
**A:** Many laws relating to elections are triggered on specific days leading up to an election, such as on the 60th day preceding Election Day. Because each Election Day falls on a different calendar date, the Registrar of Voters (ROV) tracks days based on their relation to Election Day. **E-60**, or “Election Day minus 60,” is 60 days before the election. **E-29** and **E-15** are 29 and 15 days before Election Day.

### FAQ

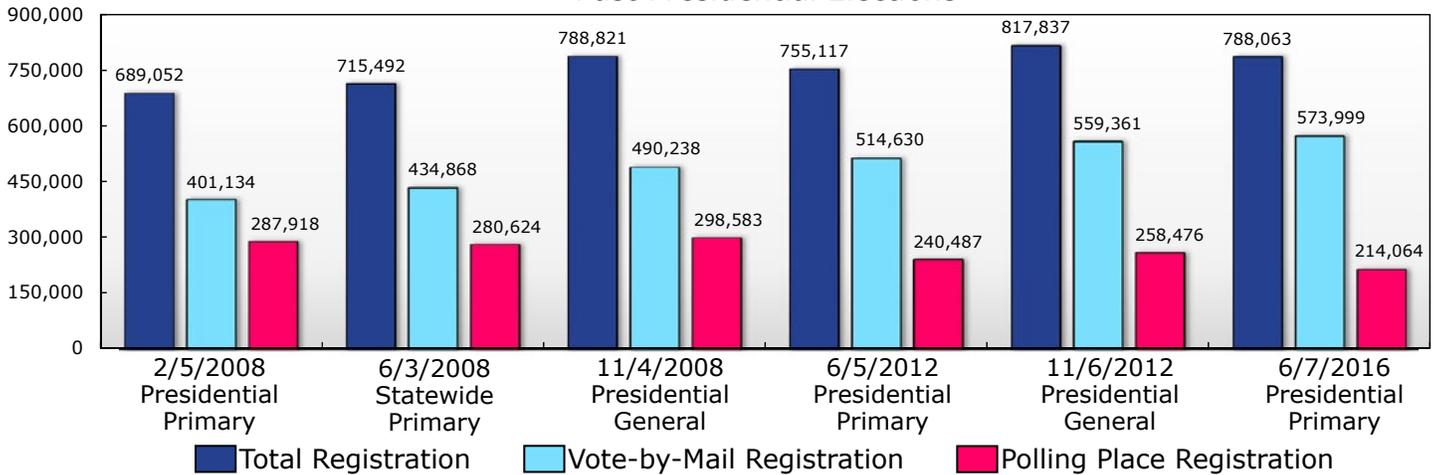
**Q:** Why are **E-60**, **E-29**, and **E-15** dates so important?

**A:** **E-60**, **E-29**, and **E-15** refer to the number of days before an election. Sixty days before an election (**E-60**, or “E minus 60”), is the day that vote-by-mail ballots are sent to voters in the military and those residing overseas. Twenty-nine days before Election Day (**E-29**) is the date that all other vote-by-mail ballots are mailed, and also the first day of early voting in the ROV office. Fifteen days before Election Day (**E-15**) is the last day to register to vote in an election.

## Registration by Date Prior to Election Day Past Presidential Elections

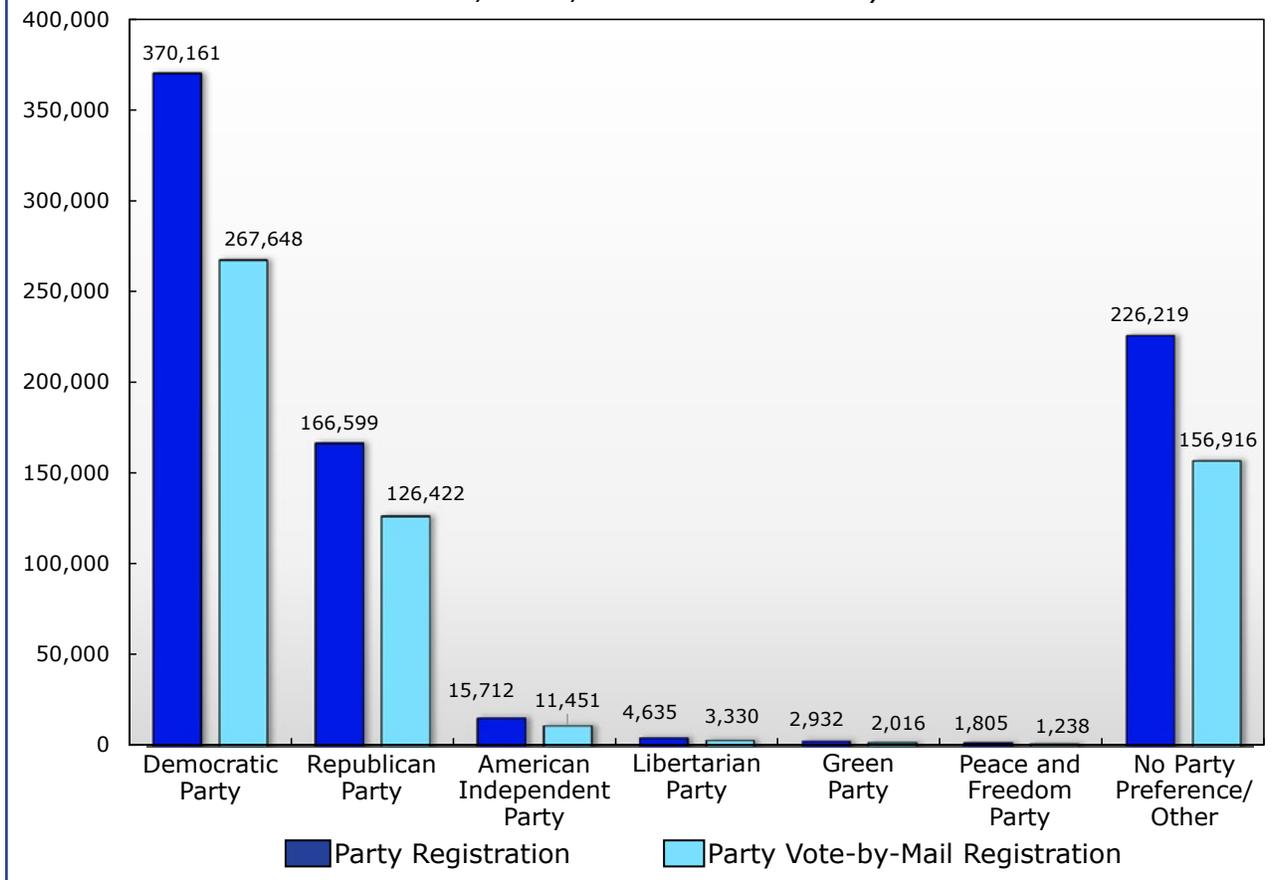


### Total Registration by Type Past Presidential Elections



With the exception of presidential general elections, which typically include a larger number of voters overall, polling place registration has been slowly declining over the years, while the number of voters registered to vote by mail has been increasing.

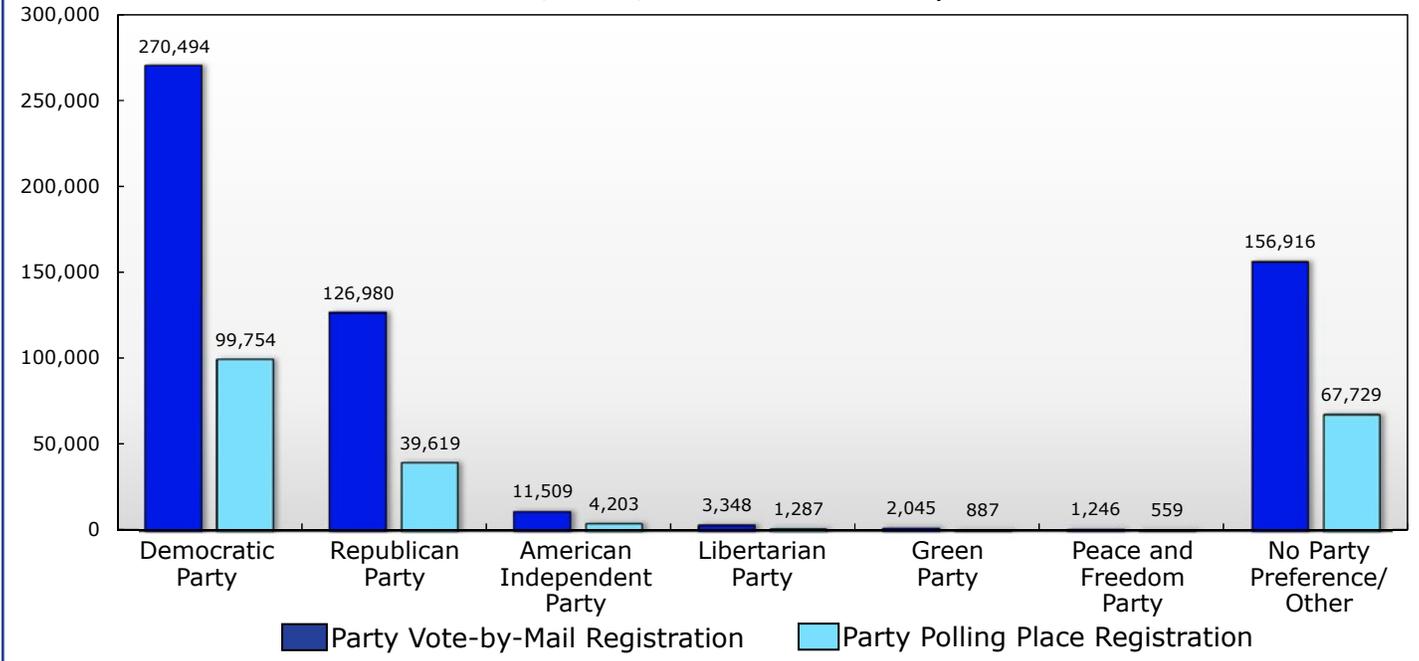
### Vote-by-Mail Registration by Party June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election



In Santa Clara County, the political parties with the highest percentage of vote-by-mail voters are the Republican (75.9%) and American Independent (72.9%) parties. The political parties with

the lowest percentage of vote-by-mail voters are the Peace and Freedom (68.6%) and Green parties (68.8%). Of voters without a party preference, 69.4% are registered to vote by mail.

## Party Registration by Type June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election



### Voter Registration by City and Party

	Democratic	Republican	American Independent	Green	Libertarian	Peace and Freedom	No Party/Other	Total
Campbell	9,856	4,750	511	108	172	41	5,517	20,955
Cupertino	10,355	4,954	351	70	99	18	10,624	26,471
Gilroy	10,120	5,217	554	73	124	58	4,651	20,797
Los Altos	8,297	5,053	271	63	106	16	4,973	18,779
Los Altos Hills	2,000	1,718	95	15	33	4	1,587	5,452
Los Gatos	7,763	5,492	438	71	122	25	4,363	18,274
Milpitas	11,245	4,718	496	67	100	81	8,965	25,672
Monte Sereno	893	829	55	3	11	0	530	2,321
Morgan Hill	8,360	6,370	621	74	146	33	4,654	20,258
Mountain View	16,902	4,826	514	172	225	40	9,992	32,671
Palo Alto	19,905	5,307	394	194	178	27	10,498	36,506
San Jose	192,678	82,902	8,474	1,463	2,314	1,184	113,970	402,985
Santa Clara	21,818	8,656	902	162	282	90	13,449	45,359
Saratoga	6,847	5,528	275	41	80	19	6,013	18,798
Sunnyvale	25,536	10,178	905	208	365	90	17,340	54,622
Unincorporated	17,586	10,106	856	148	278	79	9,090	38,143
<b>Total</b>	<b>370,161</b>	<b>166,599</b>	<b>15,712</b>	<b>2,932</b>	<b>4,635</b>	<b>1,805</b>	<b>226,216</b>	<b>788,063</b>

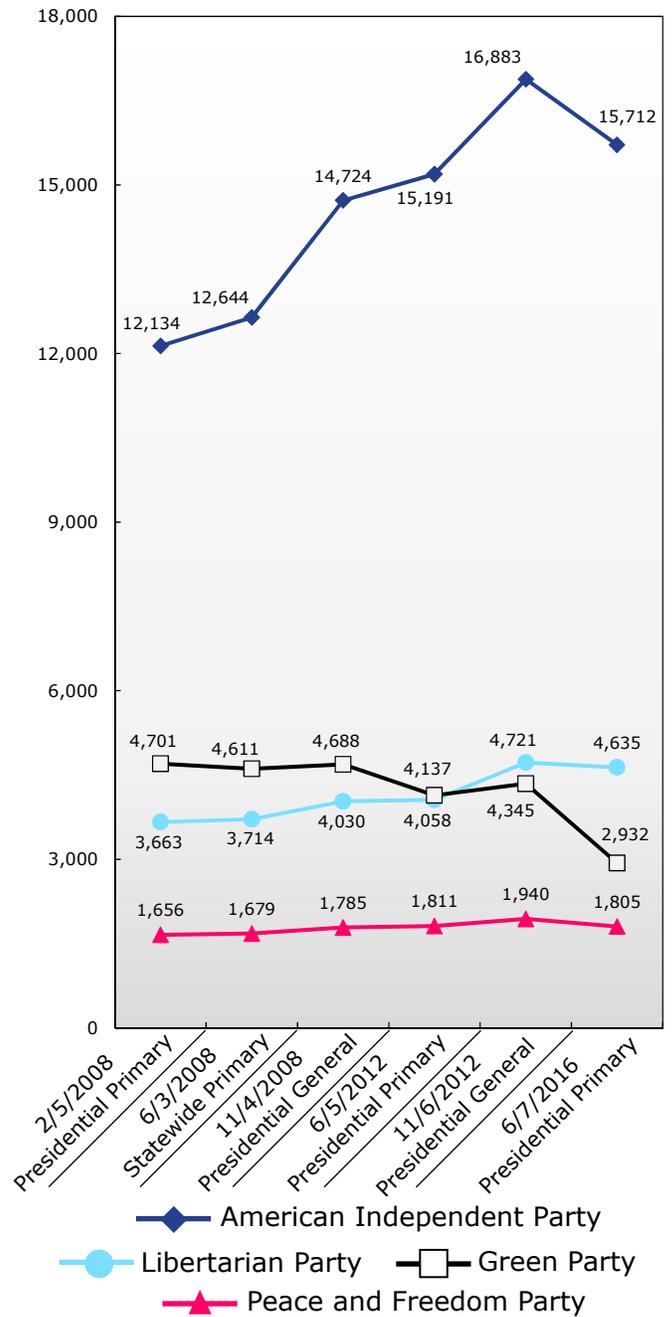
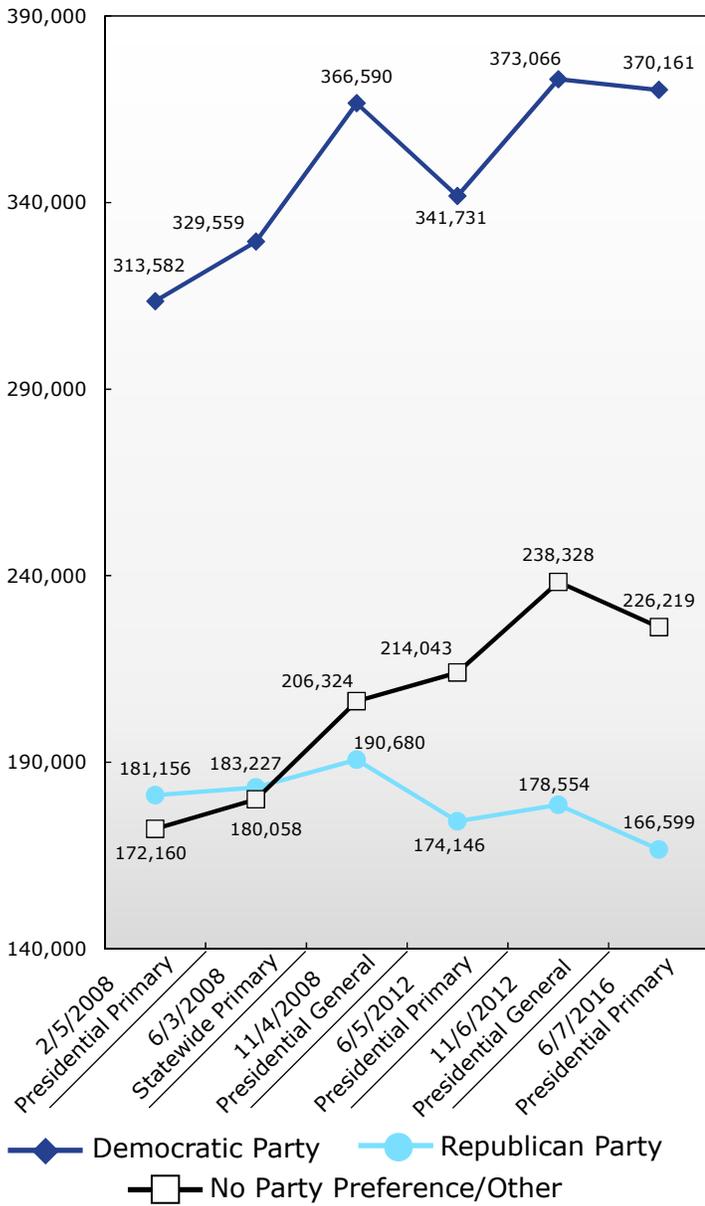
Santa Clara County has only two cities where the majority of voters belong to one political party – in both cases the Democratic Party – Palo Alto (nearly 55% Democratic) and Mountain View (nearly 52% Democratic). In every municipality except Cupertino, there are more Democratic voters than voters of any other party preference, but no party has a majority. In the City of Cupertino, No Party Preference voters outpaced Democratic voters by 1 percentage point (40.1% to 39.1%). The last statewide election in which Republican voters outnumbered Democratic voters in a city or town was the June 2012 Presidential Primary, when there were 903 registered Republicans to 892 registered Democrats in the City of Monte Sereno.

### Top 3 Cities with Largest Percentage of Party Preference

Democratic	Republican	American Independent	Green	Libertarian	Peace and Freedom	No Party/Other
Palo Alto	Monte Sereno	Morgan Hill	Palo Alto	Campbell	Milpitas	Cupertino
Mountain View	Los Altos Hills	Gilroy	Mountain View	Unincorporated	San Jose	Milpitas
Gilroy	Morgan Hill	Campbell	Campbell	Morgan Hill	Gilroy	Saratoga

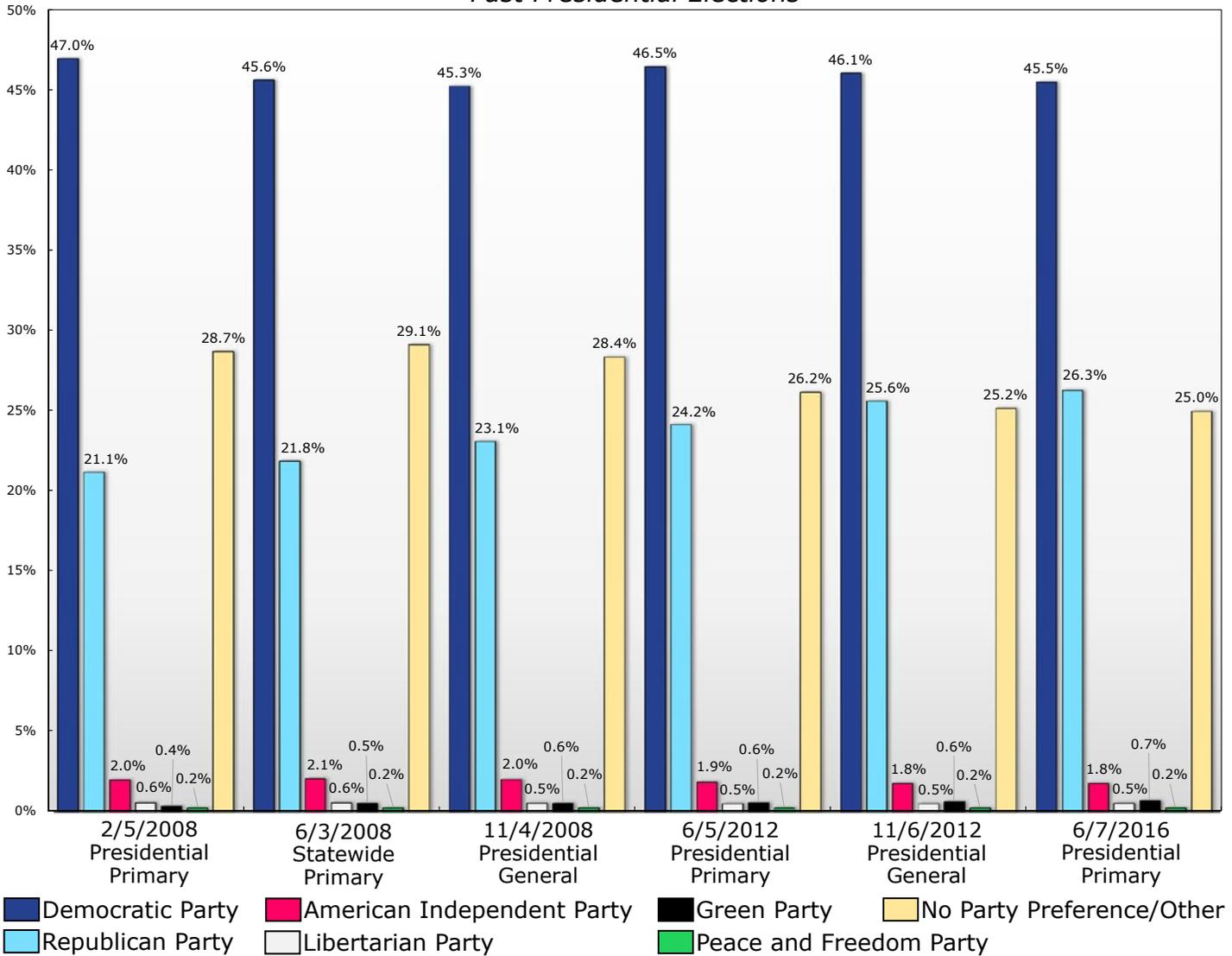
Palo Alto has the largest percentages of Democratic and Green party voters, while Monte Sereno has the largest proportion of Republican voters.

## Party Registration Past Presidential Elections



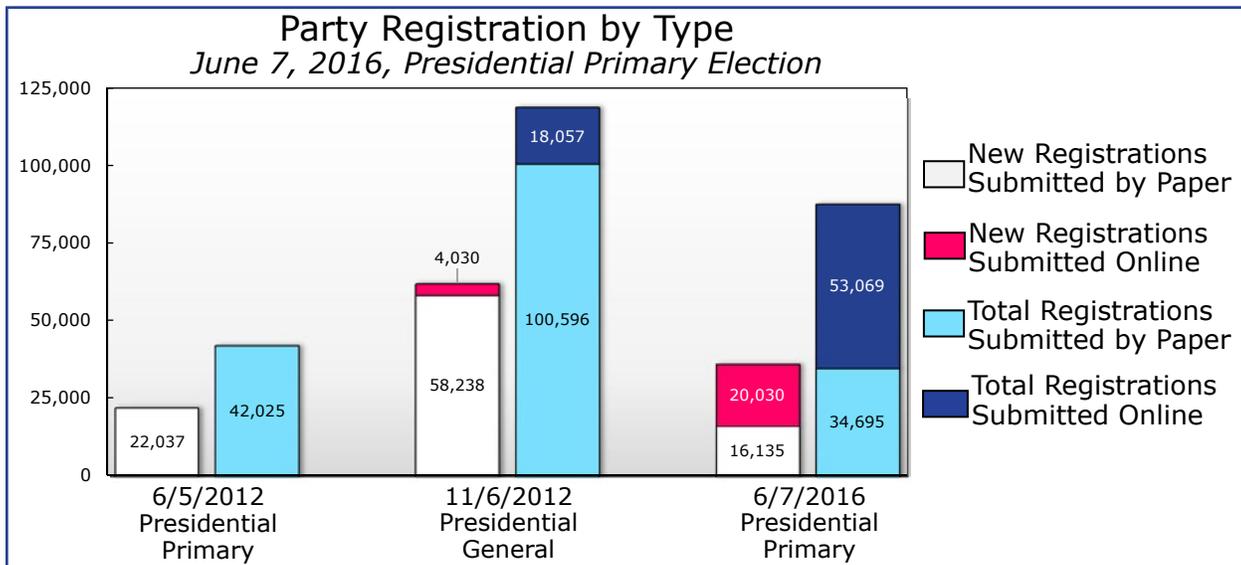
Since 2008, the greatest growth in political party preference in Santa Clara County is in fact for no party preference. During this time the Democratic Party has gained registrants, while the Republican Party has lost registrants. In terms of smaller parties, the American Independent and Libertarian parties have seen increases in county voter registration since 2008, while registration in the Green Party has declined. Registration in the Peace and Freedom Party has grown slightly in the county since 2008.

## % Registration by Party *Past Presidential Elections*



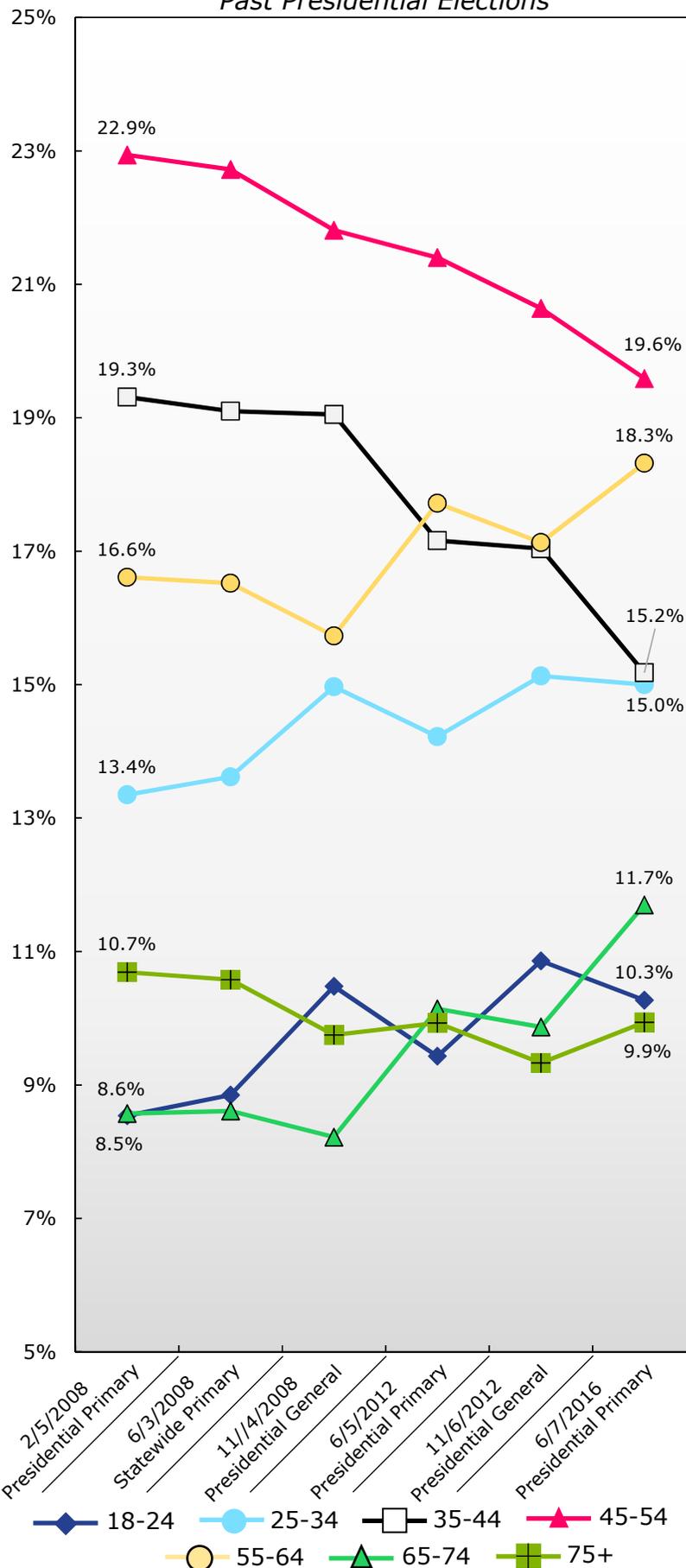
Like voter registration overall, party registration changes each election as voters' political alignments shift or as voters opt to re-register with another party in order to take part in that party's primary elections. The registration for the smaller parties has

held relatively steady over the past eight years. Since 2012, the number of voters registered with the Democratic Party has been double the number of voters registered with the Republican Party, and the gap widened in 2016.



Since first being accepted in 2012, online new registrations and registration updates accounted for 60.5% of all submissions received in the six months prior to for the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election.

## % Registration by Age Group Past Presidential Elections

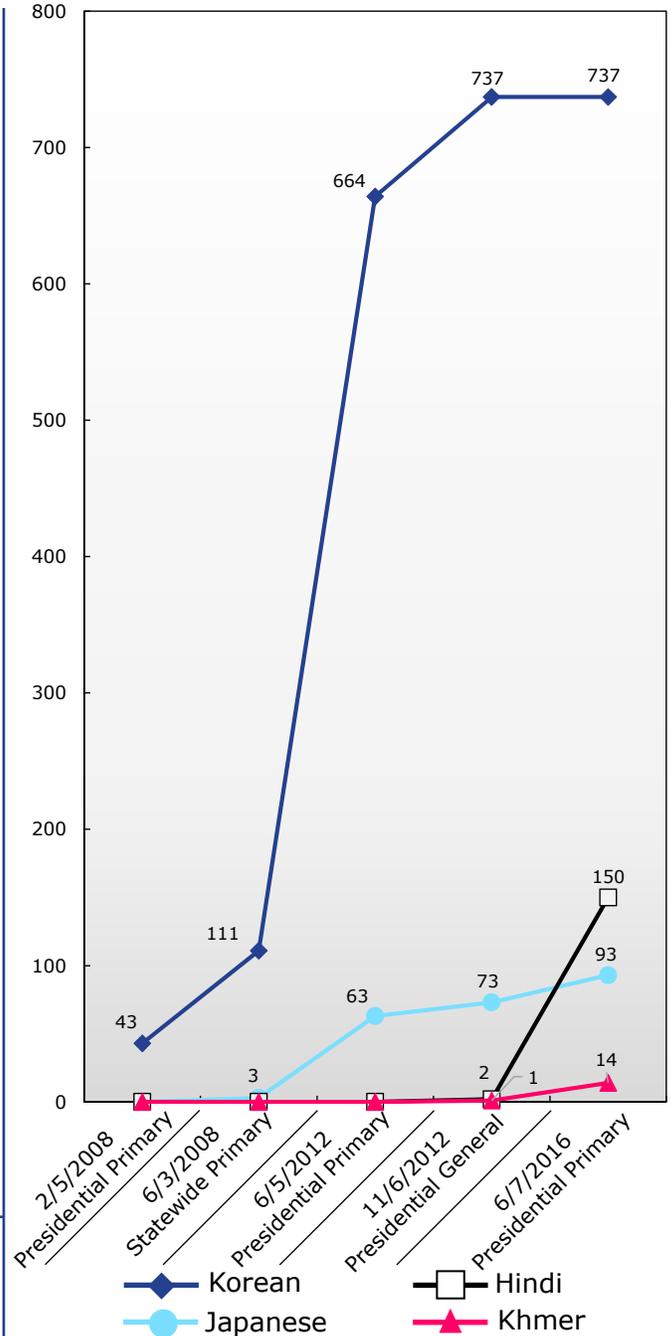
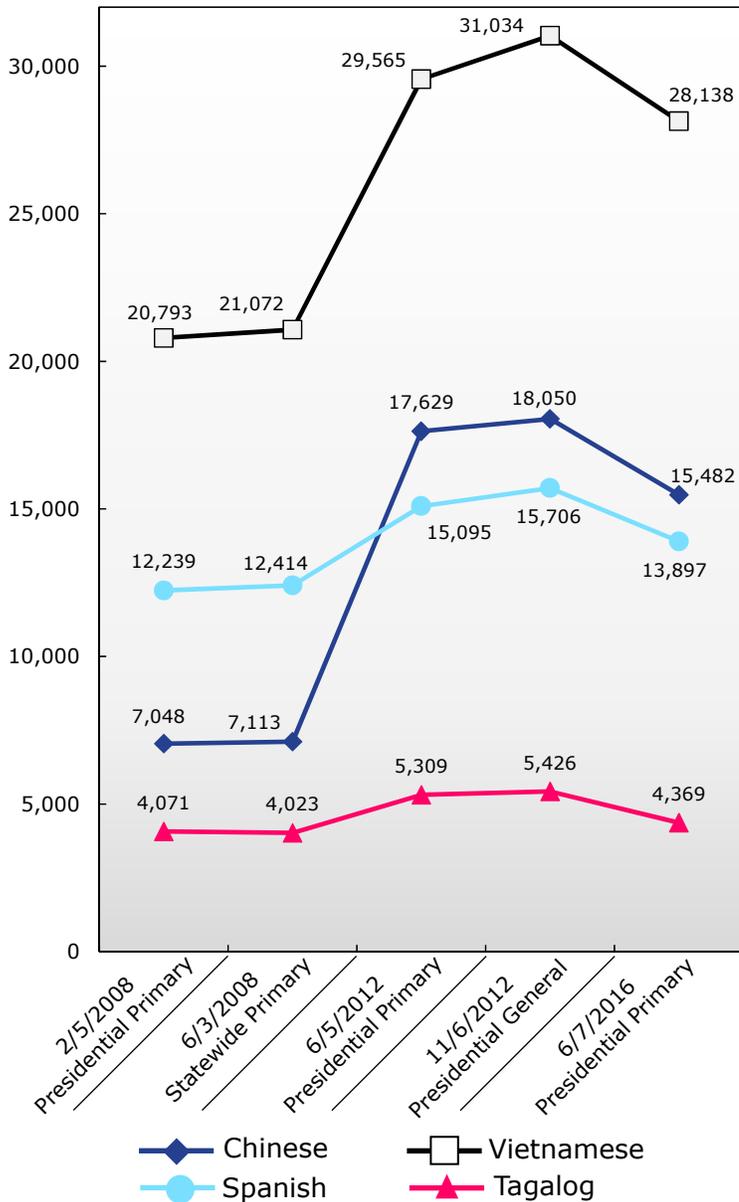


Over the past eight years, voters in the 65-74 age group have seen the largest gains in registration, while voters in the 35-44 age group saw the biggest drop.

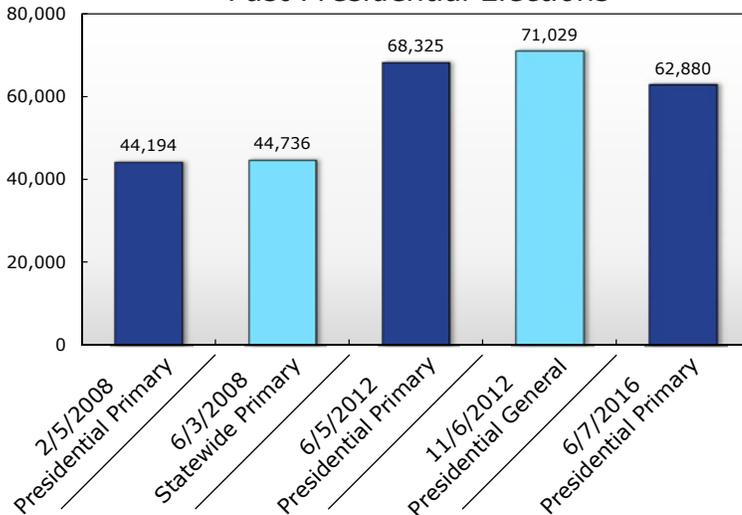


In order to participate in a given election, an eligible voter must be registered no later than 15 days prior to Election Day. Eligible voters can register online, by mail, or in person at the Registrar of Voters' office.

## Language Requests by Language Past Presidential Elections



## Total Language Requests Past Presidential Elections



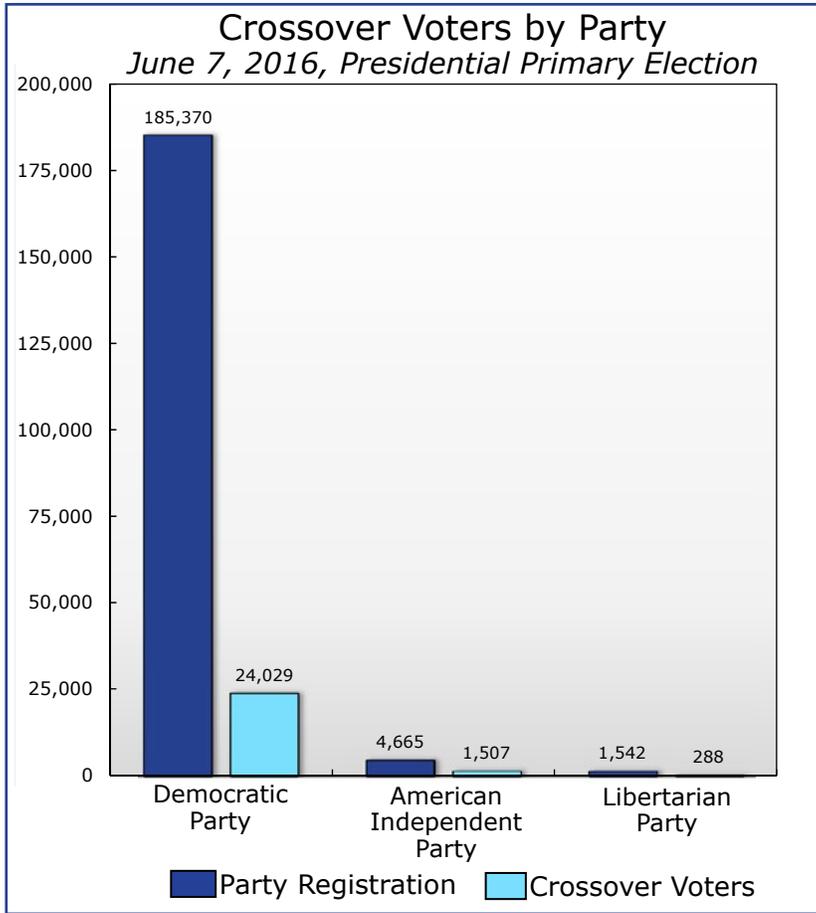
Santa Clara County is one of the most diverse counties in California. When a sizable portion of the population speaks a specific language according to the U.S. census, the Registrar of Voters (ROV) offers that language as an option for ballots in all elections. Since the previous presidential primary in 2012, Hindi has become the fastest growing language preference.

### FAQ

**Q:** In what languages can voters receive election materials?

**A:** All voters receive ballots and Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlets in English. Voters may also request these materials in Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, or Vietnamese. Additionally, the ROV provides facsimile ballots in Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, and Korean.

# Crossover Voters



The Democratic, American Independent, and Libertarian parties were the only parties to allow California No Party Preference voters to vote for their parties' presidential candidates in the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election. The last election in which the Republican Party allowed No Party Preference voters to vote for their candidates was the June 2008 Statewide Primary, though the party did not allow No Party Preference voters to cross over to vote for Republican presidential candidates in the February 2008 Presidential Primary. Below are guidelines regarding crossover voting in this election.

**DID YOU RECEIVE A PARTY BALLOT THAT YOU WERE NOT EXPECTING?**

**HERE ARE YOUR OPTIONS:**

- Re-register to vote as "No Party Preference" if you do not want to be affiliated with a political party.
- Re-register to vote with the political party of your choice. Only voters who are registered with the Republican, Green, or Peace & Freedom parties can vote for those parties' presidential candidates.
- You must re-register to vote by Monday, May 23! Online registration accepted until midnight!

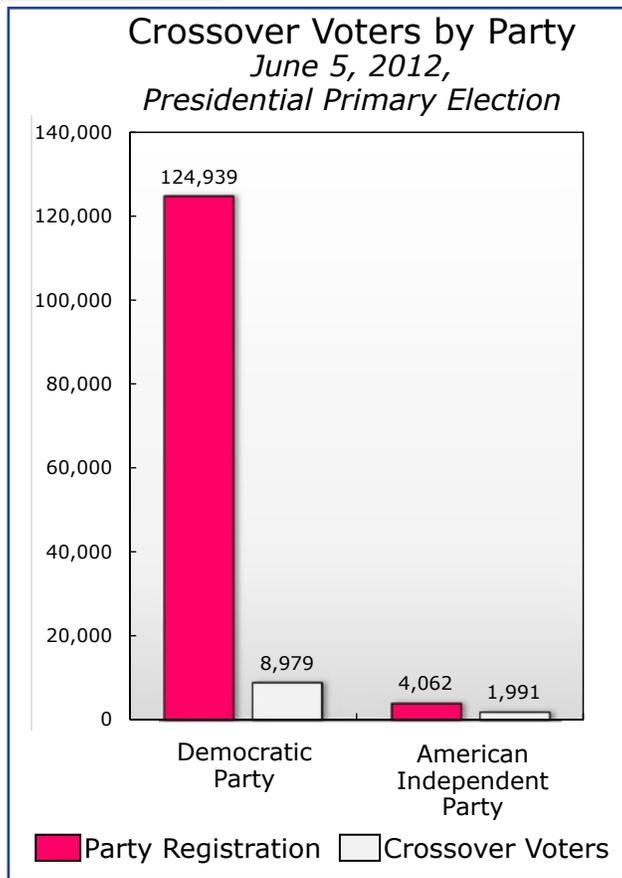
"No Party Preference" voters can vote for the presidential candidate of the Democratic, American Independent, or Libertarian parties by requesting a "crossover" ballot when they vote.

**D**uring a presidential primary election, usually only voters registered with a specific party can vote in that party's presidential nominating contest. Voters who are registered without a party preference may only vote in a party's presidential contest if that party's rules allow it. Nonpartisan voters who vote in a party's presidential contest are called crossover voters. For the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, only the Democratic, American Independent, and Libertarian parties allowed **crossover voting**.

## FAQ

**Q:** What is **crossover voting**?

**A:** **Crossover voting** is when a voter casts a ballot for a party with which they are not traditionally affiliated. In California, only voters without a party preference may cross over to vote a party ballot in a presidential primary election. These voters retain their No Party Preference status after the election. Voters wishing to vote a different party ballot either need to re-register with that party, or else change their registration to No Party Preference.



For the 2012 presidential primary, only the Democratic and American Independent parties allowed crossover voters.

# Voter Outreach and Communication

## Voter Outreach Events

Date	Event
4/2	Cesar Chavez 13th Annual Celebration
4/3	Our Lady of Refuge
4/4	Lions Student Speaker Contest
4/4	Wilcox High School Assembly
4/9	Tagalog Election Officer Get Together
4/10	St. Maria Goretti Church
4/13	SJ Job Corps
4/13	Boards and Commissions Workshop
4/14	City of San Jose District 6 Candidate Forum
4/17	Philippine Consular
4/18	City of San Jose Candidate Forum
4/18	Del Mar High School Parent Teacher Meeting
4/20	Employee Programs Professional Network Association Mixer
4/23	Cherry Blossom Festival
4/24	Our Lady of Guadalupe
4/24	Most Holy Trinity Church
4/24	Cherry Blossom Festival
4/25	Indian Health Center
4/28	Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission Free Public Film Viewing
4/30	De Anza College Student Parent Open House
4/30	Earth Day Festival
5/3	Youth Action Council Meeting
5/7	Berryessa Art and Wine Festival
5/11	The Foundation for Hispanic Education
5/11	San Jose Earthquakes Mexican Heritage Night
5/12	LinkedIn San Jose State University Latino Alumni Night
5/14	Stanford Silicon Valley Latino Summit
5/15	Fiesta del Pueblo
5/15	Silicon Valley Bicycle Show
5/16	City of San Jose District 6 Candidate Forum
5/20	San Jose Job Corps
5/20	San Jose Youth Commission
5/20	Santa Clara County Office of Education Foster Youth Summit
5/21	Armed Forces Day

The ROV publicized voting and election officer opportunities for the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election by running an extensive advertising campaign that reached over 2 million people through advertisements on television, radio, mass transit, and online and social media outlets, as well as in local newspapers. This was the first time the ROV advertised in some of these media outlets. The campaign targeted major local media outlets in seven languages and featured ad placements in the student newspapers of the county's three largest universities.

The power to vote is only effective if it is wielded. Prior to any election, the Registrar of Voters' office (ROV) seeks to help empower voters by conducting outreach events to register new voters, informing voters of new voting procedures, connecting with voters through social media, and providing information on the ROV website.

In addition to attending naturalization ceremonies to provide new citizens with voting information in multiple languages, the ROV partners with community groups at various events throughout the year to perform outreach and present information about voting in Santa Clara County. In the weeks leading up to the deadline to register to vote in the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, the ROV conducted the more than 32 voter outreach events listed at left, many of which were intended to help register voters from communities with historically low registration numbers.

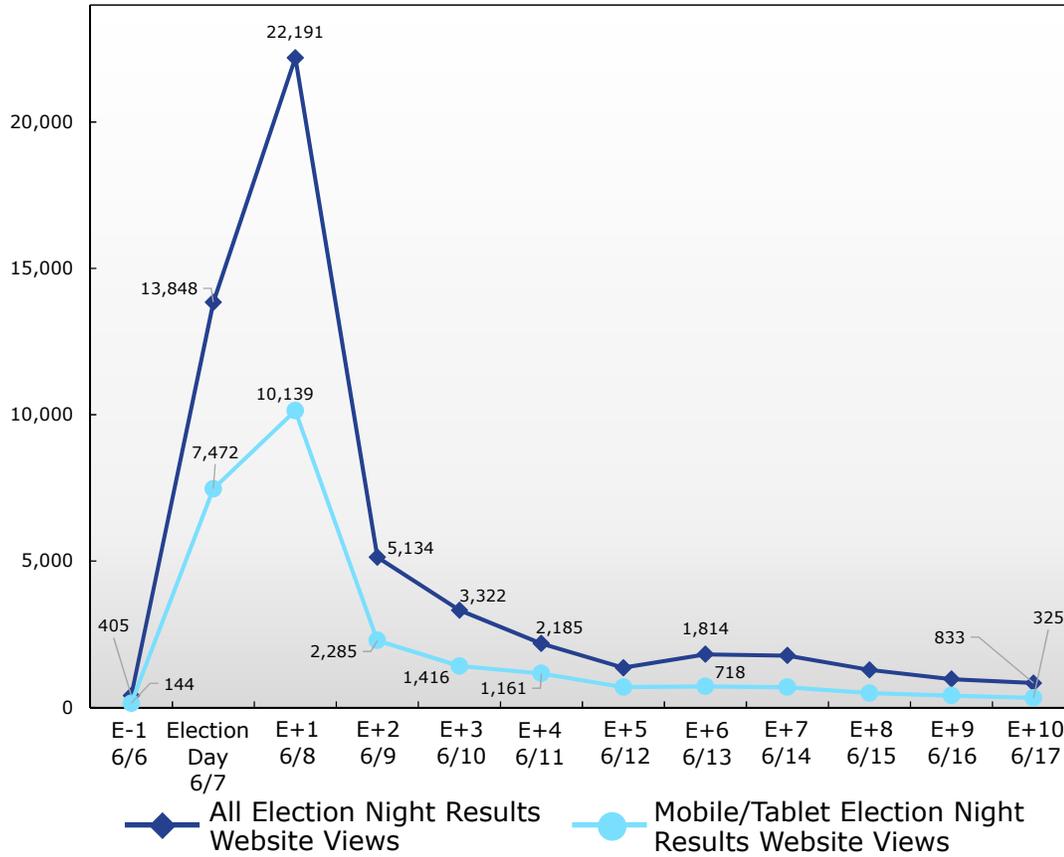


Registrar of Voters staff members prepare to register new U.S. citizens at a naturalization ceremony.

## Election Advertising Campaign

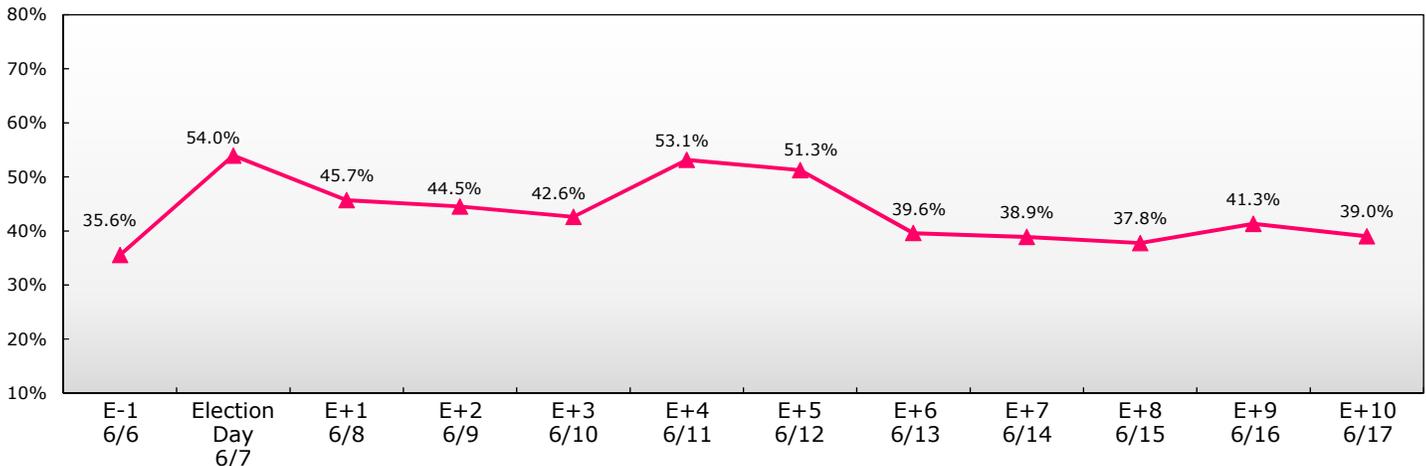
Element	Impact
Duration	2 months leading up to the election
Languages	7 – Chinese, English, Korean, Japanese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese
No. of Print Placements	110 print ads
No. of Mass Transit Placements	90 bus and light rail ads
Total No. of Ad Placements	Over 400
Total Cost	\$150,000
Total Reach	Over 2 million people
Cost per Person Reached	About 7 cents
Media Placements	Comcast, Facebook, Gilroy Dispatch, I Heart Media, KBAY, KEZR, KFOX, The Korea Times, The Mercury News, Metro News, Morgan Hill Times, El Observador, Philippine News, Celina Rodriguez (1370 AM/93.7 FM), The Santa Clara (Santa Clara University), Sing Tao, Sound of Hope, Spartan Daily (San Jose State University), Stanford Daily (Stanford University), Twitter, U-Verse, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), Vien Thao, Viet Nam, World Journal

### Election Night Results Website Views by Day June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election



Election results are reported on the Registrar of Voters' (ROV) website beginning when the polls close at 8 p.m. on Election Day. The results page is usually updated every 45 minutes until the Registrar of Voters' office receives all voted ballots and supplies from polling places, then updated once or twice a day every day after Election Day until all vote tallying is complete and the election results are certified.

### % Mobile/Tablet Election Night Results Website Views by Day June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election



⏪ **Precincts Completely Reported: 932 of 932** ⏩

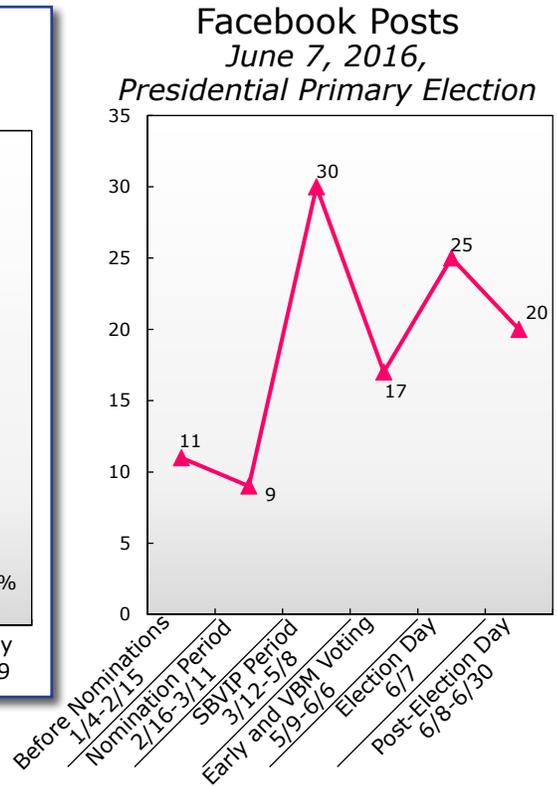
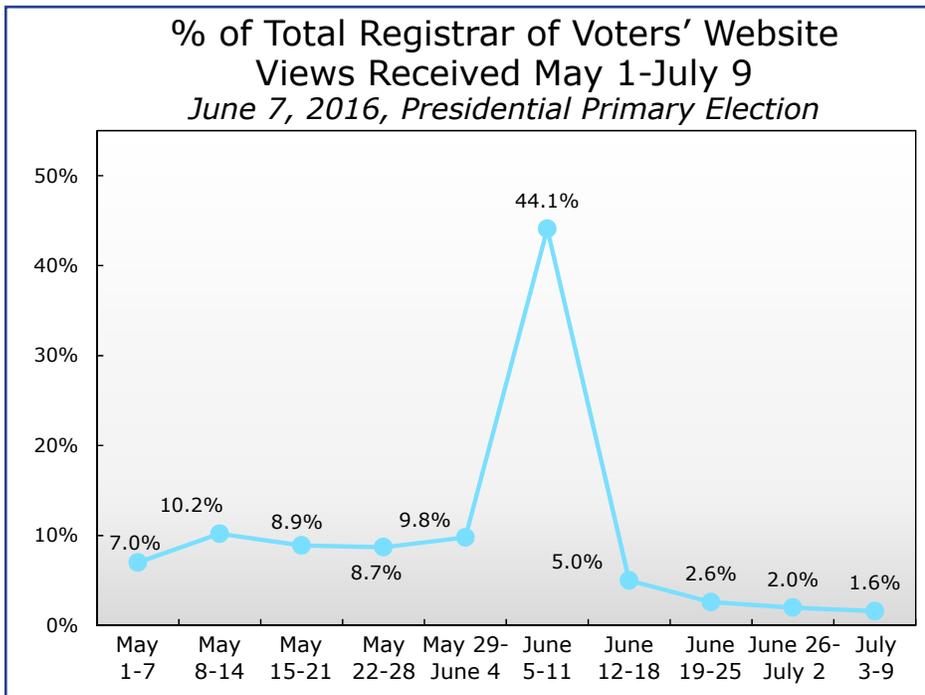
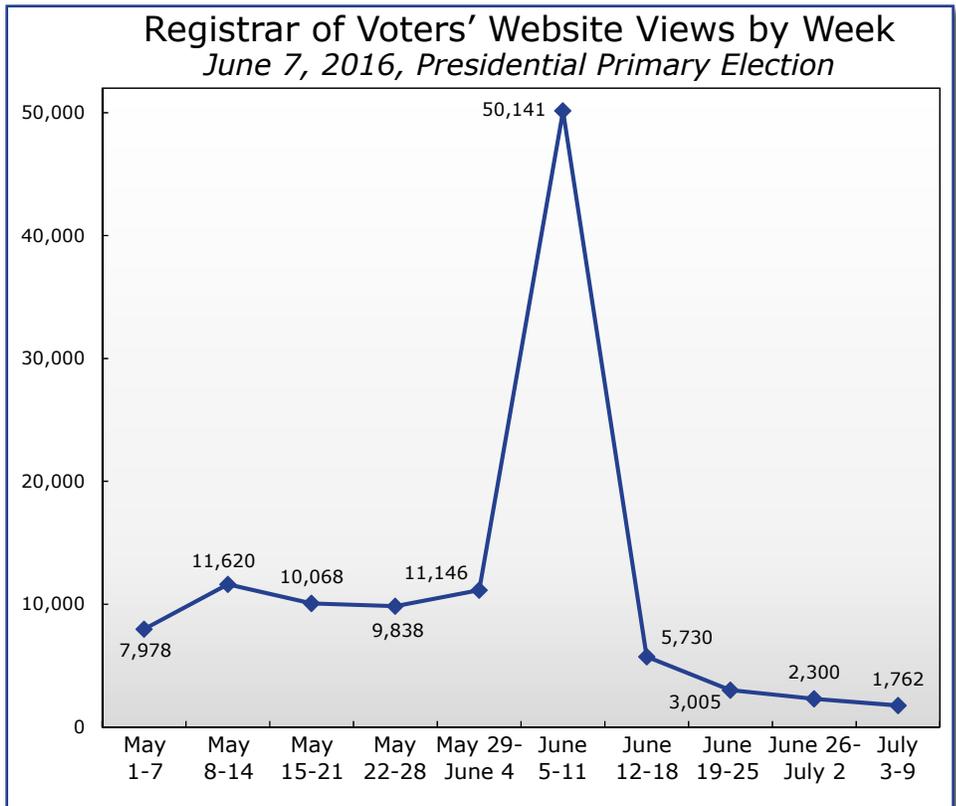
**OFFICIAL FINAL RESULTS**



**BALLOT COUNTING PROGRESS (ESTIMATED): 100%\***

\*Based on estimated total ballots expected to be cast, including ballots that will be counted after Election Day. Polling place and early Vote by Mail ballots are counted on Election Night. Last-minute Vote by Mail ballots and provisional ballots are counted after Election Day. Actual number of ballots cast is not known until counting is completed. [Learn more about counting ballots.](#)

In the months and weeks before a countywide election, the Registrar of Voters (ROV) updates its website to include information for voters about how to find their polling place, their Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet, and the nearest early voting or ballot drop-off locations. The ROV website also provides filing information for candidates, posts events on its calendar, and highlights volunteer opportunities as Election Day approaches. After Election Day, voters can track the status of their vote-by-mail or provisional ballot and access updated election results. Over 44% of website views between May 1 and the certification of election results occurred during the week of Election Day, when viewers could check in to see which candidates and ballot measures would be likely to win.



## FAQ

**Q:** How do I connect with the Registrar of Voters?

**A:** Connect with the Registrar of Voters:

Online: [www.sccvote.org](http://www.sccvote.org)

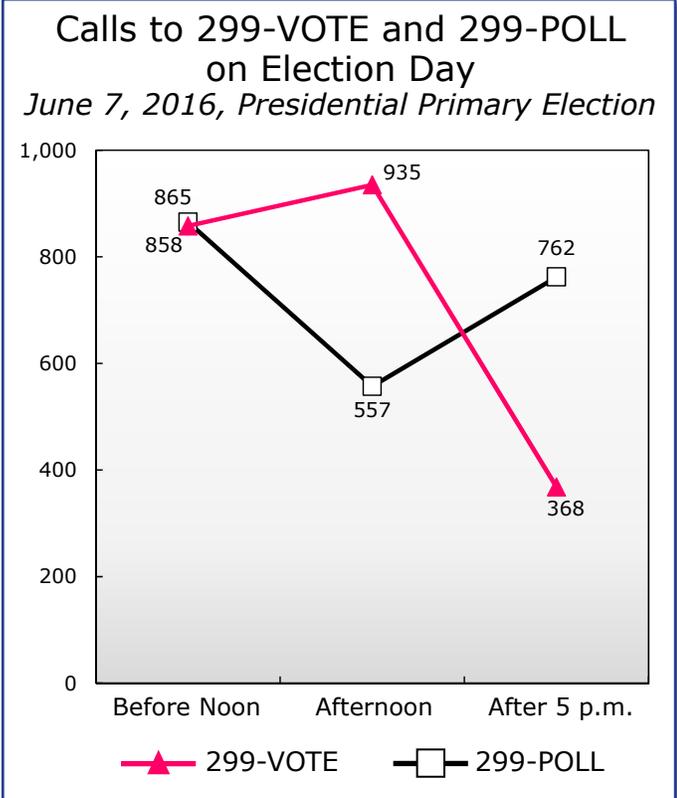
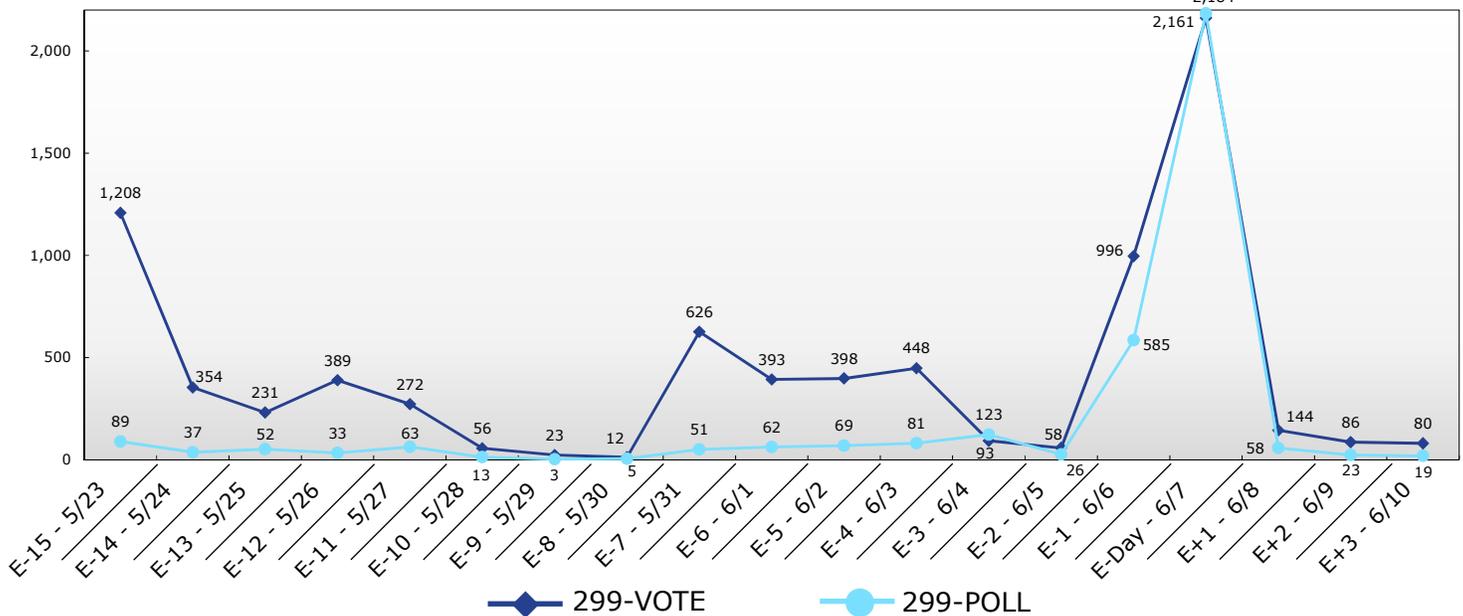
On Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sccvote](http://www.facebook.com/sccvote)

On Twitter: [twitter.com/sccvote](http://twitter.com/sccvote)

On YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/sccvote](http://www.youtube.com/user/sccvote)

As deadlines for an election approach, the ROV ramps up voter outreach, especially on social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. The ROV engages voters on a number of issues – ranging from new voting laws to election-related issues in the news – all year round, but the numbers noted on the graphs above reflect only the posts specific to the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election.

## Phone Calls to 299-VOTE and 299-POLL June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election



Voters often call 299-VOTE prior to or early on Election Day to ask questions about their polling place or registration status. For example, the Registrar of Voters (ROV) received over 1,000 calls to 299-VOTE on May 23 (E-15), the deadline to register in the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election. As Election Day winds down, most calls received are calls to 299-POLL. Election officers call 299-POLL when confirming polling places are set up the day before Election Day, when polling places are open for voters on Election Day morning, and throughout Election Day to provide the Registrar's office with updates regarding closing the polls and meeting various deadlines.

### FAQ

**Q:** How does the Registrar of Voters handle all of those calls?

**A:** Like all ROV equipment used on Election Day, the phone system goes through a rigorous stress test prior to the election to ensure that it can handle large volumes of calls. To test the system, the County telecommunications department made hundreds of calls to the phone numbers simultaneously, and ROV staff members tested connecting each of those calls. Like all technology, the phone system can still occasionally experience difficulties during peak calling hours, but conducting a stress test like this alerts the ROV's telecommunications experts to potential issues and helps them know how to fix issues that arise.

### FAQ

**Q:** What is the difference between **299-VOTE** and **299-POLL**?

**A:** 1-408-299-VOTE is primarily used by voters who have questions about their polling place, registration, or other issues. 1-408-299-POLL is primarily for election officers to alert the Registrar of Voters about polling place issues, such as the need for additional ballots or replacement equipment.

# Election Officers

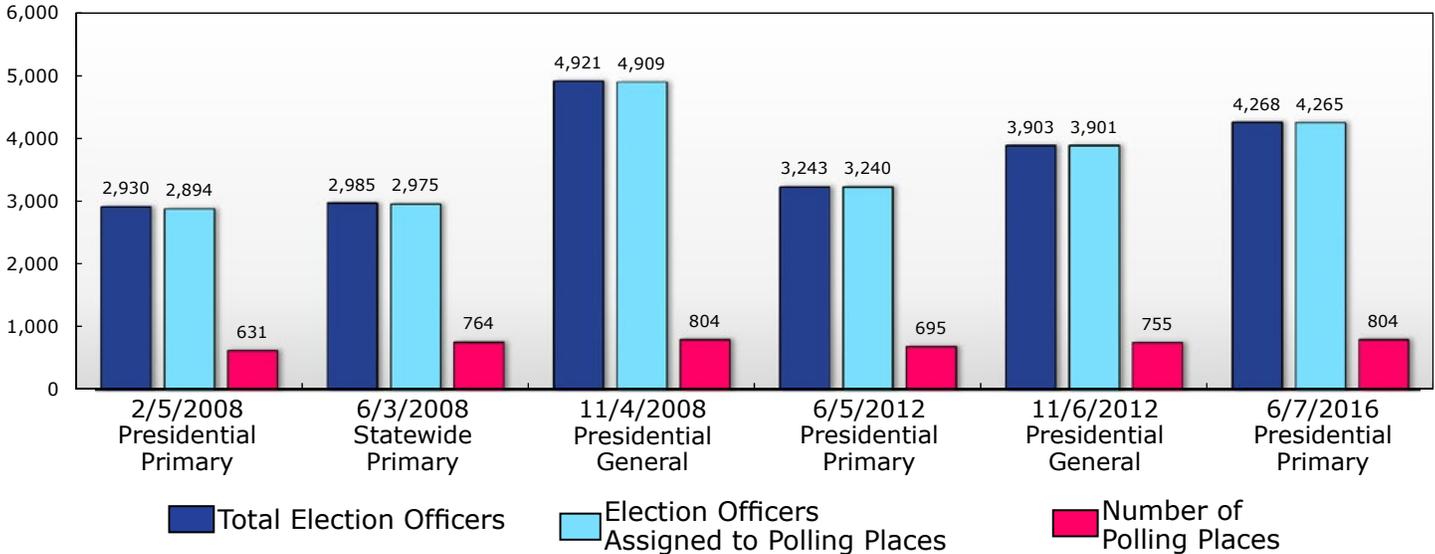
Election officers are volunteers who serve many functions at the Registrar of Voters (ROV). In addition to checking in voters at polling places, election officers also help return ballots and supplies to the ROV's office on Election Day, prepare the ballots for tallying, sort provisional and vote-by-mail ballots, and answer phone calls from voters and other election officers. State and federal laws require certain election officers to be bilingual, which can make recruiting difficult when less widely spoken languages are needed.

## FAQ

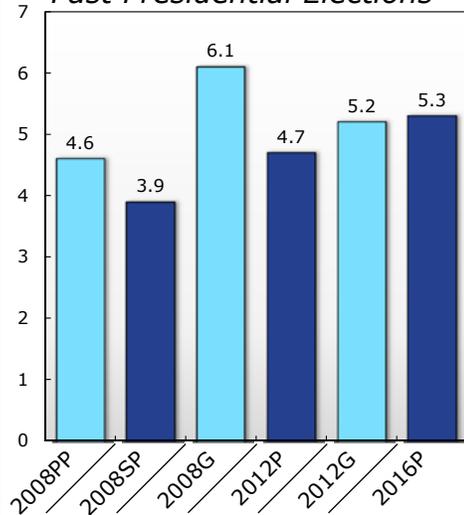
**Q:** What are the requirements to be an election officer?

**A:** For the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, election officers were required to be at least 18 years of age and either a registered voter (U.S. citizen) or a legal permanent resident. Students who were at least 16 years of age, a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident, and who had a GPA of 2.5 or higher could serve as student election officers.

## Election Officers Past Presidential Elections



## Average Election Officers per Polling Place Past Presidential Elections



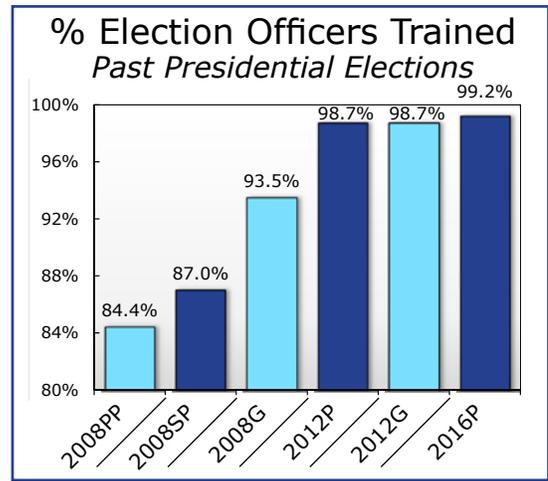
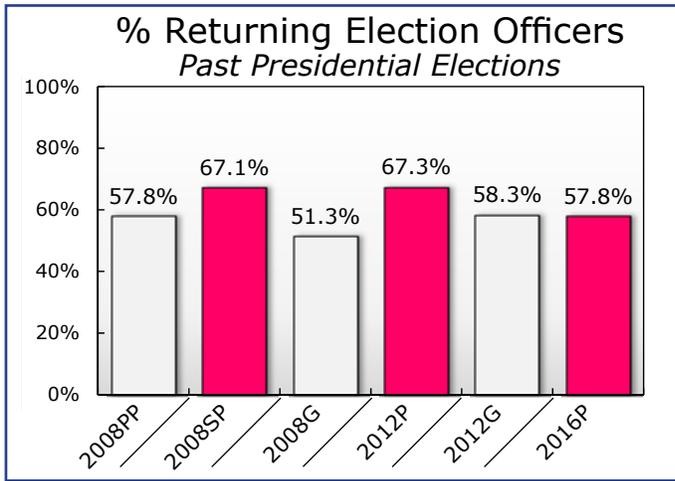
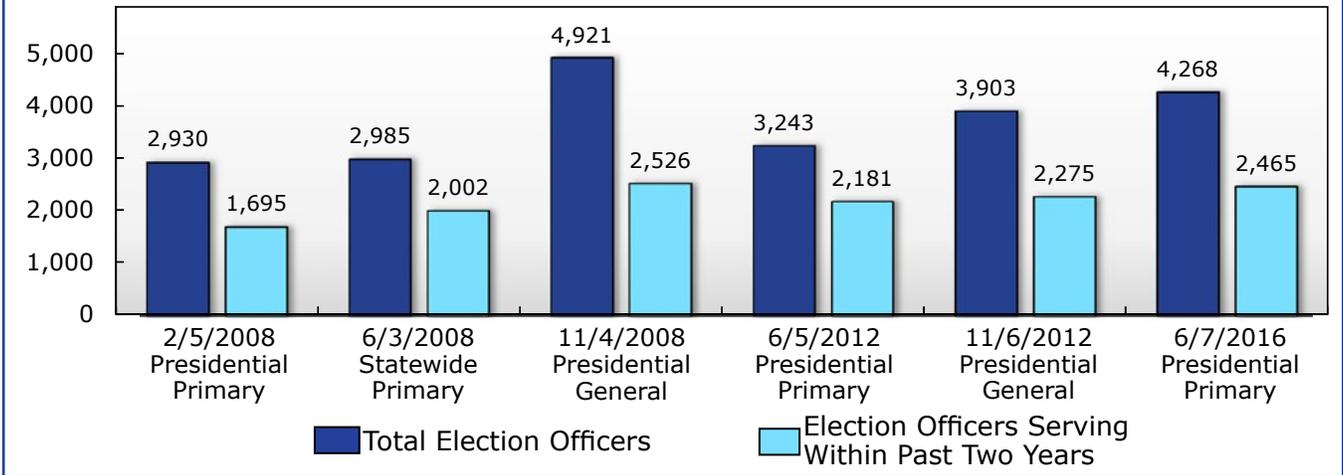
**2008PP** - 2/5/2008 Presidential Primary  
**2008SP** - 6/3/2008 Statewide Primary  
**2008G** - 11/4/2008 Presidential General  
**2012P** - 6/5/2012 Presidential Primary  
**2012G** - 11/6/2012 Presidential General  
**2016P** - 6/7/2016 Presidential Primary

Depending on projected voter turnout, the ROV usually seeks to assign five or more election officers per polling place in statewide elections. Each polling place must be sufficiently staffed in order to process voters efficiently, provide targeted language assistance, maintain security over the ballots, and ensure that all procedures for opening and closing the polls are followed. The ROV also recruits standby election officers who may be called upon to replace election officers who cannot work the entire day as planned.



Standby election officers await assignment to a polling place.

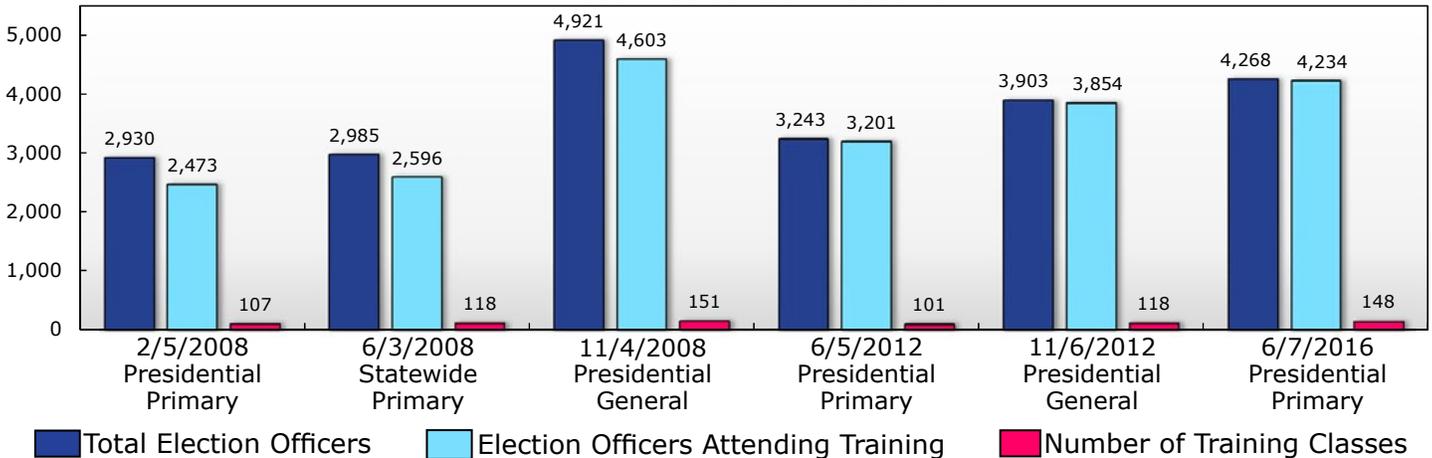
### Returning Election Officers Past Presidential Elections



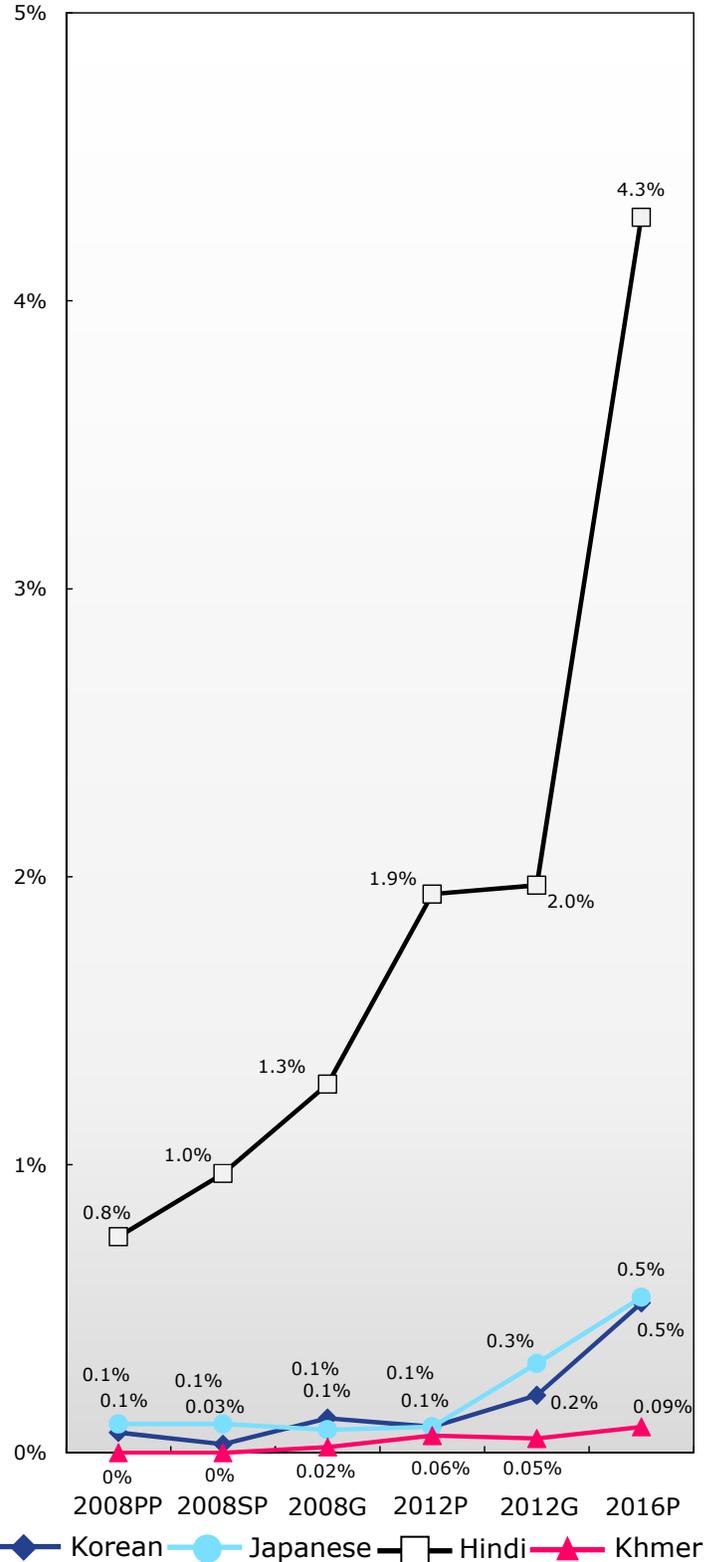
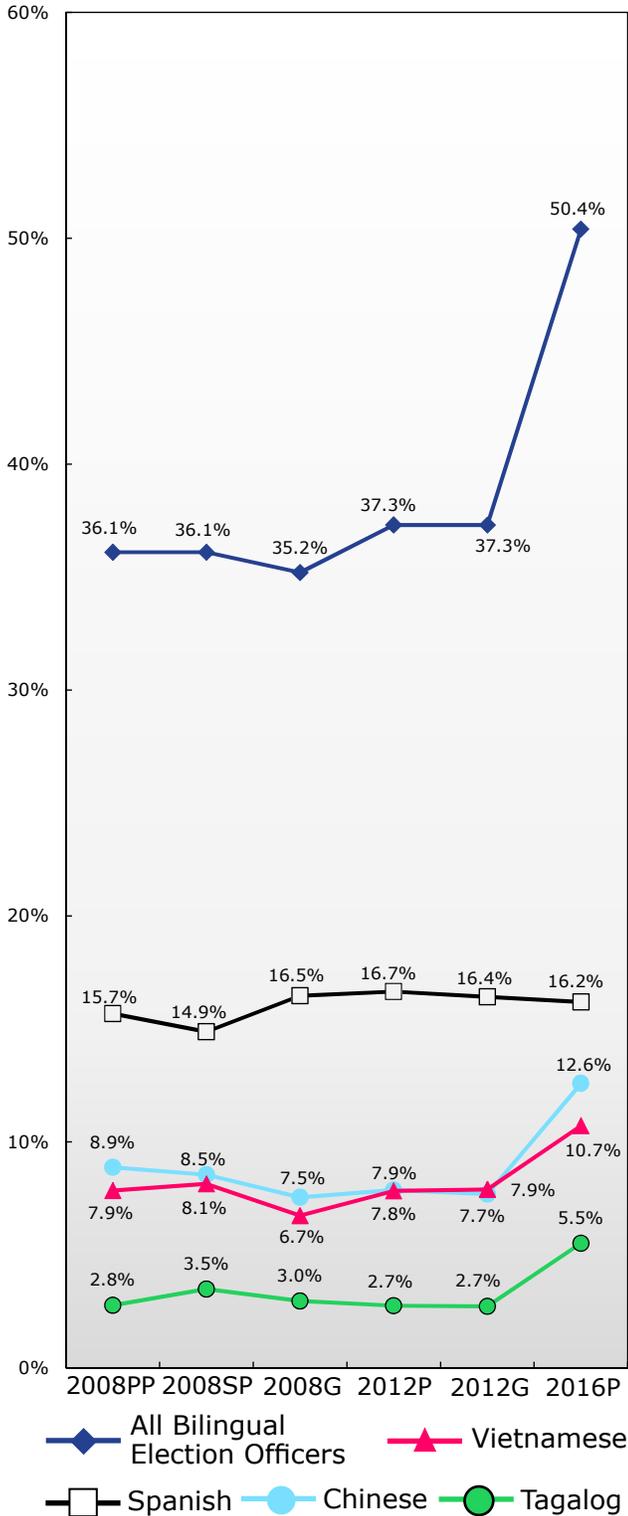
Having more election officers assigned to polling places usually means that a higher percentage of those officers have never served at the polls before. Even when election officers have served in prior elections, training is extremely important. Election laws regularly change from year to year, and election procedures may need to be updated depending on the election's contests. Therefore, the Registrar of Voters sets a goal of having as many election officers as possible attending training prior to Election Day.

**2008PP** - 2/5/2008 Presidential Primary  
**2008SP** - 6/3/2008 Statewide Primary  
**2008G** - 11/4/2008 Presidential General  
**2012P** - 6/5/2012 Presidential Primary  
**2012G** - 11/6/2012 Presidential General  
**2016P** - 6/7/2016 Presidential Primary

### Election Officer Training Past Presidential Elections

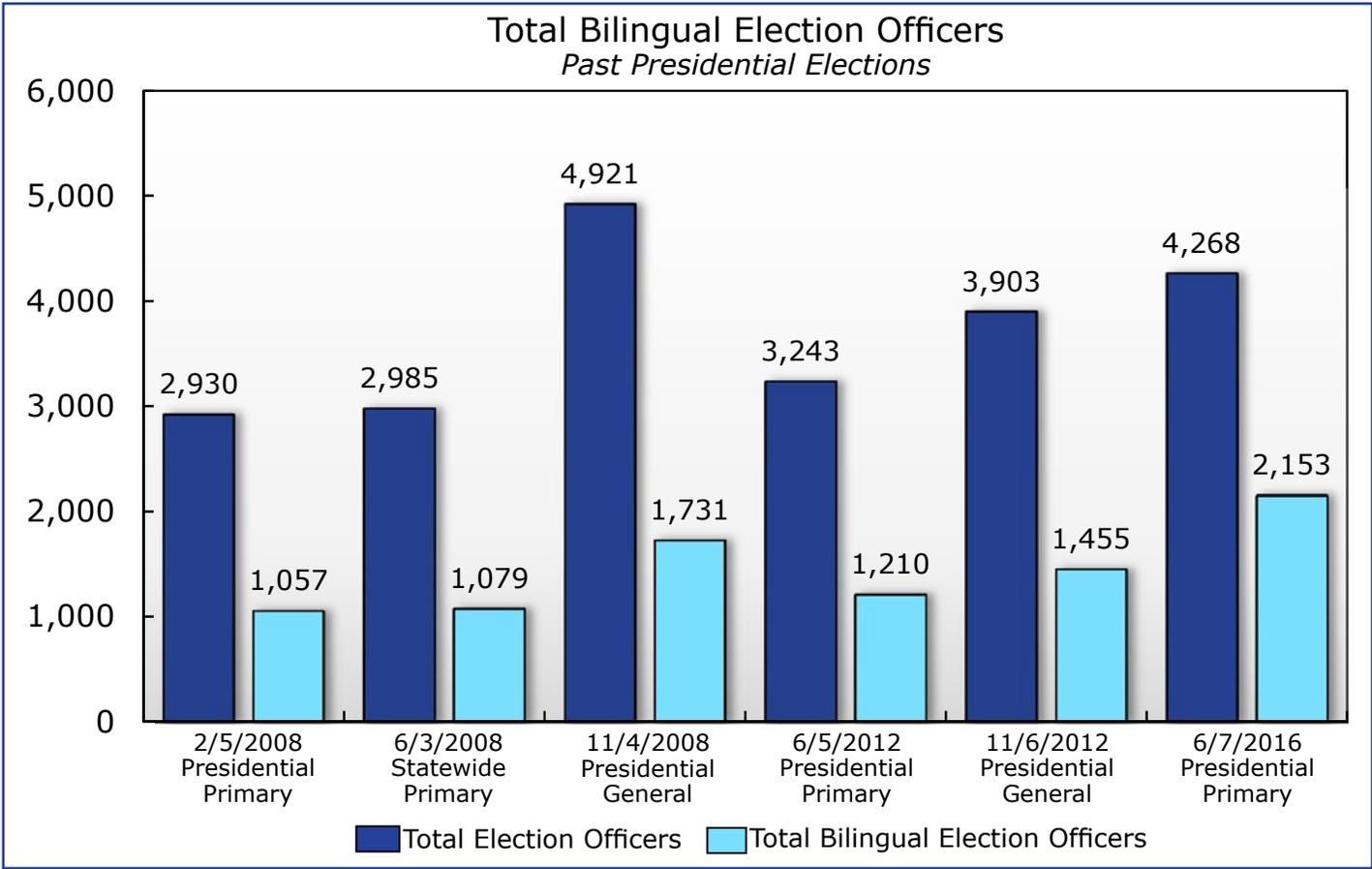


## % Bilingual Election Officers by Language Spoken Past Presidential Elections

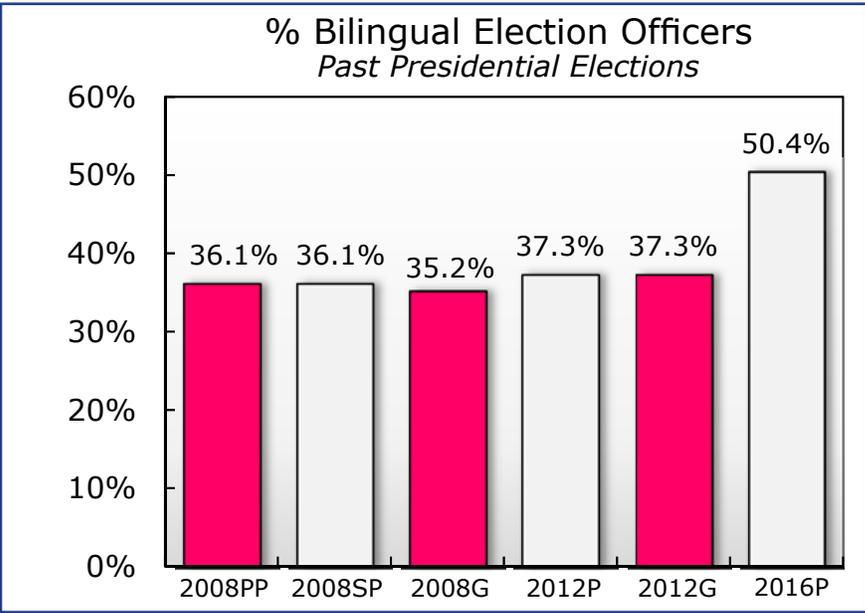


The June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election marks the first presidential primary election in which more than half the election officers were bilingual. Over the past eight years, Hindi saw the largest percentage jump in demand for bilingual speakers, with Chinese, Vietnamese, and Tagalog close behind. Spanish, however, has remained relatively constant.

**2008PP** - 2/5/2008 Presidential Primary  
**2008SP** - 6/3/2008 Statewide Primary  
**2008G** - 11/4/2008 Presidential General  
**2012P** - 6/5/2012 Presidential Primary  
**2012G** - 11/6/2012 Presidential General  
**2016P** - 6/7/2016 Presidential Primary



**2008PP** - 2/5/2008 Presidential Primary  
**2008SP** - 6/3/2008 Statewide Primary  
**2008G** - 11/4/2008 Presidential General  
**2012P** - 6/5/2012 Presidential Primary  
**2012G** - 11/6/2012 Presidential General  
**2016P** - 6/7/2016 Presidential Primary



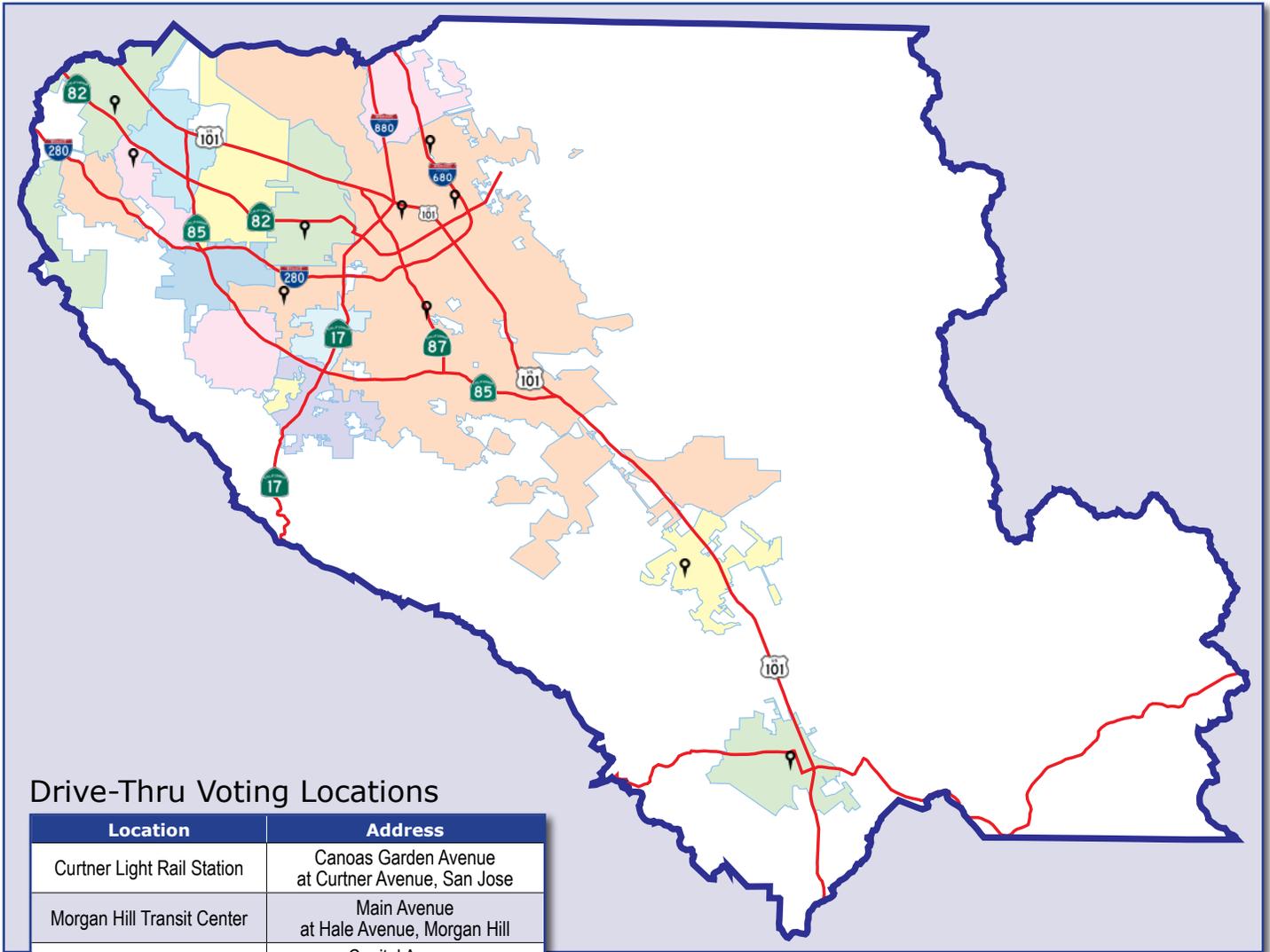
As more languages become more widely spoken throughout Santa Clara County, state and federal laws require additional language support for these voters. As a result, the need for bilingual election officers has increased dramatically, with the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election seeing more than 50% of election officers speaking a second language, while the 2012 primary and general elections included only 37.3% bilingual election officers.

# Early Voting and Ballot Drop-Off

If new laws extending the deadline for receiving vote-by-mail ballots and allowing voters to correct missing information are any indication, voter convenience is key to fostering a larger turnout in an election. The County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters' office (ROV) believes that voting should be as easy and accessible as possible, and voters should have available to them as many convenient methods of voting as possible in order to provide the most opportunities to cast a ballot.

For the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, the ROV arranged for 41 ballot drop-off boxes where voters could safely deposit their voted ballots, 23 of which were in locations accessible 24 hours per day. On the two weekends prior to Election Day, the ROV also set up five early voting locations throughout the county and five drive-thru ballot drop-off locations, where voters could hand their ballots to an ROV staff member without even stepping out of their cars.

## Early Voting and Drive-Thru Locations



### Drive-Thru Voting Locations

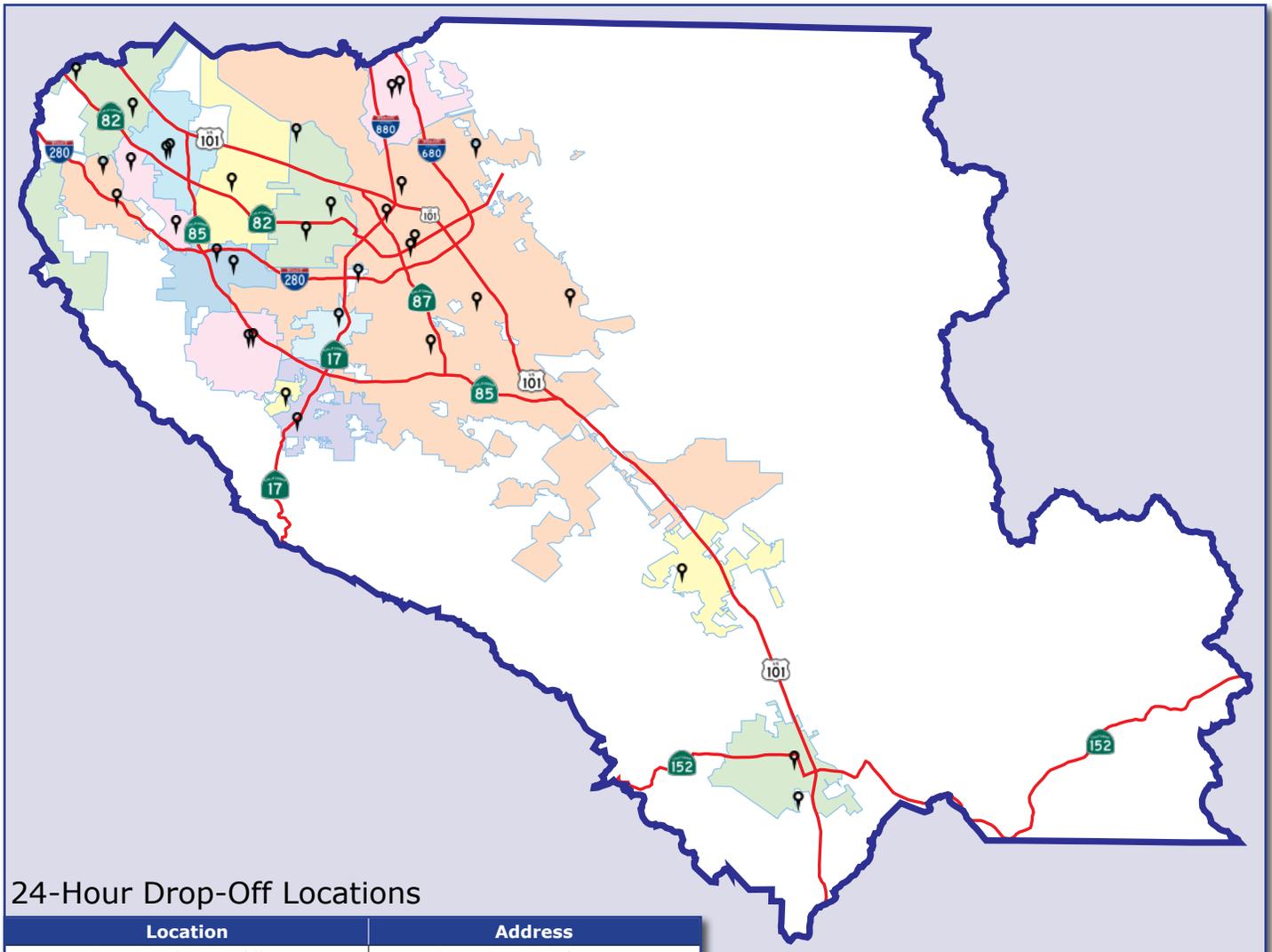
Location	Address
Curtner Light Rail Station	Canoas Garden Avenue at Curtner Avenue, San Jose
Morgan Hill Transit Center	Main Avenue at Hale Avenue, Morgan Hill
Hostetter Light Rail Station	Capitol Avenue at Camino del Rey, San Jose
Westgate Shopping Center	Parking Lot near Hamilton Avenue, 1600 Saratoga Ave., San Jose
Mayfield Soccer Complex	Page Mill Road at El Camino Real, Palo Alto

### Early Voting Sites

Location	Address
Gilroy Library	350 W. Sixth St., Gilroy
San Jose Library Joyce Ellington Branch	491 E. Empire St., San Jose
Los Altos Library	13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos
Santa Clara City Library	2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara
San Jose Library Educational Park Branch	1772 Educational Park Dr., San Jose

Rather than being stocked with pre-printed ballots as regular polling places are, early voting sites are equipped with touchscreen voting machines and printers that print ballots on demand. When a voter visits an early voting site, ROV staff and volunteers look up the type of ballot that the voter is eligible to vote and print the unique ballot just for that voter.

## All Ballot Drop-Off Locations



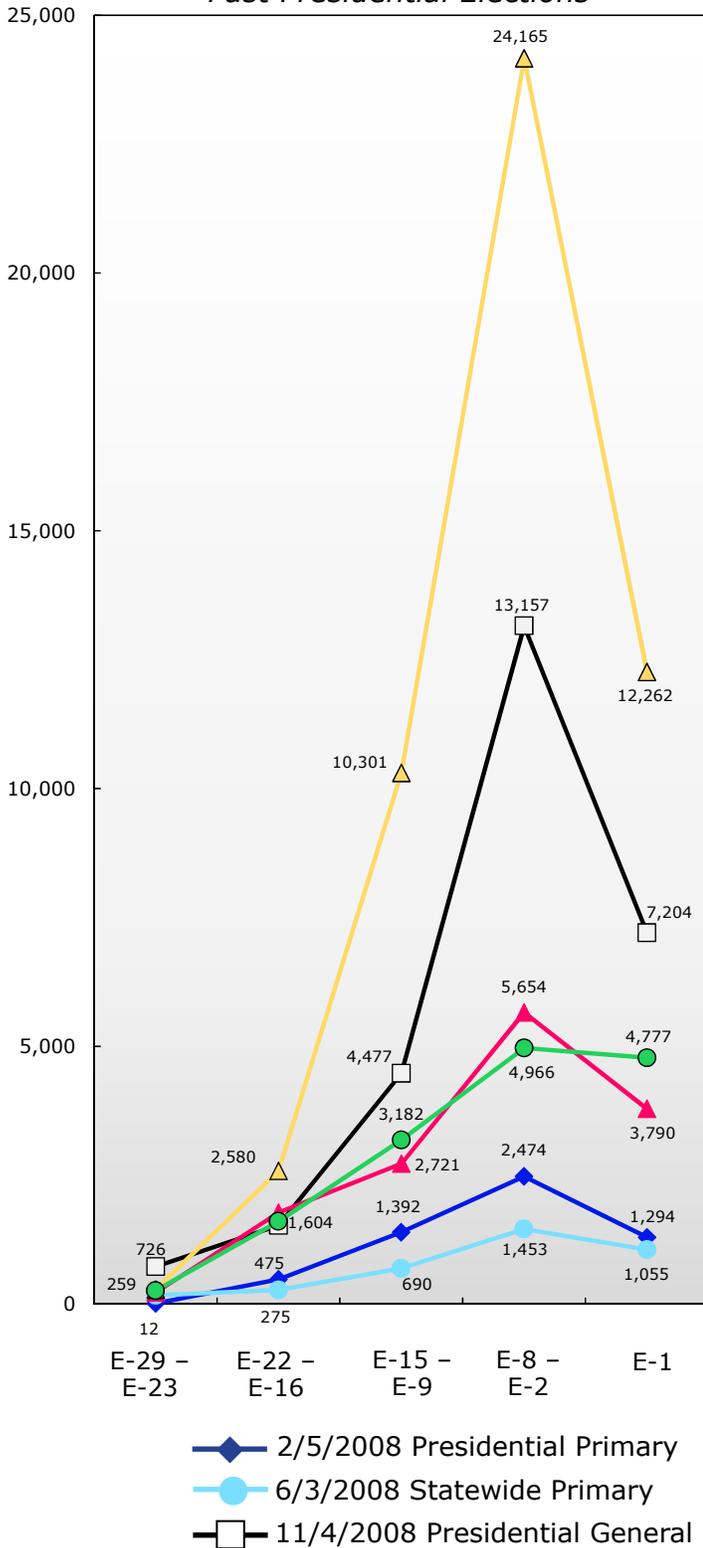
## 24-Hour Drop-Off Locations

Location	Address
Registrar of Voters' Office	1555 Berger Dr., San Jose
San Jose State University Clark Hall Building	1 Washington Square, San Jose
West Valley College Admissions Building	14000 Fruitvale Ave., Saratoga
De Anza College Main Quad	21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino
Gavilan College Student Center	5055 Santa Teresa Blvd., Gilroy
Evergreen Valley College Gullo 1 Building	3095 Yerba Buena Road, San Jose
Mission College	3000 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara
Foothill College Administration Building	12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills
San Jose City College Student Center	2100 Moorpark Ave., San Jose
Berryessa Library	3355 Noble Ave., San Jose
Milpitas Library	160 N. Main St., Milpitas
Campbell Library	77 Harrison Ave., Campbell
Mountain View Library	585 Franklin St., Mountain View
Central Park Library	2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara
Morgan Hill Library	660 W. Main Ave., Morgan Hill
Cupertino Library	10800 Torre Ave., Cupertino
Pearl Avenue Library	4270 Pearl Ave., San Jose
Gilroy Library	350 W. Sixth St., Gilroy
Saratoga Library	13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga
Los Altos Library	13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos
Tully Community Library	880 Tully Road, San Jose
Los Gatos Library	100 Villa Ave., Los Gatos
Woodland Branch Library	1975 Grant Road, Los Altos

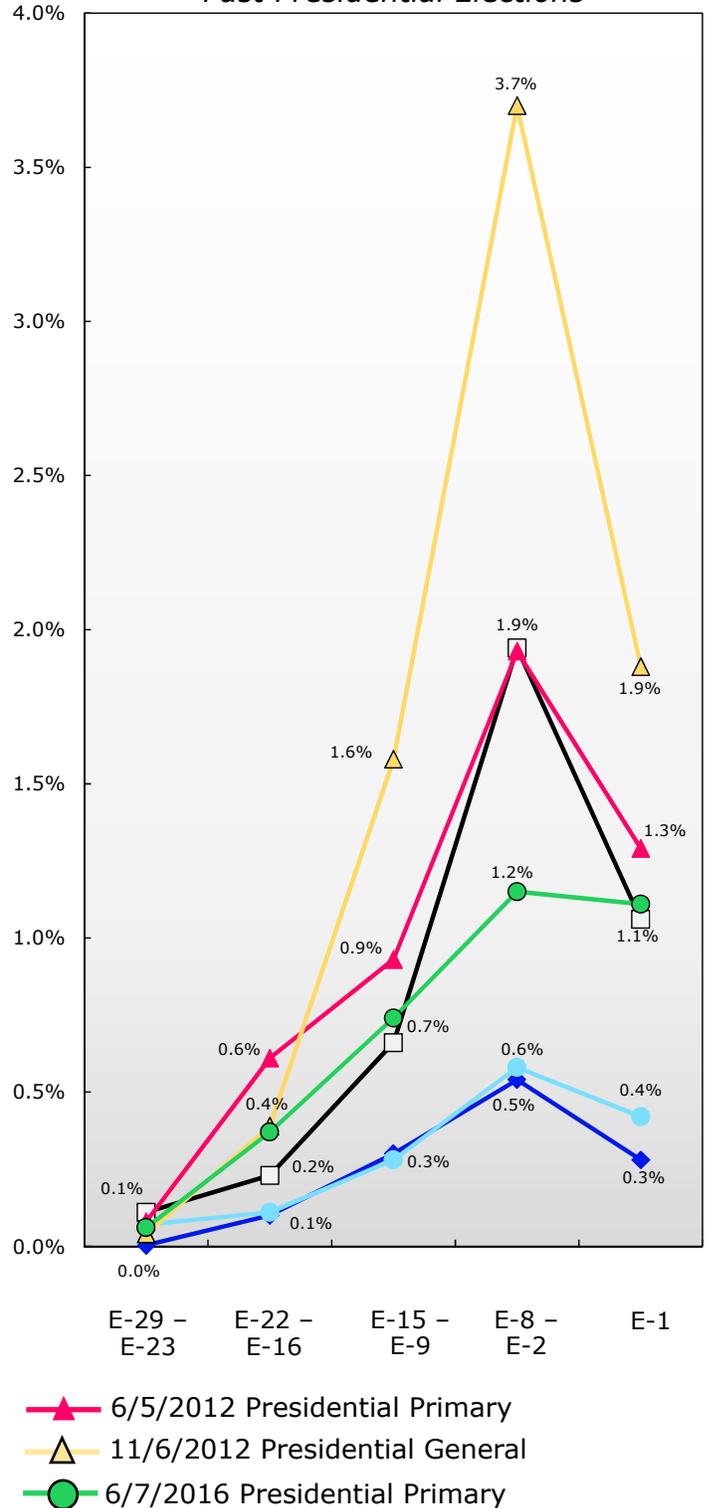
## Ballot Drop-Off Locations

Location	Address
Santa Clara County Government Center	70 W. Hedding St., San Jose
Campbell City Hall	70 N. First St., Campbell
Cupertino City Hall	10300 Torre Ave., Cupertino
Gilroy City Hall	7351 Rosanna St., Gilroy
Los Altos City Hall	1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos
Los Altos Hills Town Hall	26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills
Los Gatos Town Hall	110 E. Main St., Los Gatos
Milpitas City Hall	455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas
Monte Sereno City Hall	18041 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road, Monte Sereno
Morgan Hill City Hall	17575 Peak Ave., Morgan Hill
Mountain View City Hall	500 Castro St., Mountain View
Palo Alto City Hall	250 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto
San Jose City Hall	200 E. Santa Clara St., San Jose
Santa Clara City Hall	1500 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara
Saratoga City Hall	13777 Fruitvale Ave., Saratoga
Sunnyvale City Hall	650 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library	150 E. San Fernando St., San Jose
Mitchell Park Library	3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Early and Drop-Off Votes by Date  
Past Presidential Elections



% Early and Drop-Off Votes  
of Total Ballots Cast  
Past Presidential Elections



As opposed to vote-by-mail voting where a voter receives and casts a ballot from home, early voters come before Election Day to a designated early voting location – such as the Registrar of Voters’ office or an early voting center – to cast a ballot printed on demand or by touchscreen voting machine. Early votes typically

make up far less than 10% of the total votes cast in any election. However, because tens of thousands of voters rely on early voting sites as the most convenient way for them to cast a ballot, early voting plays a vital role in the democratic process and helps ensure that every voter has a voice.

## IV. Election Day



Registrar of Voters' staff members check in ballot bags received from polling places on Election Night.

All of the preparations conducted by the Registrar of Voters' (ROV) office to ensure a smooth election build up to the day the polls open. When the polls opened at 7 a.m. on Election Day, many voters were already lined up outside polling places, ready to be among the first to cast their ballots.

When the polls closed at 8 p.m., the election officers and ROV staff members switch gears from processing voters to collecting all of the election materials, including voted ballots, voting machine results cartridges, and the roster indexes indicating which

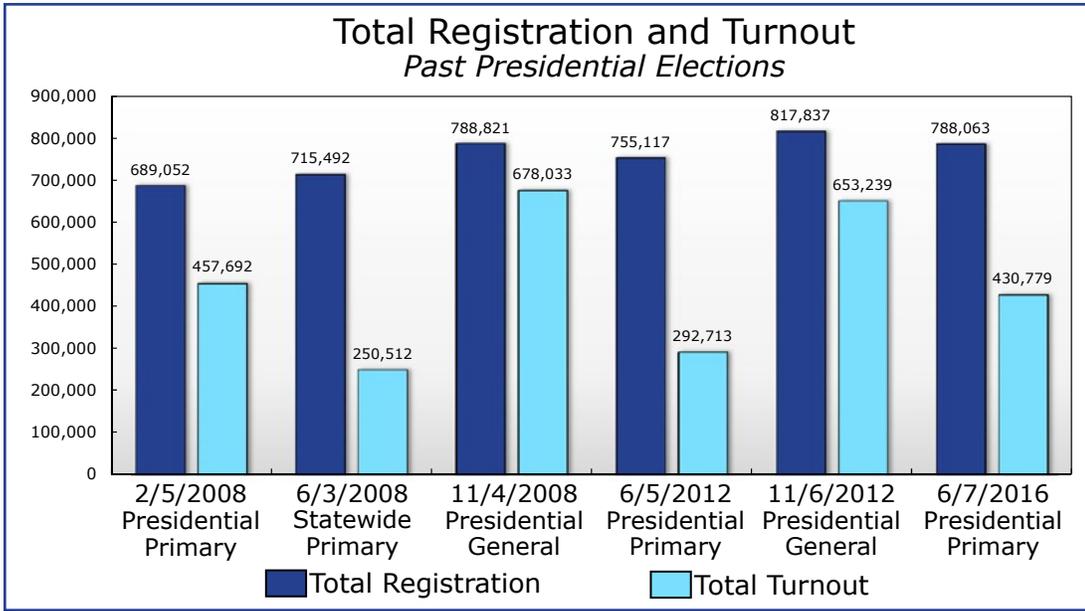
voters voted. All of the voted ballots must be returned to the ROV office to be tallied in order to determine the total turnout and the results of the election.

Due to a new law that went into effect this year, the ROV conducted a midday pickup program during this election to collect some of the voted ballots throughout Election Day in order to get a head start on tallying votes. This eased some of the rush that occurs once the polls close to get ballots back to the ROV office and tallied as quickly as possible.



The Registrar of Voters strives to offer as many different methods for voters to deliver their ballots as possible, including postage paid envelopes, drop-off boxes, and early voting sites.

# Overall Voter Turnout



## % Total Turnout by City

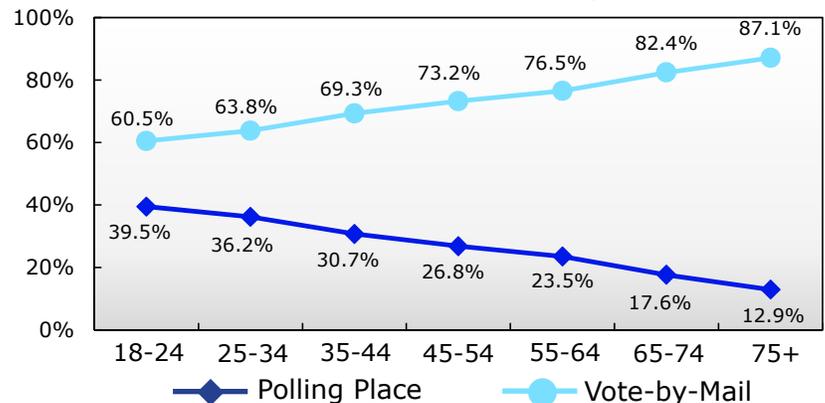
	2008 Presidential Primary	2008 Statewide Primary	2012 Presidential Primary	2016 Presidential Primary
Campbell	64.4%	29.9%	37.9%	55.1%
Cupertino	54.6%	43.1%	37.0%	62.7%
Gilroy	58.1%	32.8%	28.3%	62.2%
Los Altos	62.4%	47.6%	35.6%	64.9%
Los Altos Hills	58.7%	47.0%	38.2%	68.7%
Los Gatos	57.8%	42.3%	41.1%	71.0%
Milpitas	47.1%	34.3%	32.7%	54.8%
Monte Sereno	58.7%	48.5%	43.3%	71.3%
Morgan Hill	53.2%	35.7%	29.3%	63.6%
Mountain View	59.5%	41.8%	38.1%	62.9%
Palo Alto	70.7%	44.4%	43.2%	66.7%
San Jose	52.3%	36.8%	31.9%	60.3%
Santa Clara	66.7%	35.5%	32.4%	62.5%
Saratoga	55.5%	43.6%	62.9%	65.2%
Sunnyvale	56.7%	39.1%	37.6%	58.7%
Unincorporated	56.0%	38.1%	27.6%	52.8%

Though not the highest turnout rate among past presidential-year primary and general elections, the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election experienced a large turnout among all groups of voters. Despite some presidential candidates dropping out of the race before Election Day, nearly 55% of voters turned out to cast their ballots.

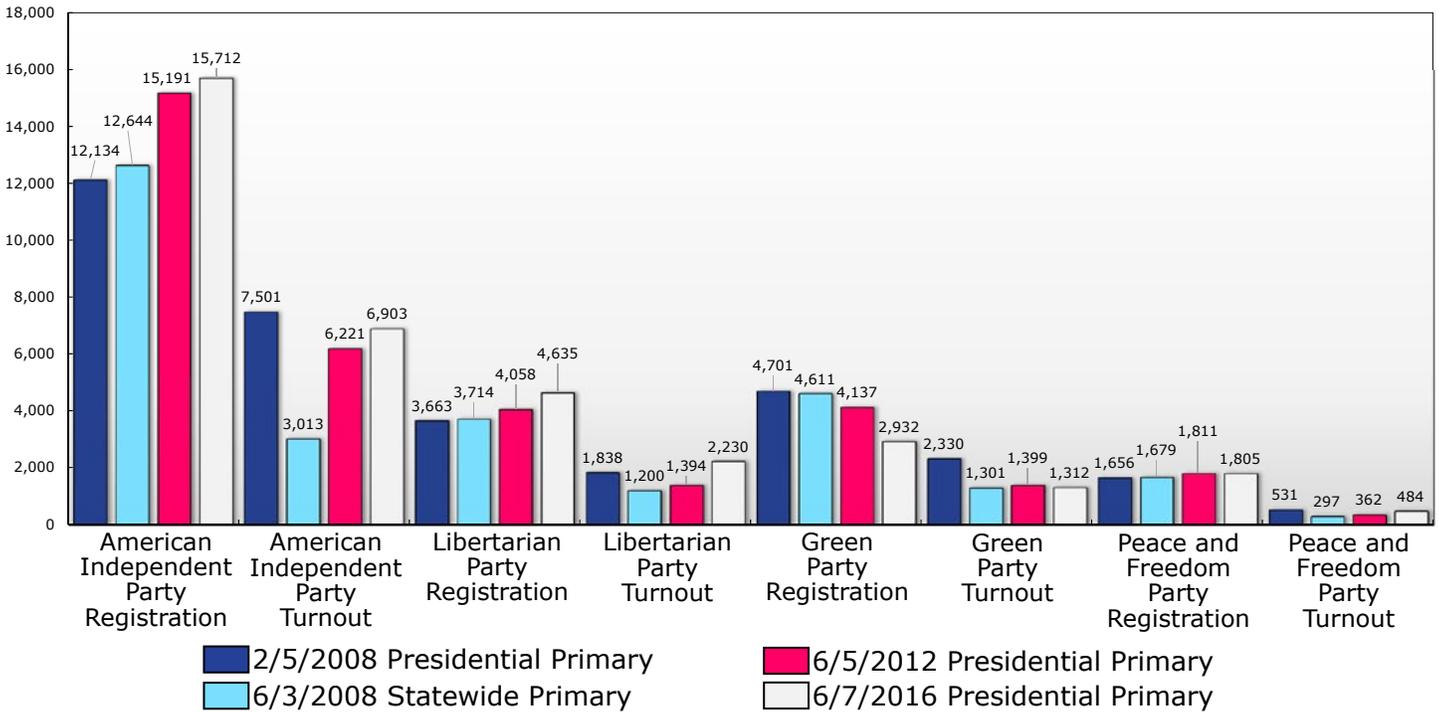
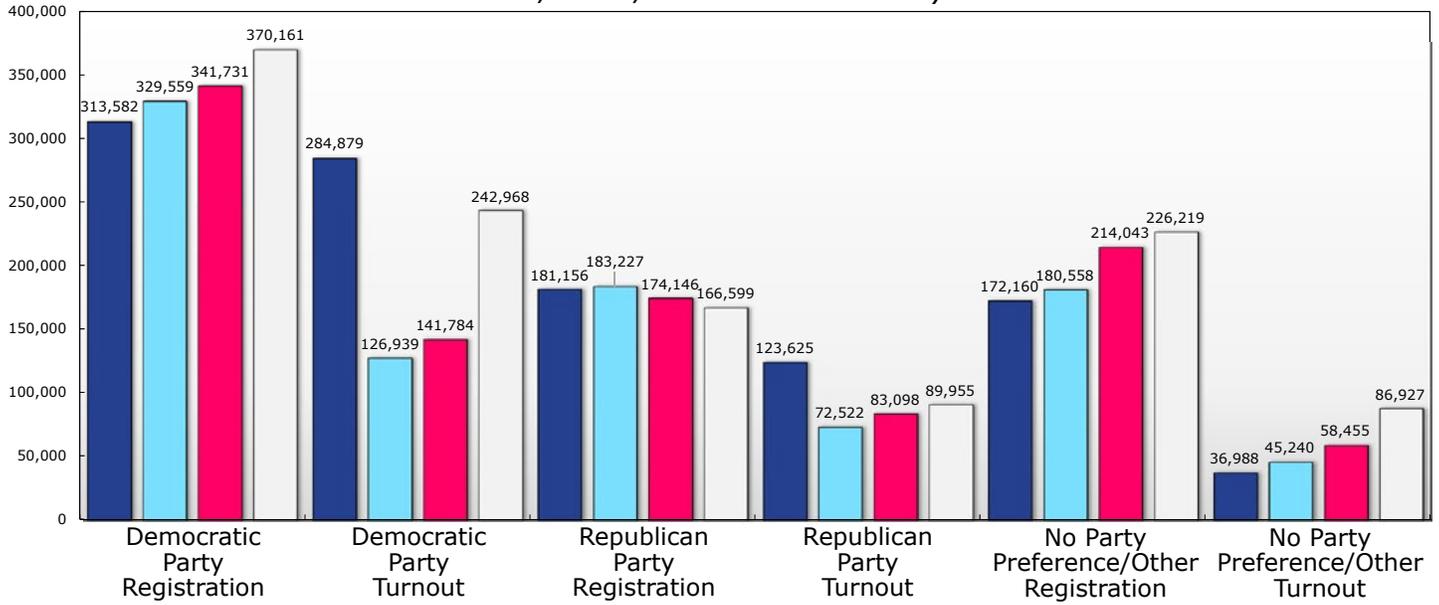
As has occurred in primary and general elections in 2012 and 2008, vote-by-mail voters turned out at a higher rate than polling place voters. Polling place voters voted at the polls at nearly double the rate of those during the previous presidential primary election in 2012.

The majority of voters now vote by mail. In the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, voters in older age groups tended to vote by mail in higher percentages, while a higher percentage of younger voters opted to vote at the polling place.

## Participation by Age Group and Voting Method June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election



## Registration and Turnout by Party June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election

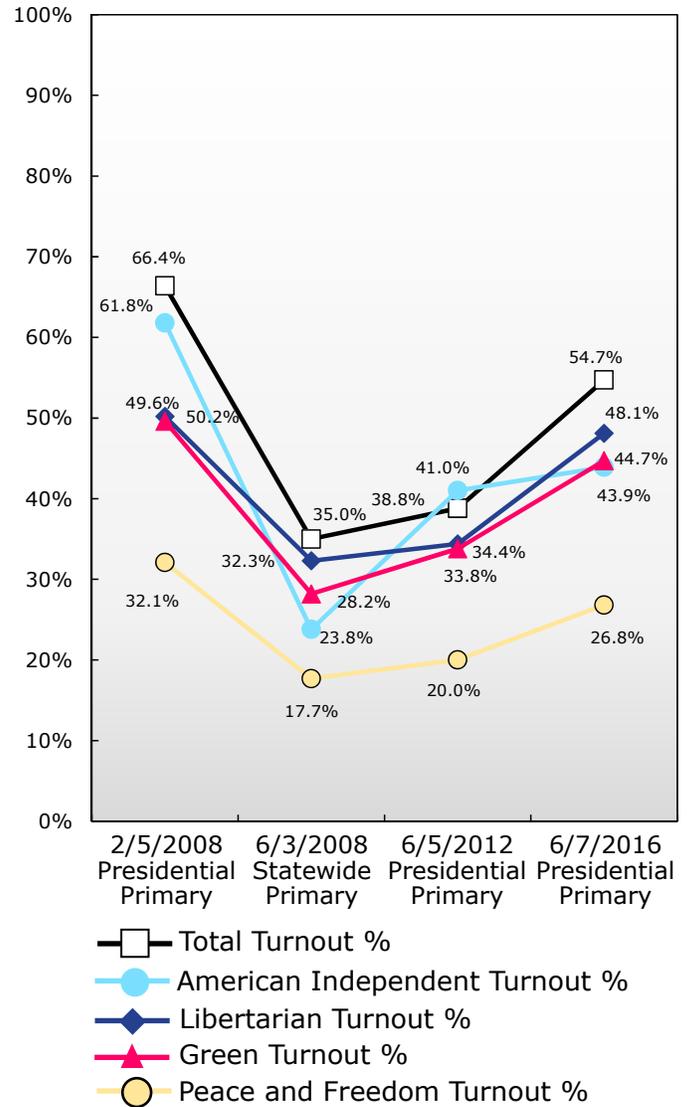
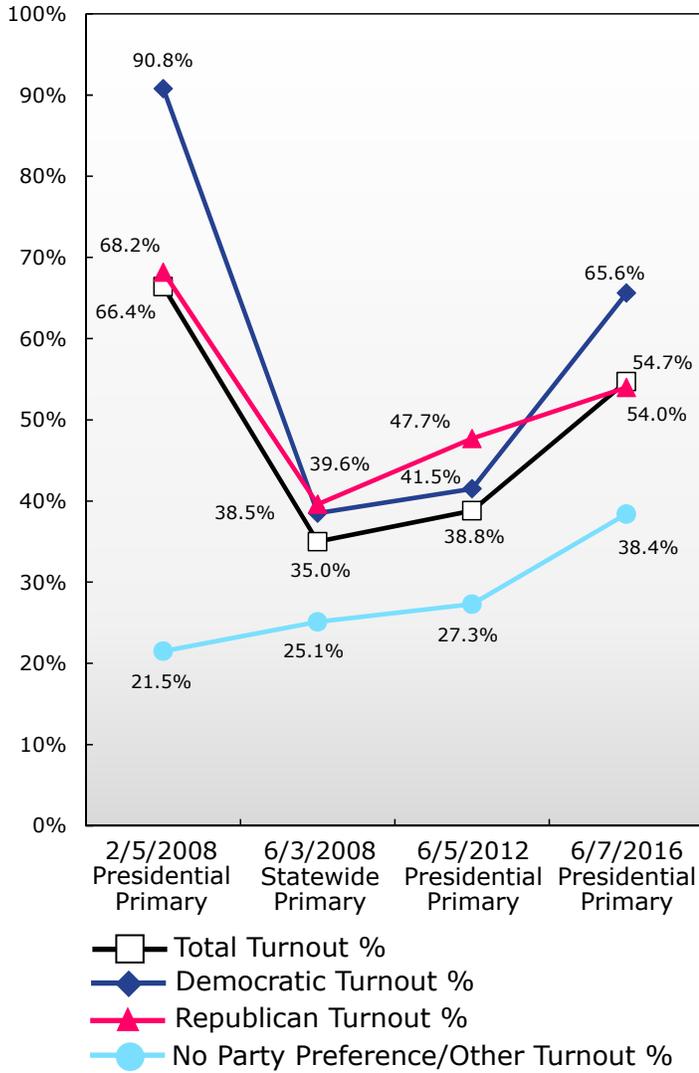


Voter registration for political parties has been trending steadily in one direction or the other. Voter turnout for these parties, however, can fluctuate wildly depending on the type of election and voter interest. Among the past four presidential-year primary elections, voter turnout for most parties tended to dip during the 2008

statewide primary and the 2012 primary, while the 2008 and 2016 presidential primaries drew the most voter interest.

Only the turnout for voters without a party preference tended to increase in every primary election since the 2008 presidential primary.

## % Turnout by Party Past Presidential Primaries



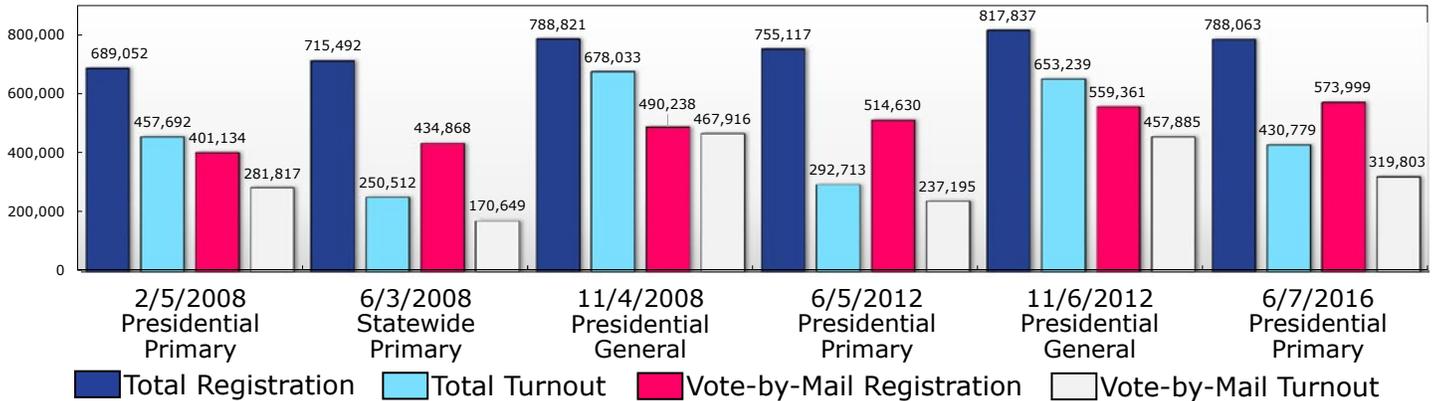
In most primary elections, only the turnout rates of Democratic and Republican voters tend to exceed the overall average turnout for all party preferences combined. The exceptions to this were the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary, when the Republican voter turnout dropped below the overall average by a fraction of a percentage point, and the 2012 presidential primary, which saw

American Independent voters turning out in larger than average numbers. Drops and spikes in turnout by party can occur for a number of reasons, including voter interest in party nominees for president or other offices, parties' acceptance of crossover voters, and whether the election involves a sitting incumbent or an open contest.

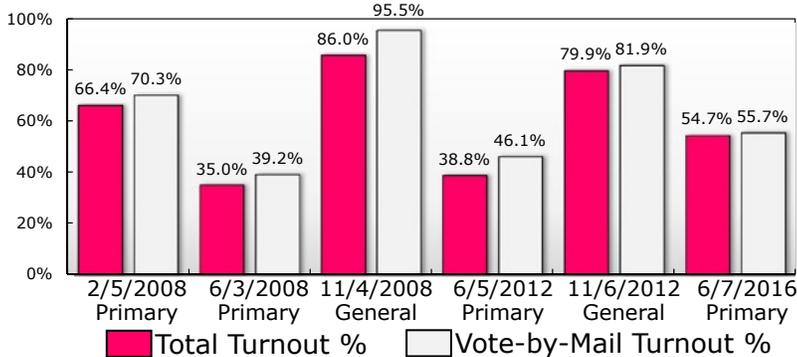


# Vote-by-Mail Voter Turnout

## Vote-by-Mail Turnout Past Presidential Elections

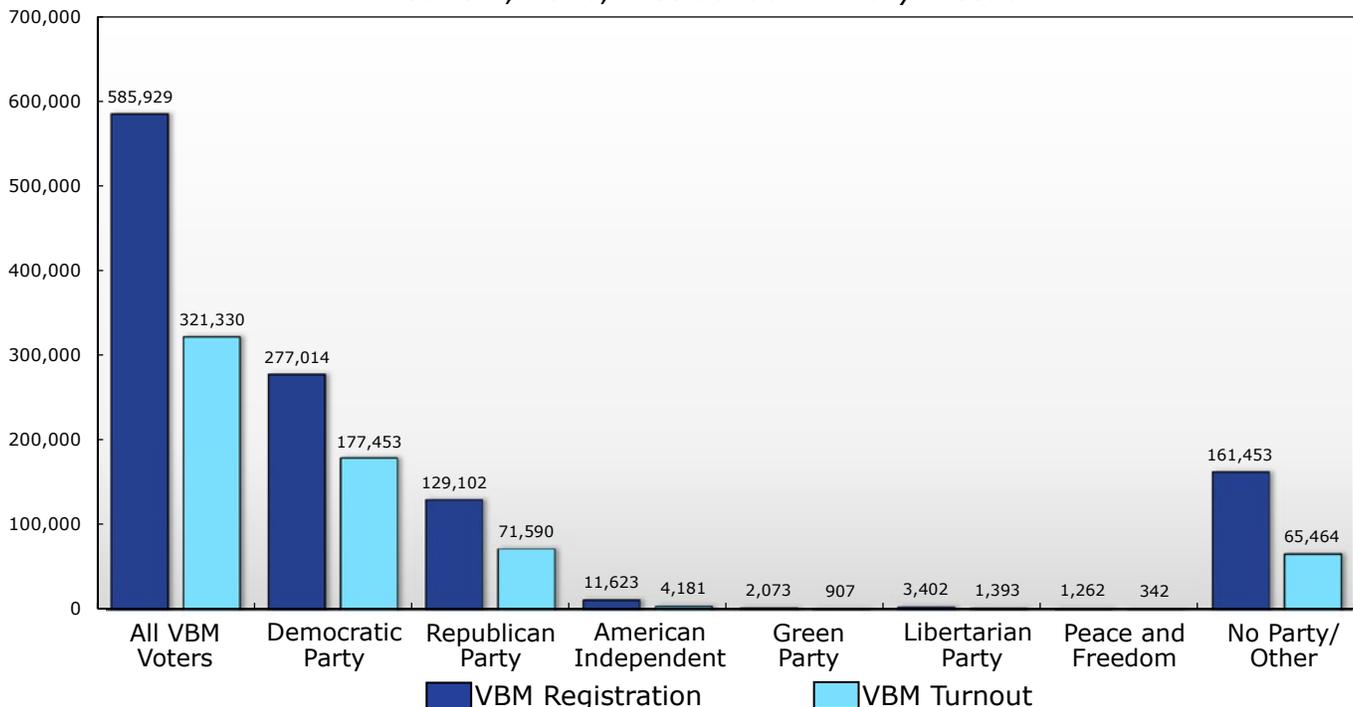


## % Turnout and Vote-by-Mail Turnout Past Presidential Elections

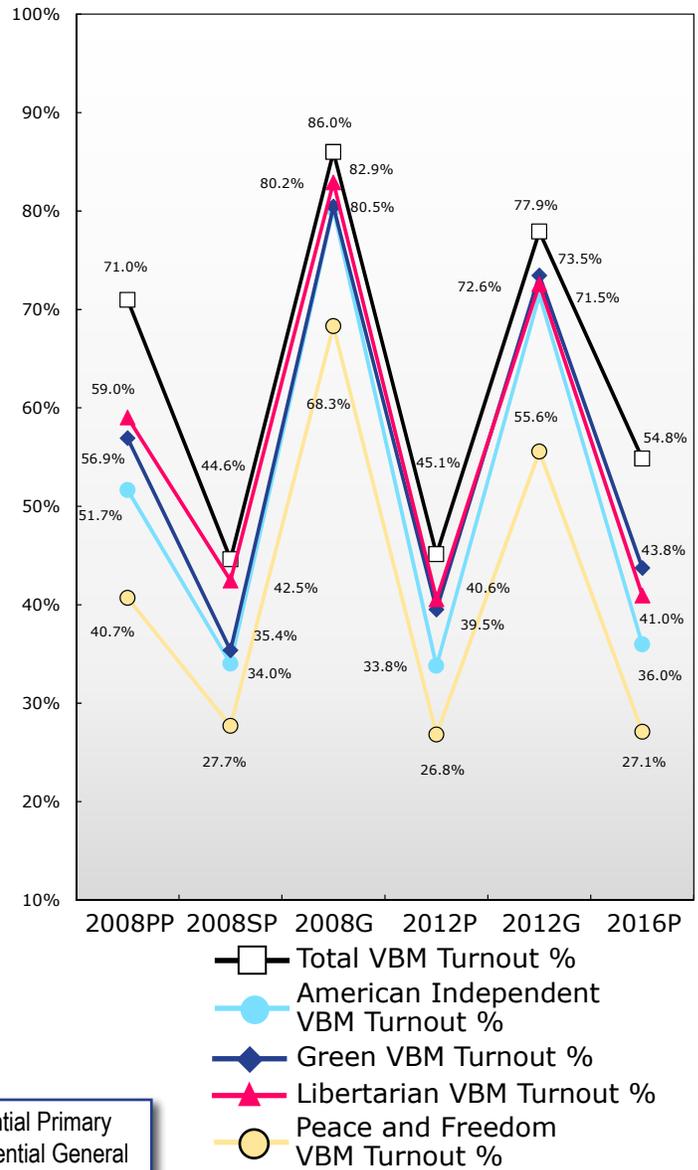
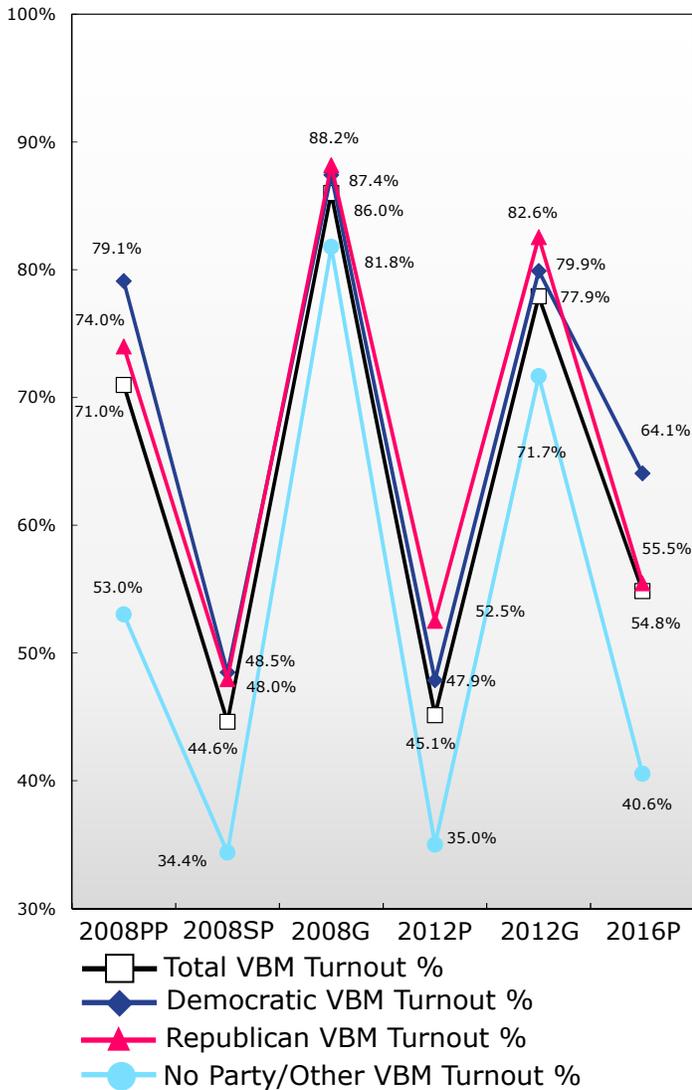


In every presidential-year election since 2008, vote-by-mail ballots have made up the majority of the ballots cast, and vote-by-mail voters have always turned out at a higher rate than the average for all voters in a given election. The June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election saw the closest ratio of vote-by-mail turnout to total turnout, with vote-by-mail voters voting at a rate only 1 percentage point above the total turnout. This indicates that a larger percentage of polling place voters participated in this election than in past elections.

## Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Turnout by Party June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election



## % Vote-by-Mail Turnout by Party Past Presidential Elections



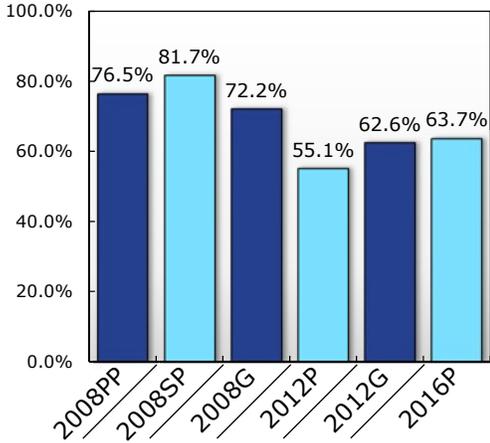
**2008PP** - 2/5/2008 Presidential Primary      **2012P** - 6/5/2012 Presidential Primary  
**2008SP** - 6/3/2008 Statewide Primary      **2012G** - 11/6/2012 Presidential General  
**2008G** - 11/4/2008 Presidential General      **2016P** - 6/7/2016 Presidential Primary

No single city stands out clearly as the most politically active. For each election, city turnout rates tend to fall within a close range. Additionally, other contests on the ballot besides the presidential contest can play a significant role in galvanizing a city's electorate. If a city places additional high-interest contests or measures on the ballot, voters in that city are usually more likely to vote.

### % Vote-by-Mail Turnout by City

	2008PP	2008SP	2008G	2012P	2012G	2016P
Campbell	69.2%	37.8%	84.4%	41.0%	77.3%	52.9%
Cupertino	67.8%	44.4%	84.3%	49.0%	78.1%	53.7%
Gilroy	70.9%	37.2%	83.7%	38.6%	77.0%	51.3%
Los Altos	74.2%	44.1%	88.5%	51.3%	82.3%	61.4%
Los Altos Hills	71.0%	42.6%	88.3%	50.0%	81.6%	57.7%
Los Gatos	73.9%	46.8%	86.4%	46.2%	81.0%	57.6%
Milpitas	63.4%	43.0%	81.7%	40.6%	72.5%	47.4%
Monte Sereno	74.2%	44.9%	87.8%	51.5%	82.7%	58.2%
Morgan Hill	70.8%	38.3%	85.7%	41.4%	79.1%	53.2%
Mountain View	68.3%	46.5%	84.6%	45.9%	78.1%	56.6%
Palo Alto	72.6%	52.5%	85.6%	49.7%	80.7%	60.9%
San Jose	66.9%	41.2%	82.6%	42.1%	73.7%	50.7%
Santa Clara	69.4%	42.1%	82.9%	41.3%	76.3%	52.3%
Saratoga	69.5%	38.5%	86.6%	48.2%	80.4%	55.4%
Sunnyvale	70.4%	45.8%	86.0%	45.8%	77.6%	55.0%
Unincorporated	65.6%	37.7%	82.2%	42.7%	77.3%	52.8%

### % VBM Ballots Received Prior to Election Day Past Presidential Elections



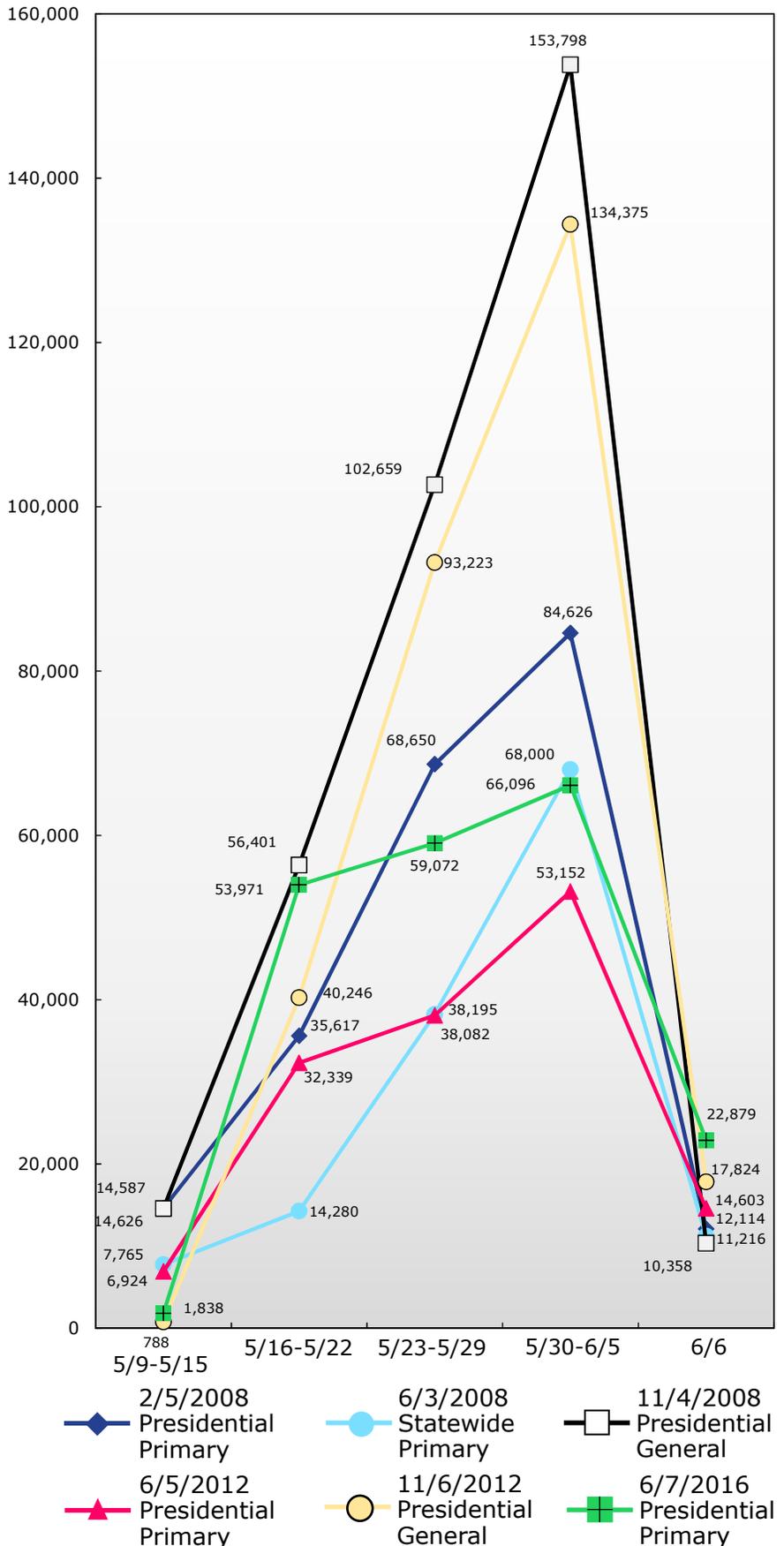
**2008PP** - 2/5/2008 Presidential Primary  
**2008SP** - 6/3/2008 Statewide Primary  
**2008G** - 11/4/2008 Presidential General  
**2012P** - 6/5/2012 Presidential Primary  
**2012G** - 11/6/2012 Presidential General  
**2016P** - 6/7/2016 Presidential Primary

The lion's share of vote-by-mail ballots are received the week before Election Day. Vote-by-mail ballots received prior to Election Day are processed early and included in the first election results released immediately after the polls close.

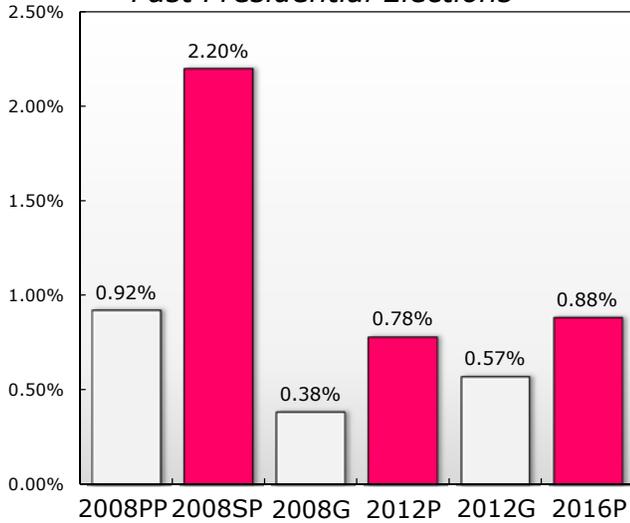


Drop boxes like the one above allow voters to deposit their vote-by-mail ballots in a secure location if they prefer not to send them in by mail.

### Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Ballots Received Prior to Election Day Past Presidential Elections



### % Vote-by-Mail Ballots Not Counted Past Presidential Elections

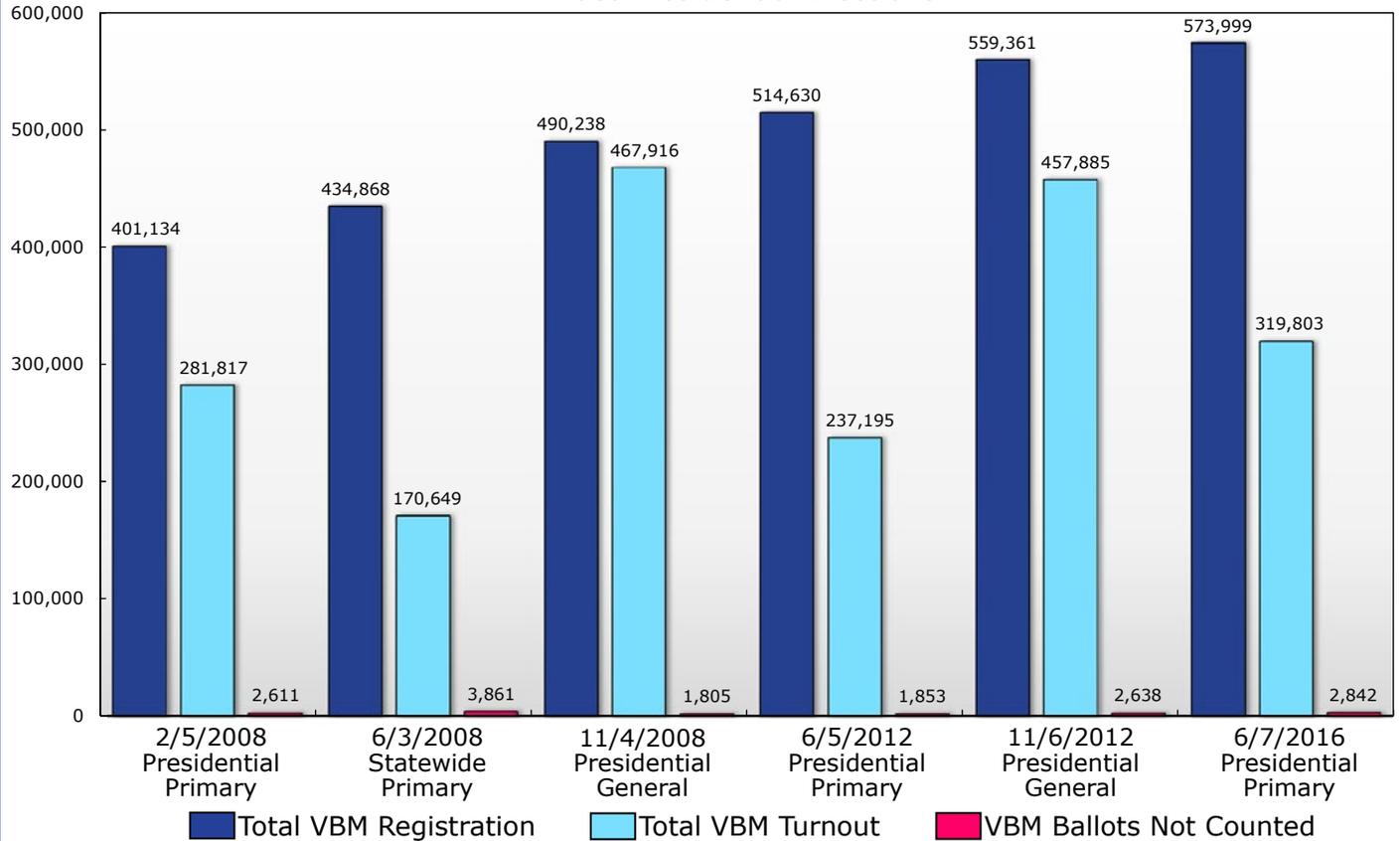


Though the vast majority of vote-by-mail ballots are verified and counted, some are not counted each election for a variety of reasons, usually because the ballots were received too late. Ballots also cannot be counted if the voter does not sign the vote-by-mail envelope, the voter's signature does not match the one in the voter's file, or the voter has already submitted a ballot.

### Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Challenges

Reason	Explanation	No.
Too Late	VBM envelope was received too late	2,842
Signature Does Not Match	Signature on VBM envelope does not match signature in voter's file	543
Void	Voter mistakenly requested a replacement ballot and the ROV voided all other ballots issued to that voter	376
No Signature	Voter did not sign the VBM envelope	313
Deceased	Voter passed away before Election Day	76
Other	Ballot could not be counted for another reason	118

### Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Ballots Counted and Not Counted Past Presidential Elections



### FAQ

**Q:** What does it mean when a vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot is **challenged**?

**A:** A challenged VBM ballot is one that must be verified before it can be counted. A VBM ballot would be challenged when the envelope is not signed by the voter or the envelope appears to be signed by someone other than the voter. Challenged ballots are flagged by a sorting machine and manually verified by ROV staff.

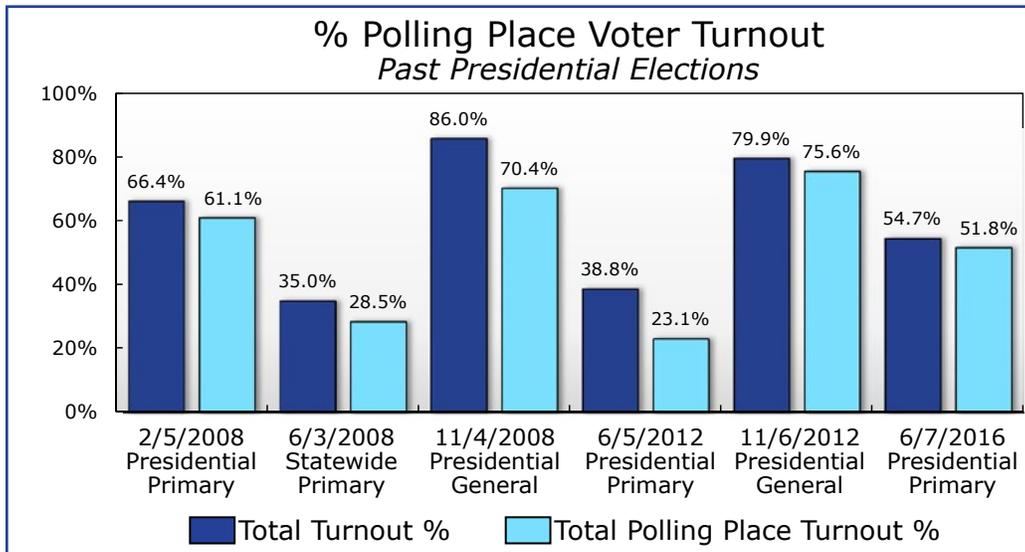
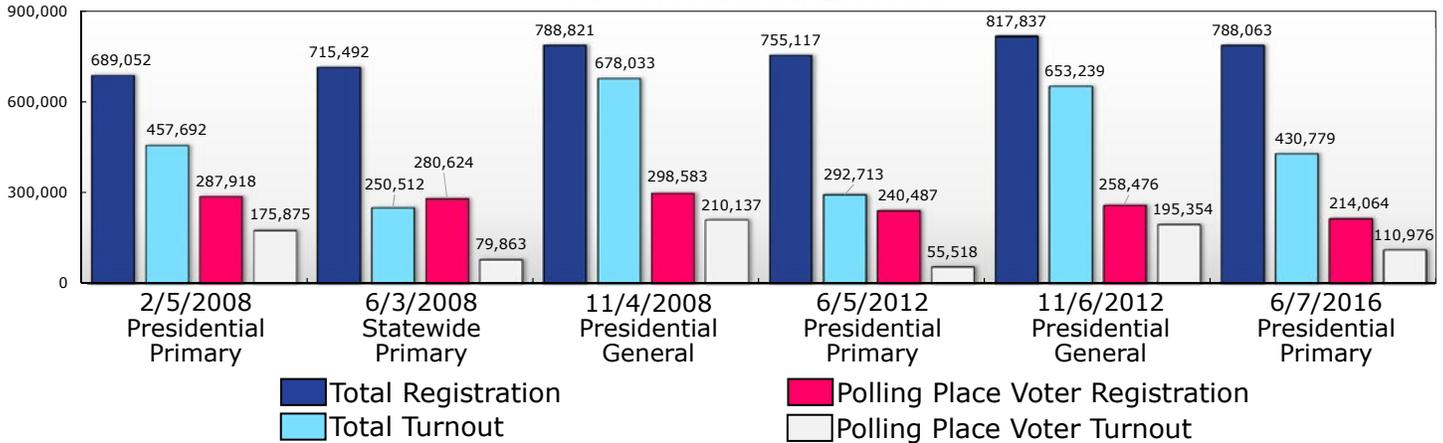
**2008PP** - 2/5/2008 Presidential Primary  
**2008SP** - 6/3/2008 Statewide Primary  
**2008G** - 11/4/2008 Presidential General  
**2012P** - 6/5/2012 Presidential Primary  
**2012G** - 11/6/2012 Presidential General  
**2016P** - 6/7/2016 Presidential Primary

# Polling Place Voter Turnout

Though vote-by-mail ballots continue to make up a larger portion of the votes cast in a given election, polling place voter turnout has made gains compared with the total and vote-by-mail turnout percentages. Polling place voter turnout more than doubled for the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election

compared with the turnout rate for the 2012 primary. In fact, the gap between the polling place turnout rate and the total turnout rate – 2.9 percentage points – is the smallest out of the past six presidential-year elections, possibly indicating a higher degree of interest in the election by polling place voters.

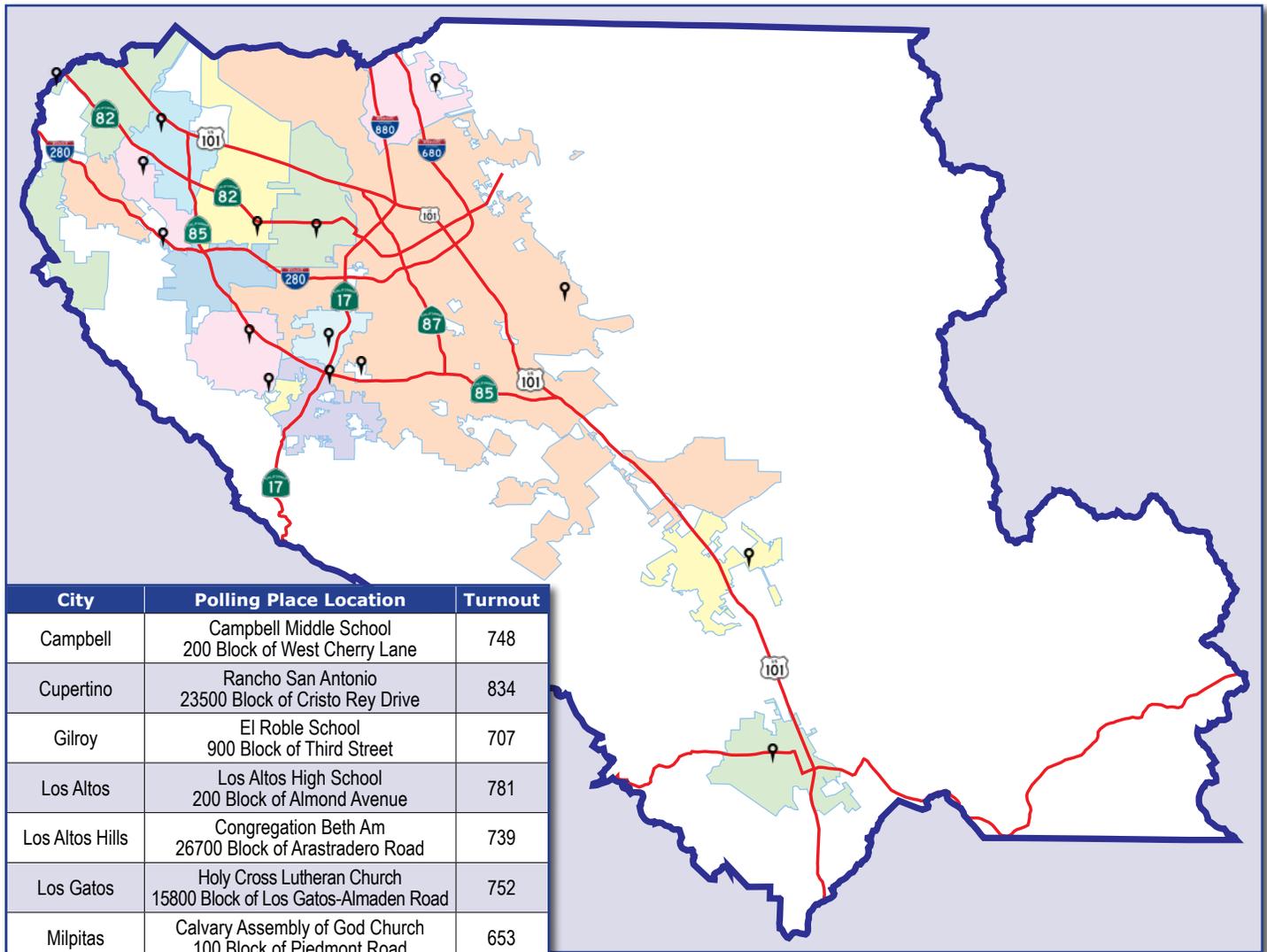
### Polling Place Voter Registration and Turnout Past Presidential Elections



Polling place turnout has always been lower than the average turnout rate for all voters. However, the past two presidential-year elections in 2016 and 2012 saw the polling place turnout rate most closely approach the average total turnout when compared with other presidential-year elections within the past eight years.



## Most Visited Polling Places by City



City	Polling Place Location	Turnout
Campbell	Campbell Middle School 200 Block of West Cherry Lane	748
Cupertino	Rancho San Antonio 23500 Block of Cristo Rey Drive	834
Gilroy	El Roble School 900 Block of Third Street	707
Los Altos	Los Altos High School 200 Block of Almond Avenue	781
Los Altos Hills	Congregation Beth Am 26700 Block of Arastradero Road	739
Los Gatos	Holy Cross Lutheran Church 15800 Block of Los Gatos-Almaden Road	752
Milpitas	Calvary Assembly of God Church 100 Block of Piedmont Road	653
Monte Sereno	Quito Fire Station 18800 Block of Saratoga-Los Gatos Road	647
Morgan Hill	Advent Lutheran Church 16800 Block of Murphy Avenue	736
Mountain View	Fountains Housing Complex 2000 Block of San Ramon Avenue	857
Palo Alto	Stanford West Apartments 700 Block of Clark Way	844
San Jose	Matsumoto School 4100 Block of Mackin Woods Lane	1,556
Santa Clara	Santa Clara Community Recreational Center 900 Block of Kiely Boulevard	791
Saratoga	St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church 18800 Block of Allendale Avenue	699
Sunnyvale	Raynor Park Christian Church 1500 Block of Partridge Avenue	799
Unincorporated	Oster Elementary School 1800 Block of Lencar Way, San Jose	735

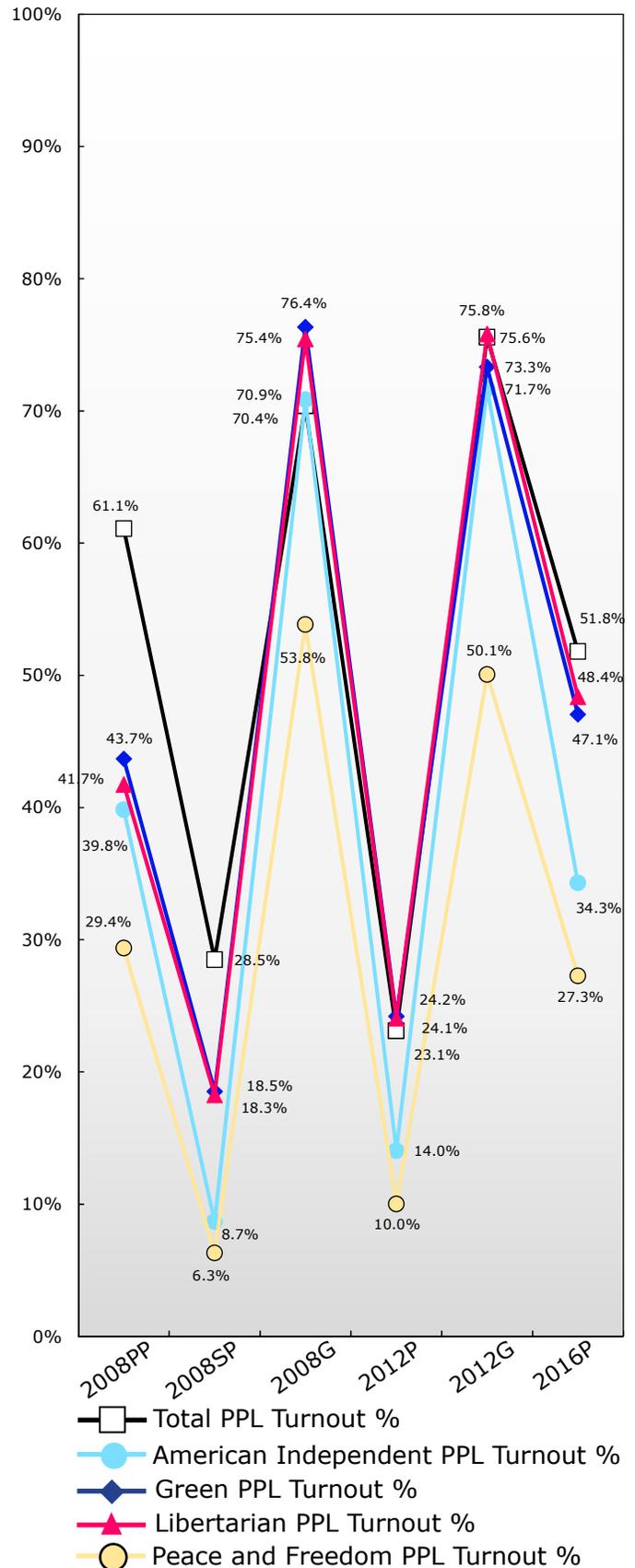
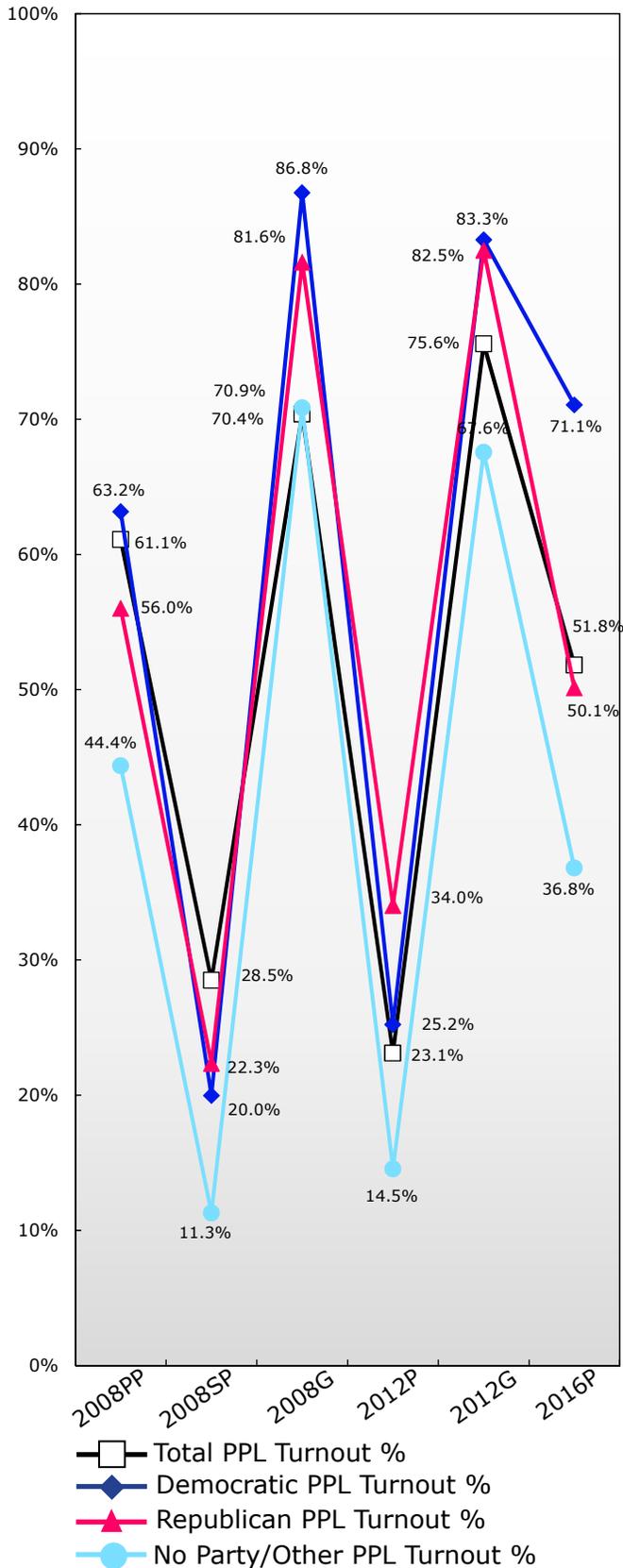
Most polling places and the precincts they serve are arranged so that each polling place serves a similar number of voters. Even though the number of registered voters served by each polling place is relatively equal county-wide, some polling places will often be more busy than others. The map above shows the polling place with the most voters in each city.

### % Polling Place Voter Turnout by City

	2008PP	2008SP	2008G	2012P	2012G	2016P
Campbell	57.0%	14.9%	84.4%	23.1%	82.0%	54.9%
Cupertino	59.0%	21.3%	73.4%	25.7%	77.7%	50.8%
Gilroy	53.0%	10.7%	79.7%	17.2%	78.2%	50.3%
Los Altos	72.4%	25.0%	90.4%	33.2%	88.6%	58.0%
Los Altos Hills	65.6%	21.9%	82.5%	28.8%	84.1%	54.1%
Los Gatos	69.9%	23.6%	89.8%	27.1%	88.6%	52.7%
Milpitas	46.4%	15.8%	70.5%	19.1%	73.1%	41.9%
Monte Sereno	65.3%	33.3%	91.3%	32.9%	89.3%	50.4%
Morgan Hill	57.6%	12.7%	81.8%	18.4%	80.7%	48.9%
Mountain View	65.2%	27.3%	87.8%	29.5%	86.4%	60.3%
Palo Alto	73.4%	31.8%	86.6%	27.8%	83.9%	63.1%
San Jose	52.5%	16.0%	76.1%	22.7%	74.7%	51.3%
Santa Clara	56.7%	16.8%	78.0%	19.9%	76.9%	51.5%
Saratoga	59.4%	15.6%	70.8%	26.8%	79.4%	50.0%
Sunnyvale	45.9%	23.4%	82.0%	24.8%	81.6%	55.1%
Unincorporated	60.3%	16.9%	84.9%	22.4%	81.0%	54.5%

**2008PP** - 2/5/2008 Presidential Primary  
**2008SP** - 6/3/2008 Statewide Primary  
**2008G** - 11/4/2008 Presidential General  
**2012P** - 6/5/2012 Presidential Primary  
**2012G** - 11/6/2012 Presidential General  
**2016P** - 6/7/2016 Presidential Primary

## Polling Place (PPL) Voter Turnout by Party Past Presidential Elections

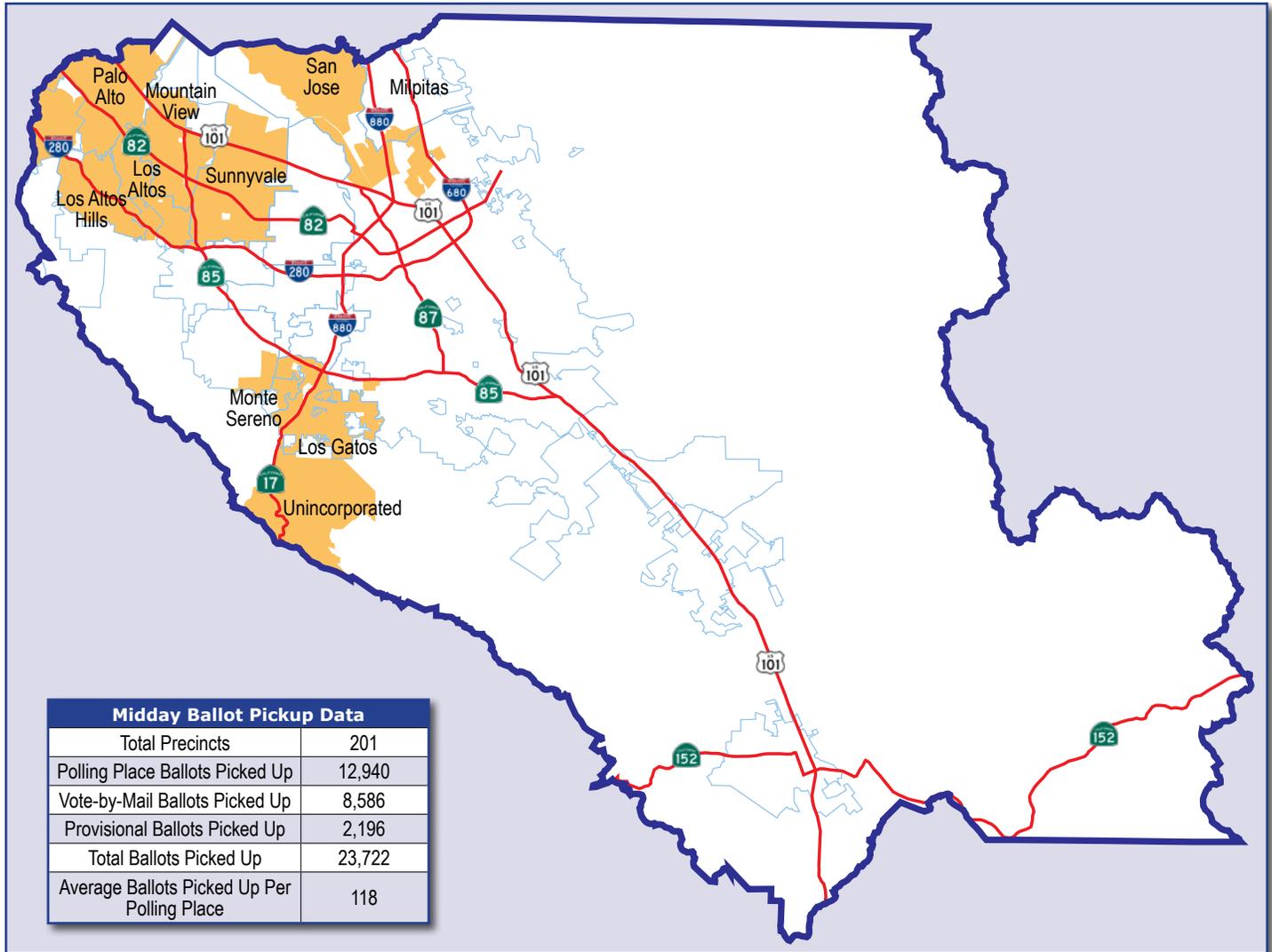


The Democratic Party tends to have the highest turnout rate among parties, but not always. Republican voters turned out to vote at higher rates during the 2008 statewide and 2012 primaries.

<b>2008PP</b> - 2/5/2008 Presidential Primary	<b>2012P</b> - 6/5/2012 Presidential Primary
<b>2008SP</b> - 6/3/2008 Statewide Primary	<b>2012G</b> - 11/6/2012 Presidential General
<b>2008G</b> - 11/4/2008 Presidential General	<b>2016P</b> - 6/7/2016 Presidential Primary

# Midday Pickup

## Areas Participating in Midday Pickup



In prior elections, state law prohibited the Registrar of Voters (ROV) from opening the sealed ballot bags at the polling places or removing them prior to the polls closing at 8 p.m. on Election Day. However, a new law that went into effect on January 1 allows the ROV to collect the sealed ballot bag and bring it back to the ROV office to begin tallying the ballots. This process is known as the midday pickup.

As a pilot program to try out the new midday pickup process, the ROV identified 201 polling places with historically high voter turnout and located within close proximity of each other to be designated as midday pickup precincts. Couriers arrived between 3 and 4 p.m. on Election Day to swap out the filled ballot bags with empty ballot bags. The couriers then brought the full ballot bags back to the ROV office so that the ballots inside could be tallied. The ballot bags were sealed during this entire process to prevent any

tampering with the voted ballots. Along with San Bernardino County, Santa Clara County was one of only two ROV offices in the state to try out the midday pickup process in this election.

Because the ROV chose as the first midday pickup locations the polling places with high turnout rates in past elections, the ROV was able to tally 15% of the total polling place ballots received throughout Election Day by 8:45 p.m. on Election Night. This allowed the ROV to release these early precinct ballot results before Election Officers finished closing their polling places on Election Night.

Trying out this midday pickup procedure helped the ROV get a head start on tallying ballots that otherwise would not have arrived at the ROV office until 9:30 p.m. or later. Additionally, it relieved some of the pressure on the Election Night crew to process and count so many ballots all at once.

## Midday Precincts

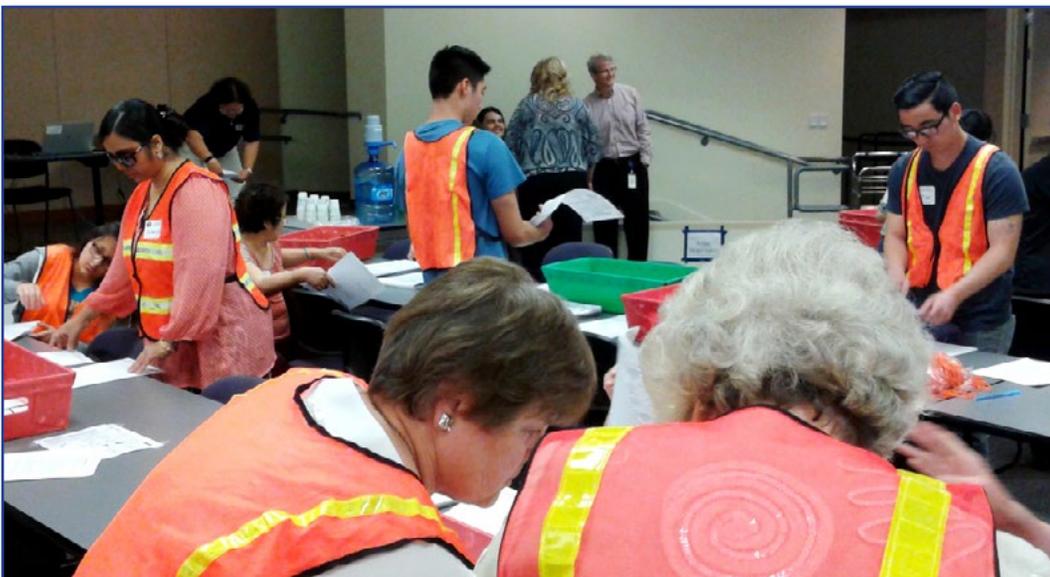
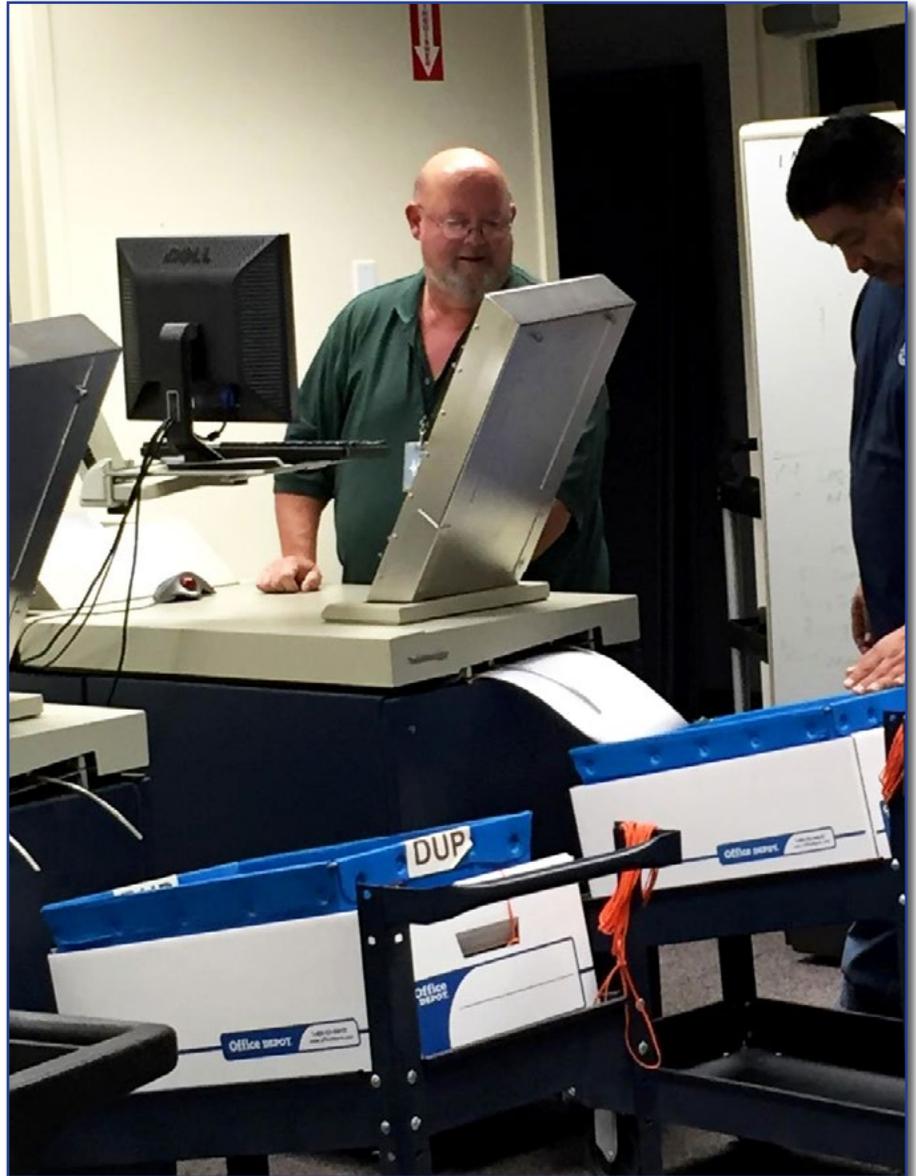
City	Number of Precincts
Los Altos	19
Los Altos Hills	7
Los Gatos	26
Milpitas	1
Monte Sereno	1
Mountain View	32
Palo Alto	42
San Jose	17
Sunnyvale	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>

# V. Vote Tallying

All of the ballots cast in an election are tallied at the Registrar of Voters' office (ROV), meaning that every voted ballot, from Gilroy to Palo Alto, must make its way to San Jose after election officers complete their paperwork and perform their closing procedures. The ROV began tallying the voted ballots from the polling places the moment the first ballots arrived at the office and continued processing them on a 24-hour basis for four days before returning to normal business hours for the remainder of the vote-tallying process.

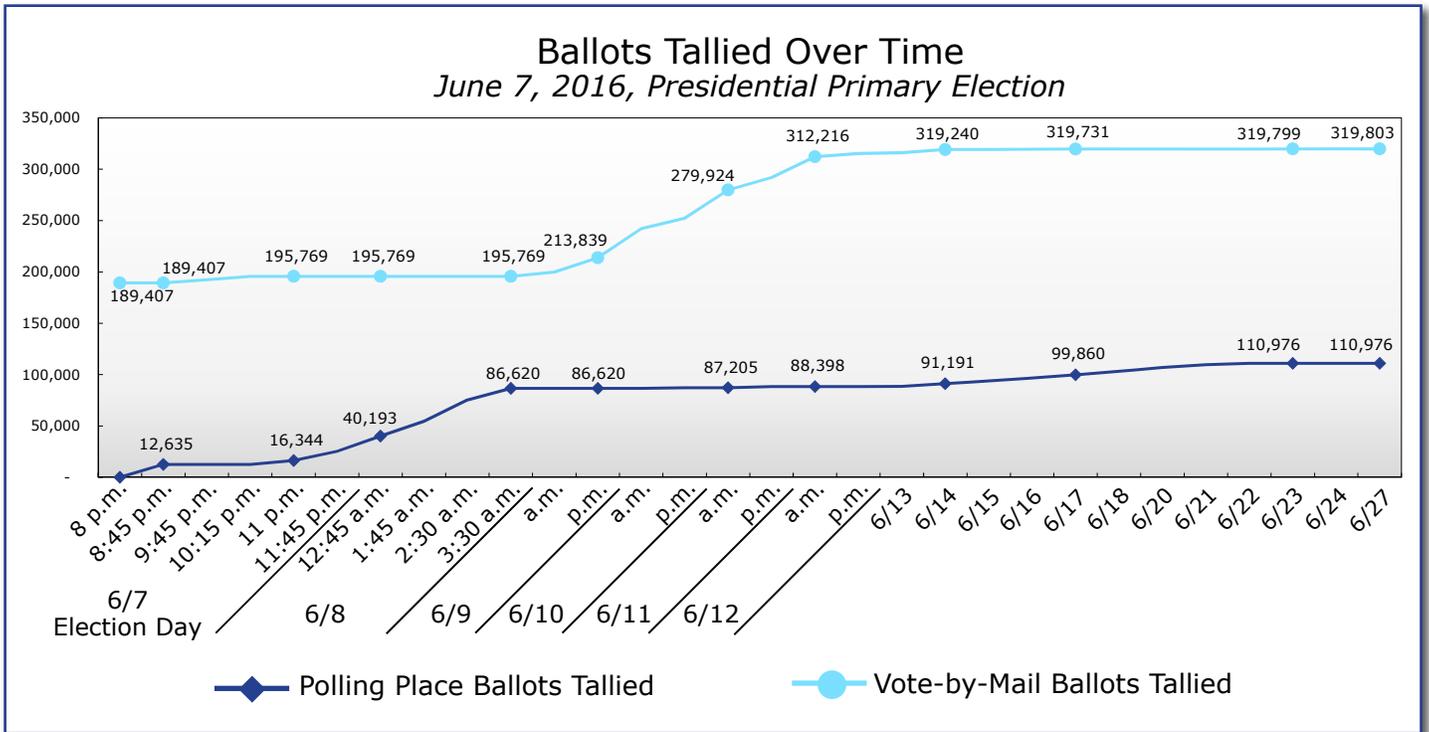
Vote-by-mail ballots received by polling places on Election Day are tallied after the polling place ballots, because the signature on each vote-by-mail envelope must be confirmed as the voter's signature before the ballot can be counted.

Most votes in an election are recorded on paper ballots, whether completed at home and mailed to the Registrar of Voters' office or completed at the polling place. Each paper ballot is centrally counted using a vote-tallying machine like the one at right. For the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, the ROV ran these machines 24 hours a day for four days in order to process the votes as quickly as possible.



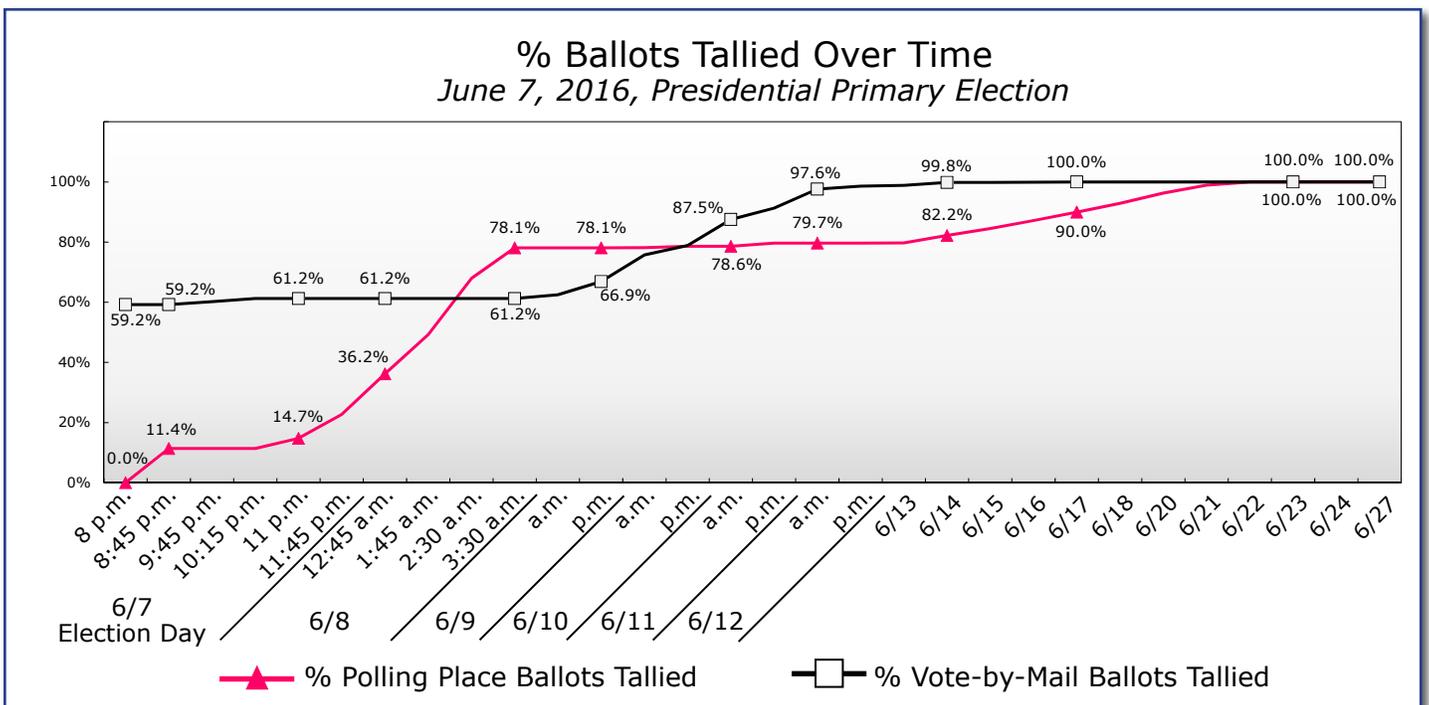
Before being tallied by the machine, polling place ballots are first processed by a team that checks in the ballots, stacks them for easy tallying, and identifies any damaged or unreadable ballots that might not be read by the machines.

# Vote Tallying Over Time



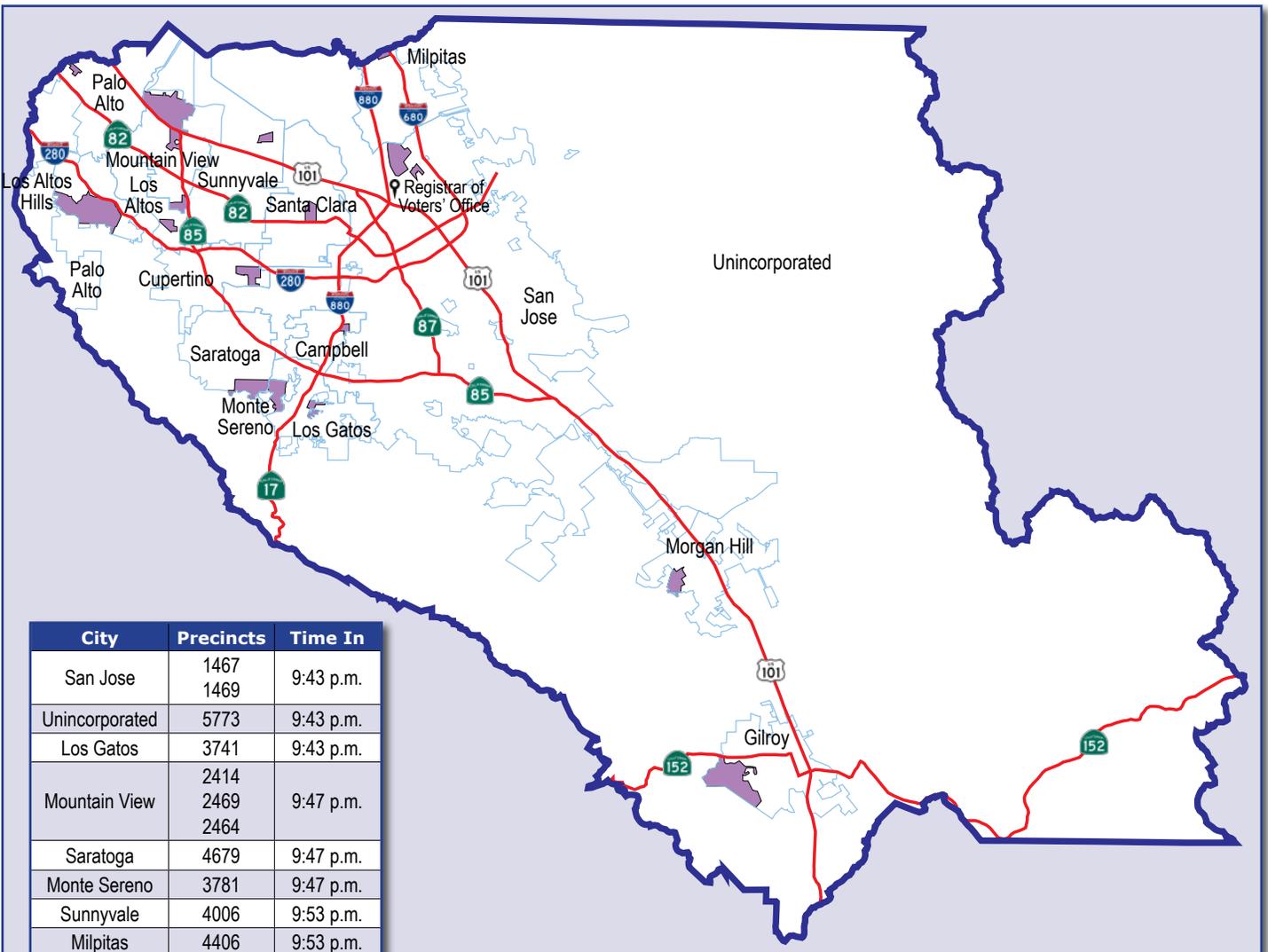
Starting 10 days before the election, all of the vote-by-mail ballots received prior to Election Day are processed and tallied before 8 p.m. State law, however, does not allow the Registrar of Voters to release the first results until the polls close. The first point on each of these graphs – showing the percentage tallied as of 8 p.m. on Election Day – represents the VBM ballots that were tallied in the days prior to Election Day. The second point at 8:45

p.m. on Election Day represents the tallied polling place ballots that were retrieved during Election Day as part of the midday pickup program. The polling place ballots tallied last in the graph are mostly provisional ballots, which need to be verified for voter and contest eligibility. In some cases, these ballots must be further processed to ensure that provisional voters only cast votes in contests for which they were eligible to vote.

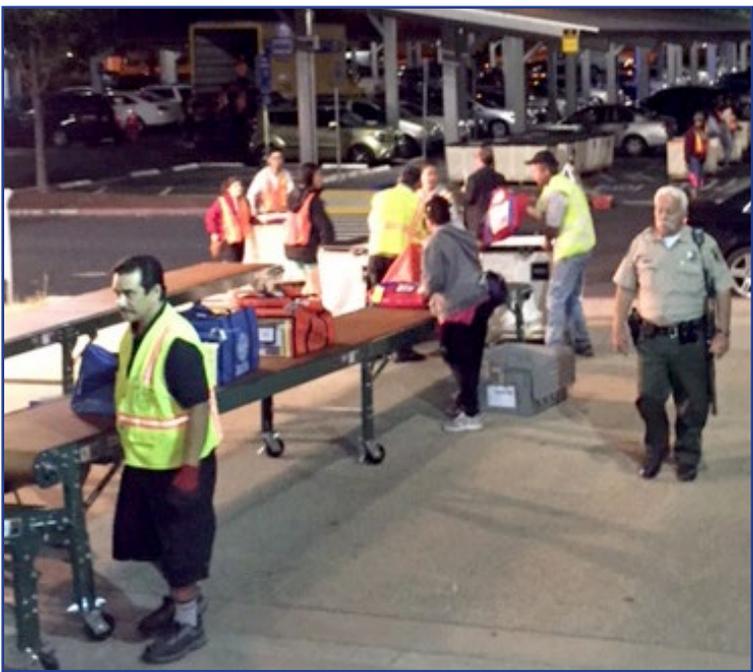


During Election Night and the first few days after Election Day, the ROV posted multiple election results updates. After June 12, the fifth day after the election, the ROV only posted one update per day, because the vast majority of ballots had been tallied by then.

## First Precinct to Arrive on Election Night by City



After the polls close, election officers at each polling place must perform a series of complex tasks to ensure that each voted ballot and all the related election materials are accounted for and returned to the Registrar of Voters' office. Some precincts may perform these tasks quickly and be among the first to return their ballots for tallying, while others may take longer due to processing last-minute voters who were in line when the polls closed or verifying the accuracy of their work.



On Election Night, the Registrar of Voters' office sets up a conveyor belt like this one outside the ROV office to assist in efficiently unloading ballot bags and delivering them inside.

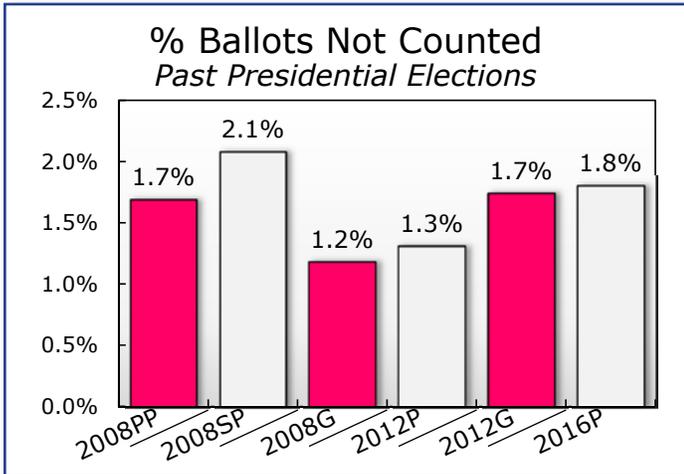
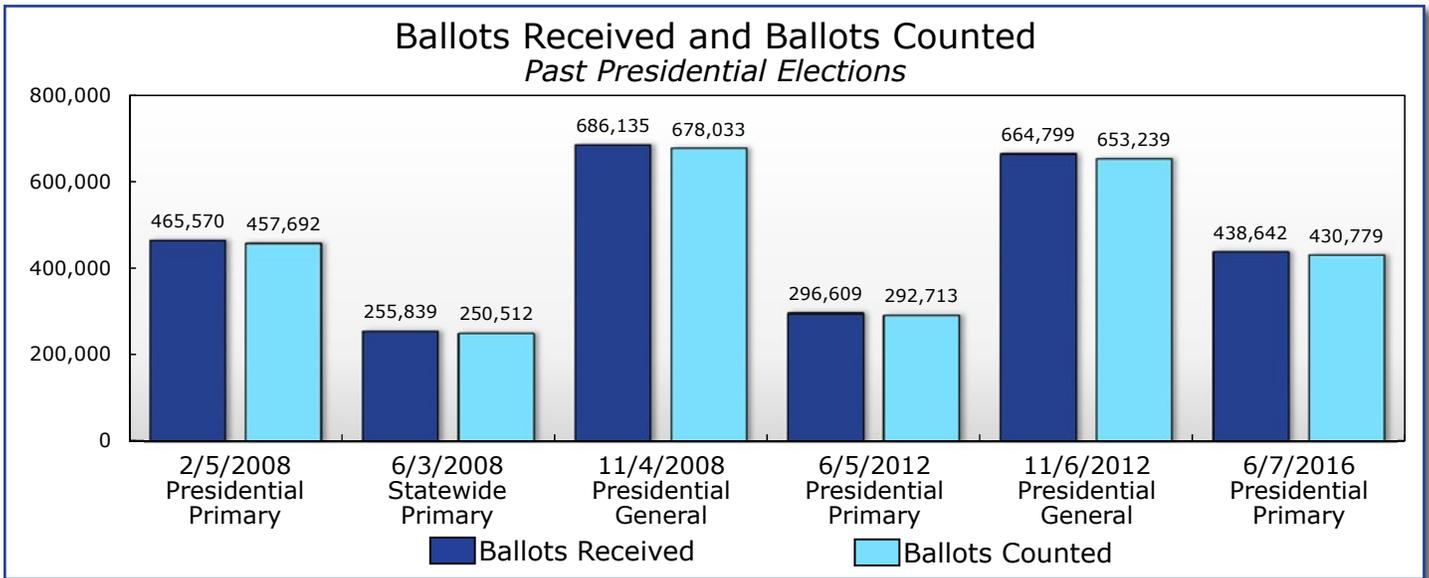
# Ballots Cast and Counted

Every election will include some portion of ballots that cannot be counted. Whether due to voters submitting the ballot too late, mistakenly casting multiple ballots, or not providing the required signatures or other identifying information used to verify that the voter is casting his or her own ballot, state law requires the Registrar of Voters' office (ROV) to exclude some ballots from the total vote count.

However, ballots are not left out of the count without careful consideration. Usually, when a ballot is challenged – identified as possibly having an issue that would prevent it from being counted – a minimum of three ROV staff members review that ballot

individually to ensure that the challenge has merit. These multiple levels of review ensure that every valid vote is counted.

Additionally, some portion of voters vote provisionally. Provisional ballots – those cast by voters whose registration or eligibility cannot be determined at the polls – must be reviewed individually to ensure that the voter did not vote through another method or at a different polling place. Vote-by-mail voters who do not surrender the vote-by-mail ballot mailed to them must also vote provisionally. The vast majority of these provisional ballots are verified and counted, but a small percentage are challenged and do not get counted.



**2008PP** - 2/5/2008 Presidential Primary  
**2008SP** - 6/3/2008 Statewide Primary  
**2008G** - 11/4/2008 Presidential General  
**2012P** - 6/5/2012 Presidential Primary  
**2012G** - 11/6/2012 Presidential General  
**2016P** - 6/7/2016 Presidential Primary



In teams of two, ballot runners prepare to deliver ballots to the vote-tallying team so they can be processed through vote-tallying machines.

**FAQ**

**Q:** What is an **overvote**?

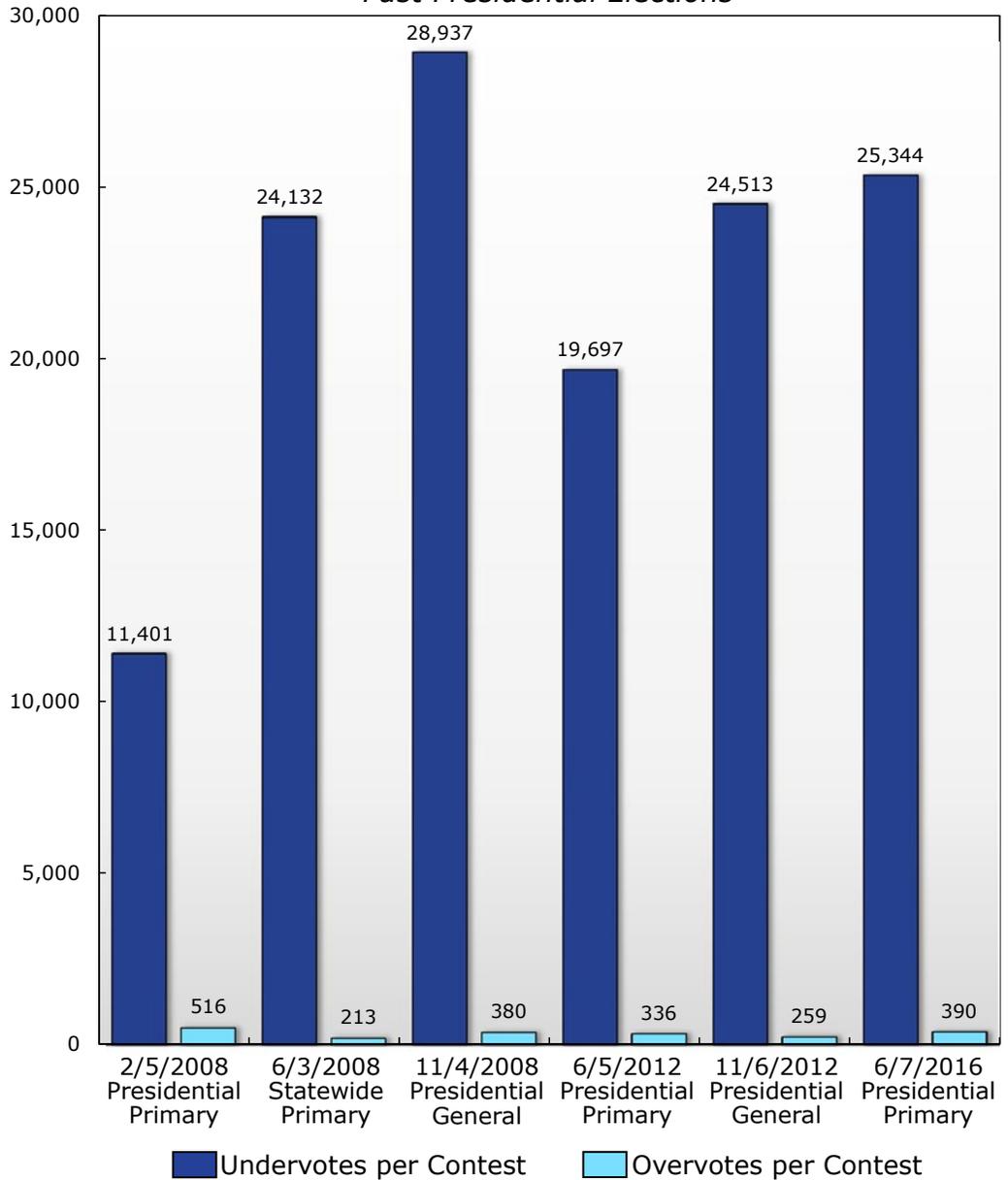
**A:** An **overvote** is when a voter votes for too many choices in a specific contest. For example, if a city council contest specifies to vote for one candidate, and the voter votes for two, this would be an overvote. When tallying the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election ballots, an overvote was recorded each time a voter selected more candidates than available seats, or when the voter selected both "Yes" and "No" on a ballot measure.

**FAQ**

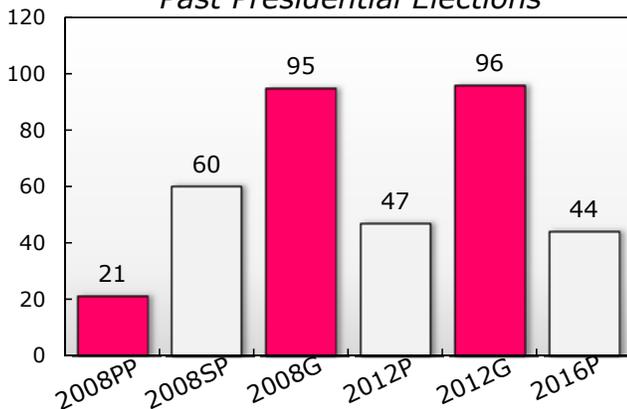
**Q:** What is an **undervote**?

**A:** An **undervote** is when a voter does not vote for all of the choices in a specific contest. For example, if a political party's county central committee contest specifies to vote for no more than six candidates, and the voter votes only for five, this would be an undervote.

**Overvotes and Undervotes per Contest  
Past Presidential Elections**



**Contests per Election  
Past Presidential Elections**



The graph above shows a high number of undervotes and overvotes per contest in statewide presidential-year elections. These elections' longer ballots tend to include more contests where voters are asked to vote for more than one individual, and voters may be more likely to overlook or lose interest in contests further down the ballot.

A comparatively greater number of undervotes in the high-turnout 2008 Presidential General Election may have been due to many voters voting only for the presidential contest. One contest alone – a Superior Court seat – accounted for nearly a quarter of the total overvotes received in the 2008 Presidential Primary Election.

**2008PP** - 2/5/2008 Presidential Primary  
**2008SP** - 6/3/2008 Statewide Primary

**2008G** - 11/4/2008 Presidential General  
**2012P** - 6/5/2012 Presidential Primary

**2012G** - 11/6/2012 Presidential General  
**2016P** - 6/7/2016 Presidential Primary

## Vote-by-Mail Envelopes Received and Processed

Date	E-Date	Total Received	Received by Mail	Dropped Off	Counted	Challenged
Before 5/9	Before E-29	28	28	0	28	0
5/9	E-29	0	0	0	0	0
5/10	E-28	0	0	0	0	0
5/11	E-27	0	0	0	0	0
5/12	E-26	0	0	0	0	0
5/13	E-25	1,838	1,579	259	1,825	13
5/14	E-24	0	0	0	0	0
5/15	E-23	0	0	0	0	0
5/16	E-22	12,557	12,557	0	12,487	70
5/17	E-21	12,965	12,745	220	12,910	55
5/18	E-20	8,858	8,288	570	8,826	32
5/19	E-19	12,317	11,621	696	12,264	53
5/20	E-18	7,272	7,154	118	7,243	29
5/21	E-17	2	2	0	2	0
5/22	E-16	0	0	0	0	0
5/23	E-15	12,824	12,824	0	12,757	67
5/24	E-14	11,333	10,014	1,319	11,276	57
5/25	E-13	11,725	11,542	183	11,669	56
5/26	E-12	8,468	7,703	761	8,419	49
5/27	E-11	7,358	7,160	166	7,326	32
5/28	E-10	18	11	7	17	1
5/29	E-9	7,346	6,606	740	7,303	43
5/30	E-8	0	0	0	0	0
5/31	E-7	9,511	8,675	836	9,468	43
6/1	E-6	13,674	13,281	393	13,588	86
6/2	E-5	19,848	18,209	1,639	19,789	59
6/3	E-4	9,658	9,284	374	9,613	45
6/4	E-3	11,780	11,576	204	11,717	63
6/5	E-2	1,625	106	1,519	1,620	5
6/6	E-1	22,879	18,102	4,777	22,774	105
<b>6/7</b>	<b>Election Day</b>	<b>20,293</b>	<b>17,312</b>	<b>2,981</b>	<b>20,190</b>	<b>103</b>
6/8	E+1	92,773	18,492	74,281	92,448	325
6/9	E+2	5,357	1,401	3,956	5,332	25
6/10	E+3	3,013	2,450	563	874	2,139
6/11	E+4	36	12	24	33	3
6/12	E+5	0	0	0	0	0
6/13	E+6	8	6	2	7	1
6/14	E+7	263	259	4	4	259
6/15	E+8	2	1	1	2	0
After 6/15	After E+9	470	451	19	20	450

When an extraordinarily large number of ballots arrives at the Registrar of Voters' office (ROV) at one time, ballots sometimes must be stored before being entered into the system. For example, due to the high volume of ballots, vote-by-mail ballots received on Election Day are held until the ROV finishes processing the ballots received from polling places. As a result, days such as 6/8, the day after Election Day, often show a high quantity of ballots actually received in the preceding days but not processed into the ROV's voting system until more immediate priorities are resolved.

### FAQ

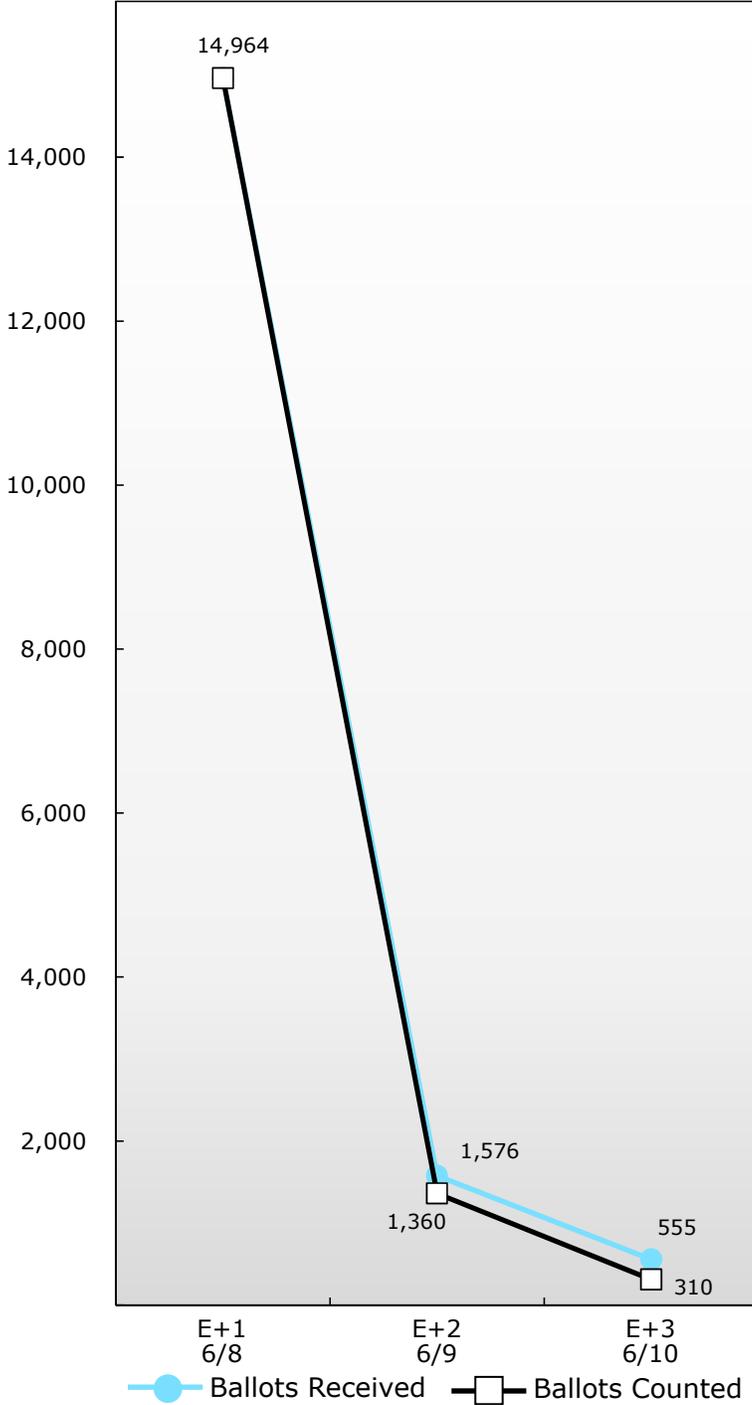
- Q:** Are vote-by-mail envelopes processed on the same day that they are received?
- A:** Generally, yes. However, there are a few exceptions. During the days around Election Day, large volumes of vote-by-mail envelopes may create a backlog requiring some to be processed on subsequent days. Additionally, some envelopes are challenged and require additional verification before processing. After the envelope is processed, state law prevents the Registrar of Voters' office from opening the envelope and tallying the ballot until 10 days before Election Day, and results of the tally cannot be released until 8 p.m. on Election Day.

# Extended VBM Tallying (E+3)

A 2015 state law extended the window for vote-by-mail (VBM) voting by allowing mailed ballots postmarked by and received within three days of Election Day to be counted.

In the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, the Registrar of Voters counted nearly 17,000 ballots received after Election Day – ballots that would not have counted in past primary elections.

**Ballots Received and Counted During E+3**  
June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election

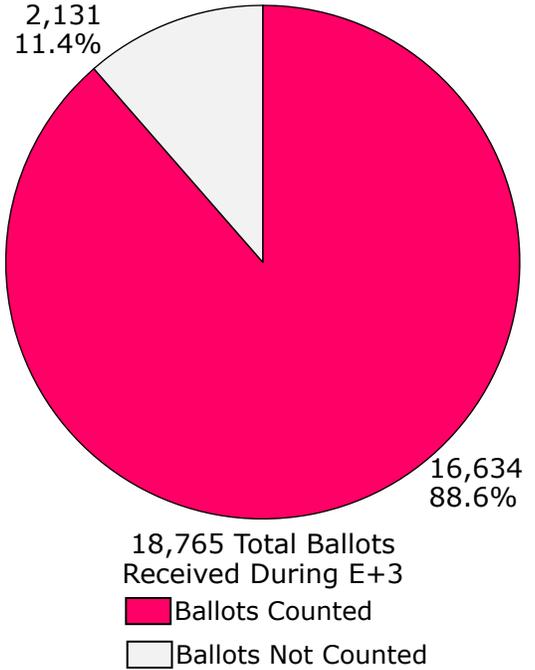


## FAQ

**Q:** What does **E+3** ("E plus 3") mean?

**A:** Like the days preceding an election, the Registrar of Voters tracks days following an election in relation to Election Day. **E+1** ("E plus 1") means the first day after an election. **E+3**, therefore, is three days after Election Day.

**% E+3 Ballots Counted and Not Counted**  
June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election



## FAQ

**Q:** Why is the postmark important?

**A:** Under state law, a vote-by-mail envelope must have a postmark indicating that it was mailed on or before Election Day in order for the ballot inside to be counted. Although most mail that goes through the United States Postal Service (USPS) receives a postmark of some sort, some envelopes may not receive a proper mark when large volumes of mail move through the postal service around election time. The Registrar of Voters continues to work with the USPS to minimize the number of unpostmarked vote-by-mail return envelopes and therefore minimize the number of ballots that will not be counted.

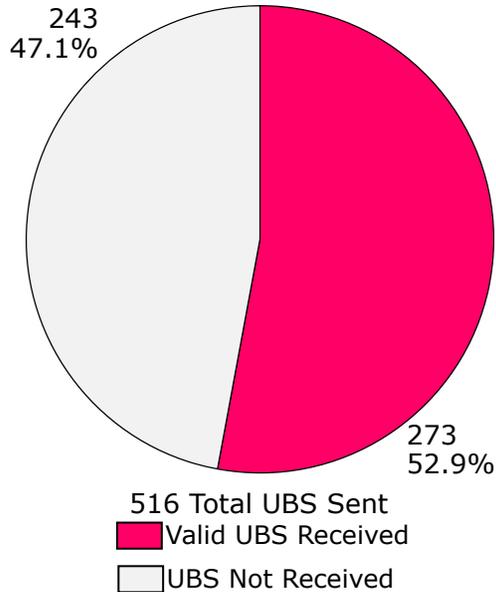
**E+3 Ballots Not Counted**

Date	No Postmark or Date	Late Postmark	Total
E+1 6/8	0	0	0
E+2 6/9	26	1,550	1,576
E+3 6/10	3	552	555
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2,102</b>	<b>2,131</b>

# Unsigned Ballot Statements

A 2016 law further extended the window for vote-by-mail tallying by allowing voters who forgot to sign their vote-by-mail envelopes to provide a signature within eight days after Election Day. When the Registrar of Voters' office receives an unsigned vote-by-mail envelope, staff members send a letter to the voter informing them of the missing signature. Voters may provide the signature by mailing or faxing back the **unsigned ballot statement**, dropping it off at any ballot drop-off location, or coming in person to sign the envelope. After an initial mailing of 163 letters, the Registrar of Voters' office continued to mail letters and receive corrected signatures back from voters until the deadline on June 15 (E+8). In all, 273 ballots were made valid and counted by this method. Of these 273 a total of 145 – or more than half – would not have been counted before the new law giving voters an extra eight days.

Unsigned Ballot Statements Counted and Not Counted  
June 7, 2016,  
Presidential Primary Election

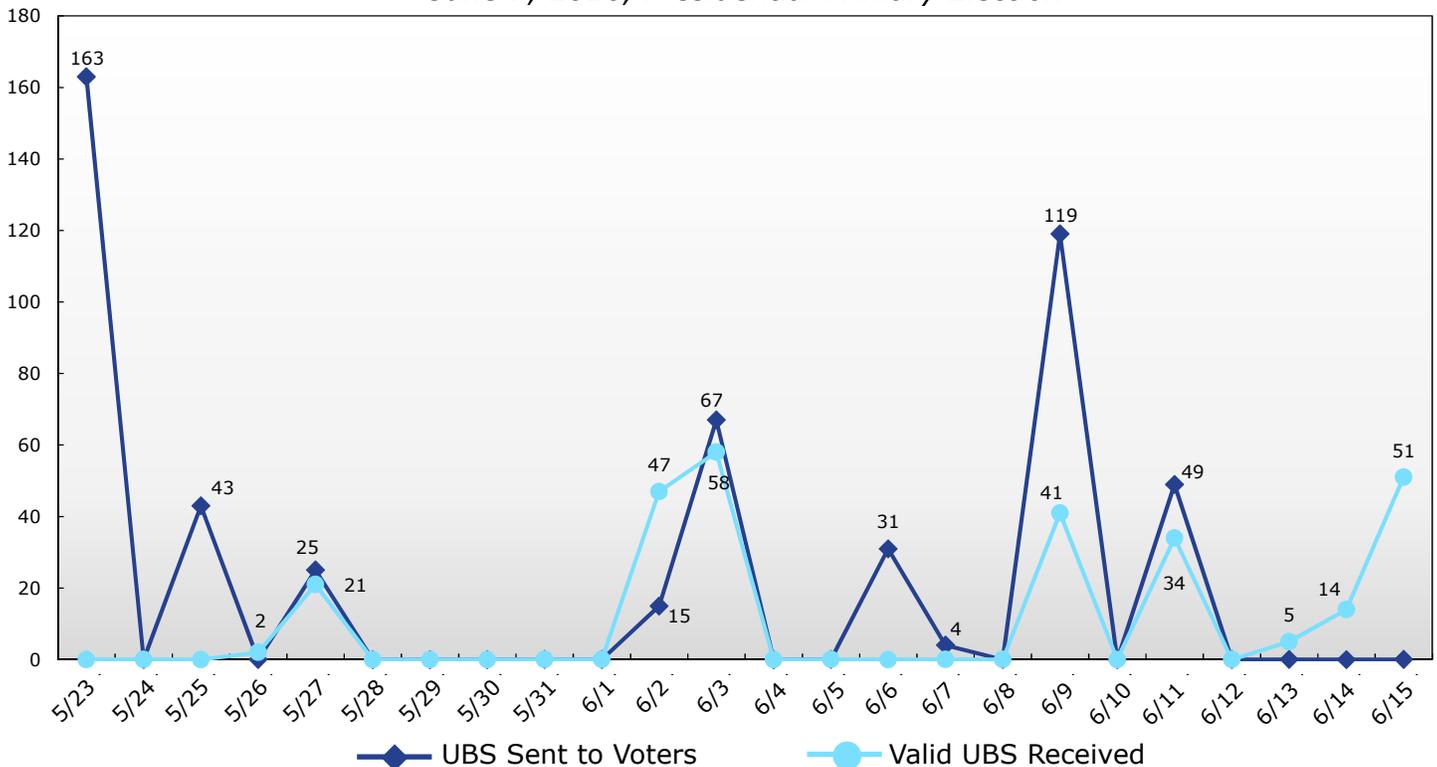


## FAQ

**Q:** What is an **Unsigned Ballot Statement**?

**A:** An **unsigned ballot statement** is a form signed by a voter to provide a signature in the event that the voter did not sign his or her vote-by-mail envelope.

Unsigned Ballot Statements (UBS) Sent and Received  
June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election



Out of 516 unsigned ballot statement forms sent to voters during the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, the Registrar of Voters (ROV) received 273 valid forms back for a return rate of just under 53%. Receiving these forms allowed the ROV to count these voters' ballots, which otherwise would have been chal-

lenged under a state law requiring the voter's signature.

By contrast, in the May 3, 2016, Special Mail Election – the first election during which the ROV could by law accept unsigned ballot statements – the ROV received back 67% of forms mailed to voters.

# Provisional Votes

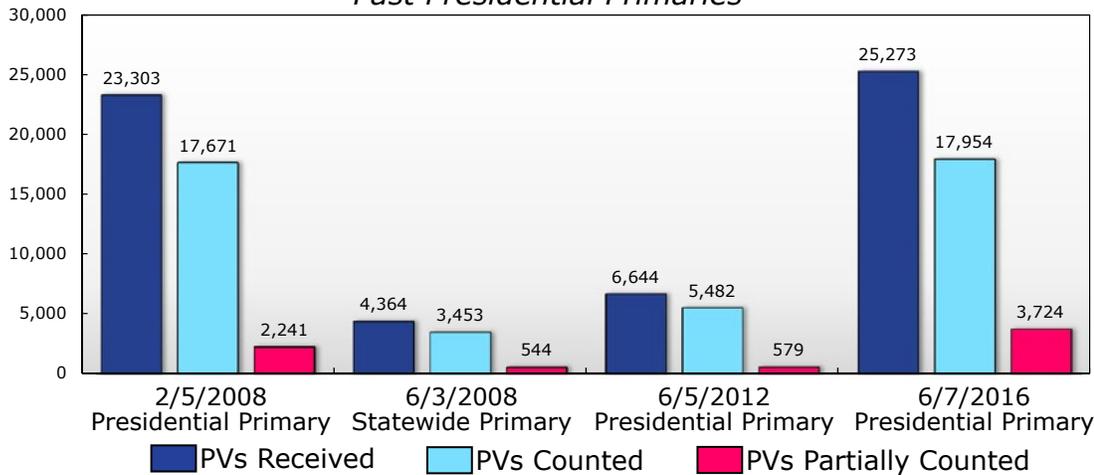
In a presidential primary election, voters cast provisional ballots at the polls when:

- The voter's name could not be located on the official roster index for the precinct;
- The voter requested to vote a party ballot on which the voter was not eligible;
- The voter's eligibility could not be verified; or
- The voter was issued a vote-by-mail ballot that the voter could not produce.

The vast majority of provisional ballots cast by voters ultimately are counted. Provisional ballots can be partially counted when:

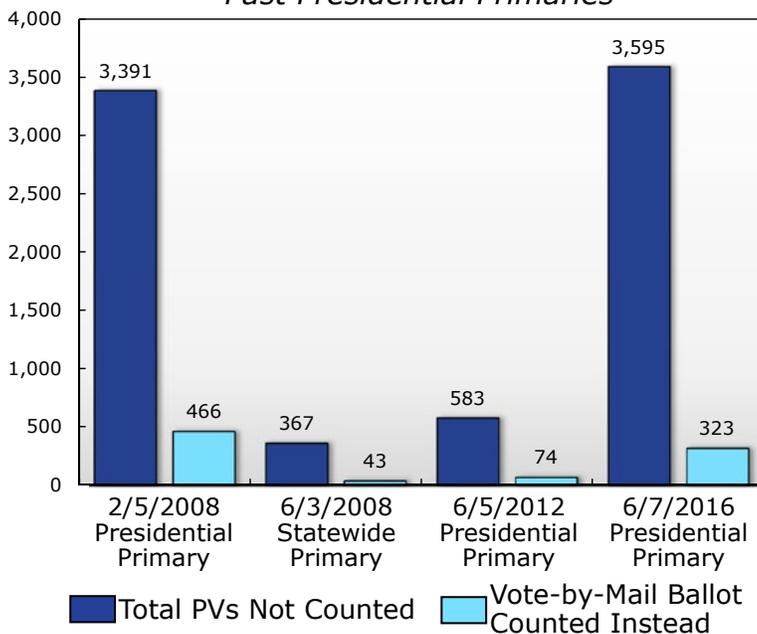
- A voter is determined to be eligible for some but not all of the contests, usually occurring when the voter votes at a polling place other than his or her assigned polling place;
- A voter registered with a political party requested to cast a ballot for a different political party; or
- A No Party Preference voter requested to vote for a political party that did not allow crossover voting.

**Provisional Ballots (PVs) Cast, Counted, and Partially Counted**  
*Past Presidential Primaries*

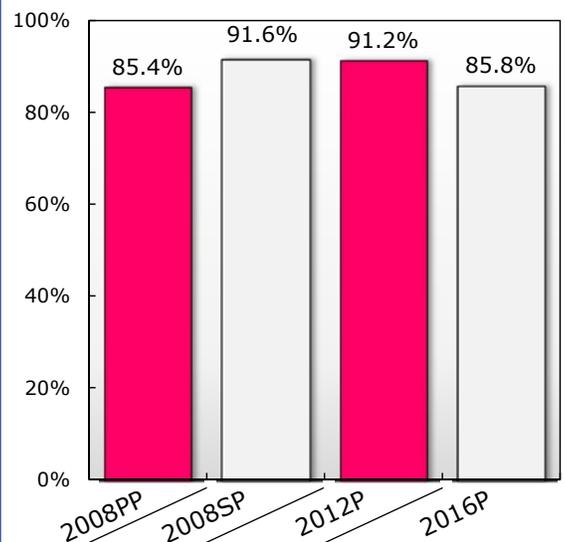


In the 2008 and 2016 presidential primaries, voters cast a high number of provisional ballots compared with the 2008 Statewide and 2012 Presidential primaries. In both 2008 and 2016, a new president was certain to be elected – an event that draws many new and infrequent voters to the polls.

**Provisional Ballots (PVs) Not Counted**  
*Past Presidential Primaries*



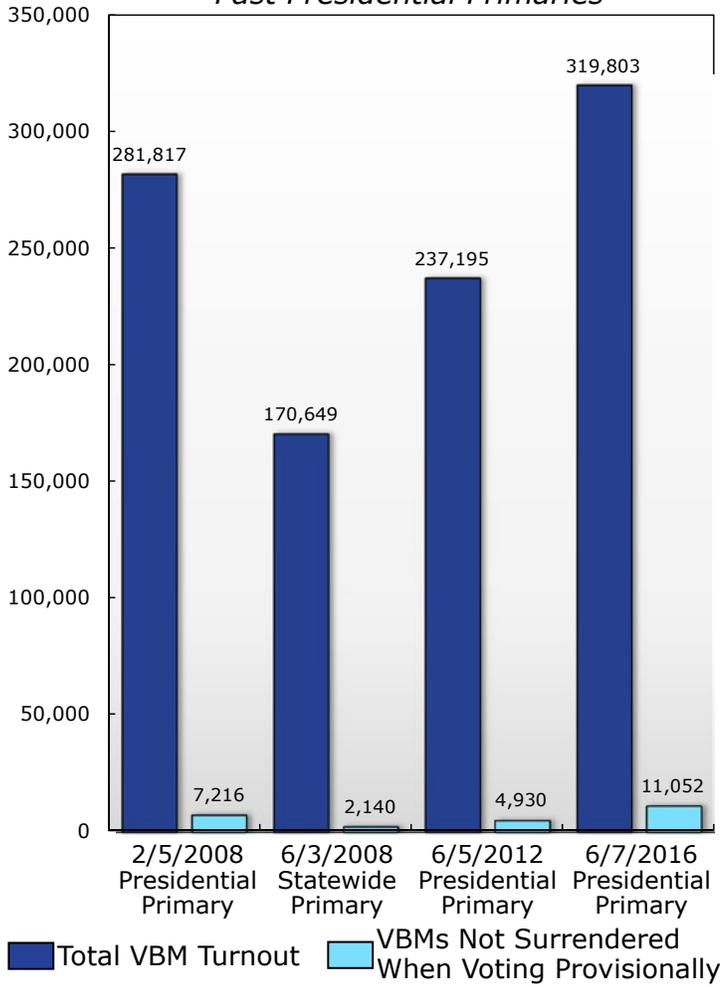
**% PVs Counted**  
*Past Presidential Primaries*



**2008PP** - 2/5/2008 Presidential Primary  
**2008SP** - 6/3/2008 Statewide Primary  
**2012P** - 6/5/2012 Presidential Primary  
**2016P** - 6/7/2016 Presidential Primary

In countywide elections, only about 10-15% of provisional ballots are not counted for various reasons. The graph above shows that of the provisional ballots not counted, some were not counted because the voter had already voted with a vote-by-mail ballot. In these cases, the vote-by-mail ballot is counted and the provisional ballot is not. Voters sometimes vote provisionally when they worry that their vote-by-mail ballot will not arrive in time.

### Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Voters and Unsurrendered VBM Ballots Past Presidential Primaries



### Provisional Ballot Challenges

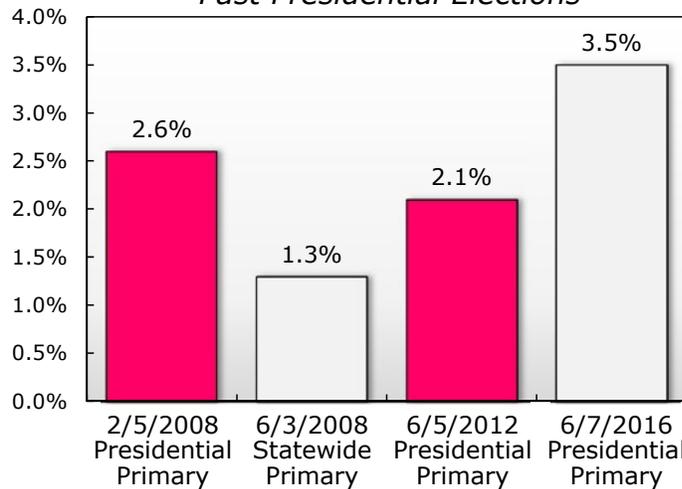
Reason	Explanation	No.
Not Eligible	Voter's registration was canceled due to moving out of the county, or ineligible for another reason	96
Not Registered	Voter is not registered in Santa Clara County	2,584
Registered Late	Voter registered after the 15th day before Election Day	245
Insufficient Signature	Voter either did not provide a valid signature as required or the signature on the envelope did not match the signature in the voter's file	347
Vote-by-Mail Ballot Counted	Voter already voted by mail and the voter's vote-by-mail ballot was counted	323

When a vote-by-mail voter opts to vote at a polling place rather than returning a ballot by mail, state law requires the voter to surrender his or her unvoted vote-by-mail ballot at the polling place in order to vote normally. If the voter did not bring his or her vote-by-mail ballot, the voter may still vote provisionally. As with all other provisional ballots, Registrar of Voters staff members verify that the voter was eligible to vote, registered, and did not cast any other ballot before the ballot is counted.

In the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, 3.5% of vote-by-mail voters voted provisionally without surrendering their original vote-by-mail ballot, the highest percentage out of any presidential-year primary election. This may have been because some nonpartisan voters decided to cross over and vote a party ballot at the polls and did not bring or had misplaced their original ballot.

In the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, nearly twice as many voters voted a polling place ballot without surrendering their vote-by-mail ballot than the previous two presidential primary elections combined.

### % VBM Voters Voting Provisionally Without Surrendering Ballot Past Presidential Elections



# VI. Election Verification and Certification

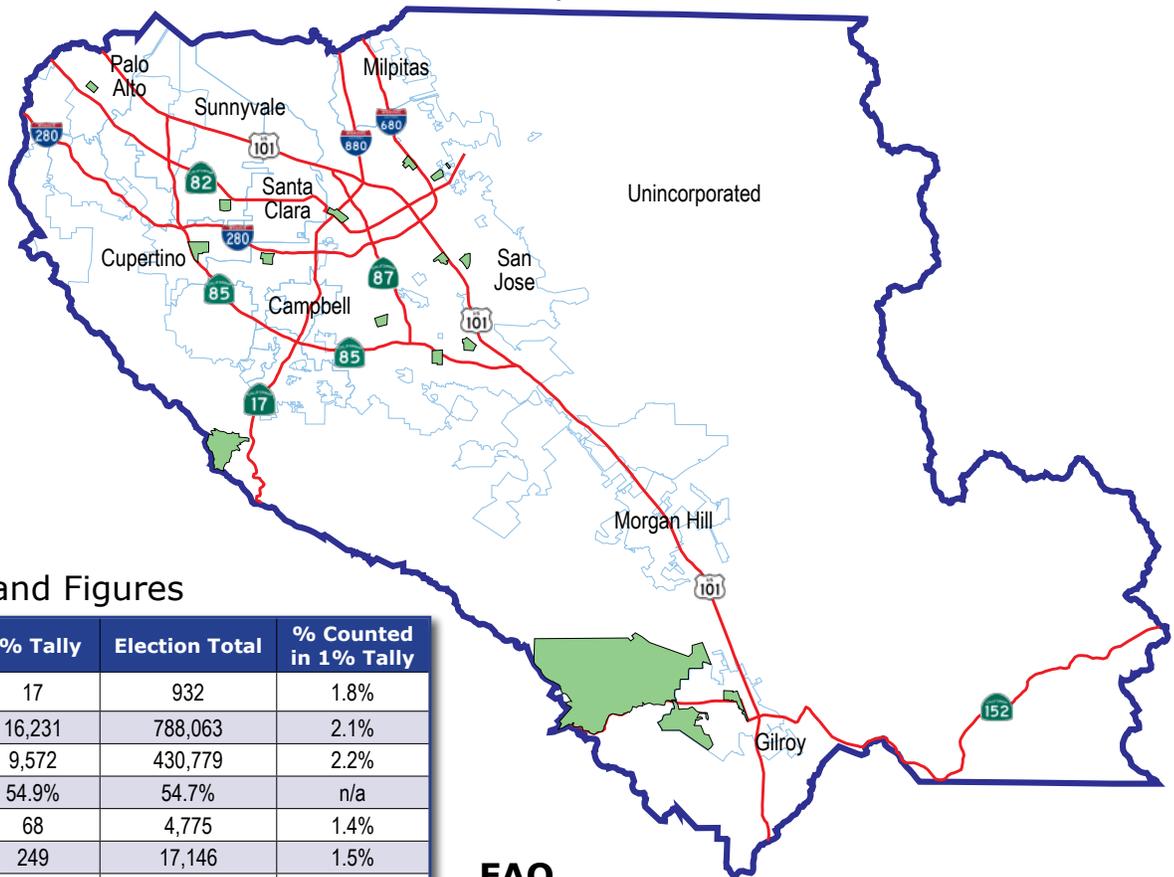
Once the tally is finished, the Registrar of Voters (ROV) completes a **canvass** that accounts for every ballot issued and returned during the election. Any misplaced voted ballots that are discovered during this process are counted and added to the official vote tally for the correct precinct. During the canvass, the ROV also conducts a manual count of the votes of at least 1% of the precincts to ensure the accuracy of the vote-tallying machines.

When all of these processes are complete and any discrepancies are resolved, the ROV can certify the results, and the winners of the election can be officially declared.

## 1% Tally

The 1% tally often includes more than just the minimum 1% of precincts. The ROV must manually tally at least one precinct in each contest, which often requires the ROV to tally more than 1% of the total precincts, as well as more than 1% of the total number of voters.

Precincts Involved in the 1% Tally



## 1% Tally Facts and Figures

	1% Tally	Election Total	% Counted in 1% Tally
No. of Precincts	17	932	1.8%
Registered Voters	16,231	788,063	2.1%
Ballots Counted	9,572	430,779	2.2%
Turnout	54.9%	54.7%	n/a
Qualified Write-In Votes	68	4,775	1.4%
Overvotes	249	17,146	1.5%
Undervotes	13,212	1,115,557	1.2%
Blank Ballots	16	1,472	1.1%
Discrepancies	0	n/a	n/a

## FAQ

**Q:** Why are there so many undervotes?

**A:** When a voter purposely or inadvertently leaves a contest blank or selects fewer than the maximum number of candidates for a particular office, an undervote will be registered for each vote short of that maximum number.

## FAQ

**Q:** What is the **canvass**?

**A:** The canvass is a complete audit of all ballots received to ensure that every ballot was processed and the results are complete.

After the results were certified, the ROV conducted an automatic recount for the City of San Jose District 4 Councilmember race as part of a pilot program approved by the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors. The recount confirmed the winner and final outcome of that contest.

## FAQ

**Q:** What is the 1% tally?

**A:** Before the results of an election are official, state law requires the Registrar of Voters to verify the accuracy of the vote-tallying machines' count by manually tallying the votes of 1% of the total number of precincts that participated in the election, as well as additional precincts to ensure that at least one precinct from every contest is included. Registrar of Voters staff members review each ballot cast by voters in the precinct and compare the total to the vote-tallying machines' total.

# Automatic Recount

For the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved a pilot program calling for an automatic recount of votes to be conducted when the election results are extremely close. For any contest wholly within the county's borders, the Registrar of Voters was directed to conduct an automatic recount if the margin of victory for the contest was within 25 votes or within 0.5% of the total ballots cast.

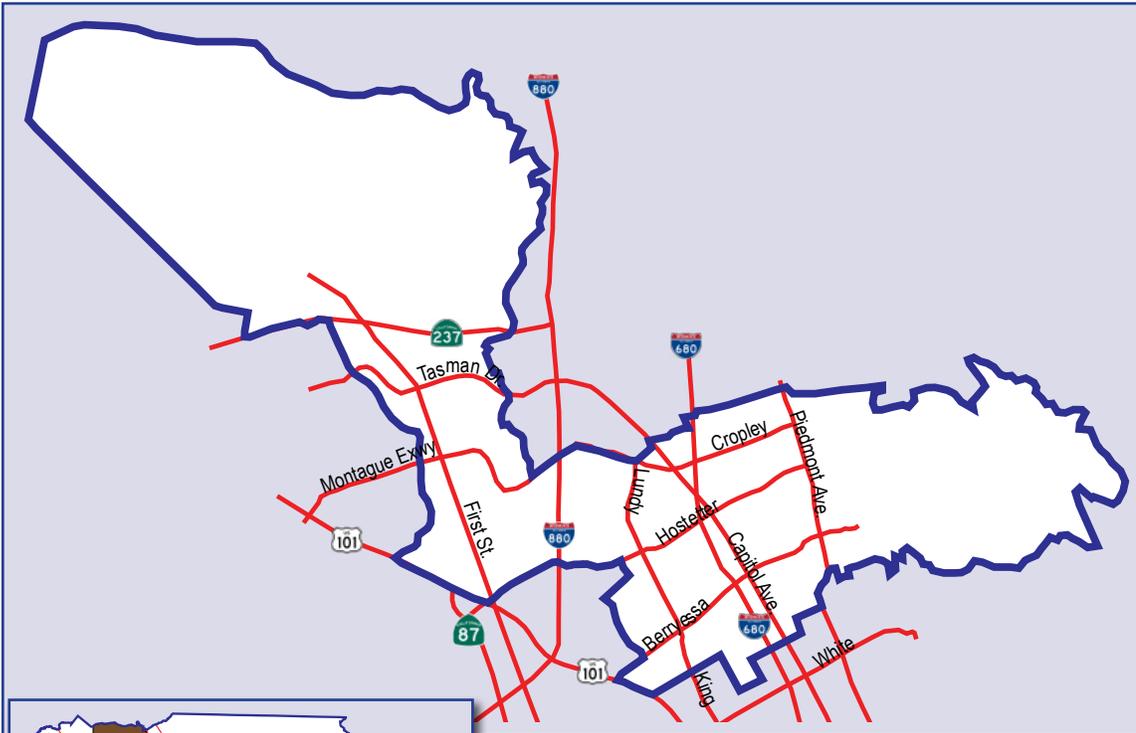
As the final votes were tallied, the ROV found that the margin of victory in the contest for the City of San Jose District 4 Councilmember was only 36 votes, which fell within 0.5% of the total ballots cast. After certifying the election results in accordance with

state law, the ROV began a manual recount of every ballot cast in the City of San Jose District 4 Councilmember contest. The recount was open to the public, and both candidates and several observers watched the process.

After more than a week of preparation and four days of manual vote-counting, the recount confirmed the winner of the City of San Jose District 4 Councilmember contest.

As the recount was wrapping up, a voter representing one of the City of San Jose District 4 Councilmember candidates filed a request to conduct a voter-initiated recount. The voter-initiated recount concluded on August 2 and also confirmed the winner.

## City of San Jose, District 4



## Automatic Recount Results

	Manh Nguyen	Lan Diep	Total
Total Votes Prior to Recount	8,687	8,723	17,410
% of Vote Prior to Recount	49.9%	50.1%	100%
Vote and % Margin	-36 votes -0.1%	+36 votes +0.1%	n/a
Total Votes After Recount	8,685	8,697	17,382
% of Vote After Recount	49.965%	50.035%	100%
Vote and % Margin	-12 votes -0.07%	+12 votes +0.07%	n/a

Automatic Recount	
Jurisdiction	City of San Jose, District 4
No. of Candidates	2
No. of Precincts	43
No. of Ballots	17,410
No. of Staff Needed	28
No. of Hours	1,604.7
Cost of Recount	\$93,333.19

Some variance will always be found in any manual recount due to voters marking ballots in ways that cannot be read by the vote-tallying machine. For example, when a voter circles a candidate's name on the ballot rather than completing the arrow as instructed, the machine could read this mark in different ways depending on its placement. During a manual recount, each of these non-standard marks is considered by human eyes and interpreted in accordance with the voter's intent, which sometimes results in counting the vote in a different way than the machine would.

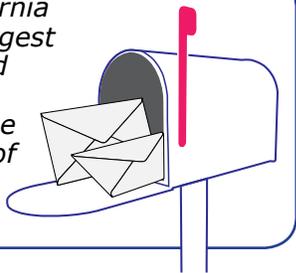
## FAQ

**Q:** What is the difference between the automatic recount and a voter-initiated recount?

**A:** The automatic recount was ordered by the County Board of Supervisors and paid for by the County. A voter-initiated recount is a recount requested by a voter, who must pay for the recount out of his or her own funds. According to state law, the voter requesting a voter-initiated recount also gets to prioritize which ballots to count first and can stop the recount at any time.

# Figures in Pictures

Among the 10 California counties with the largest number of registered voters, Santa Clara County has by far the highest percentage of vote-by-mail voters at **74.3%**



Alpine County



Sierra County

ROV staff and more than **4,700** election

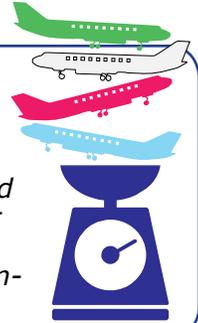
officers and volunteers recruited for the election formed an organization larger than all the registered voters in California's smallest two counties combined

Voters in Santa Clara County participated in the election at a substantially higher rate – **54.7%** – than the statewide average of **47.7%**



Among the 10 California counties with the largest number of registered voters, Santa Clara County voted at the second-highest rate of **54.7%**, trailing only San Francisco at **57.3%**

Prior to Election Day, ROV staff members delivered, distributed and restocked more than **120 tons** of polling place equipment and supplies – a weight greater than an aircraft carrier or about equal to four medium-sized passenger jets



## 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).

### 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).