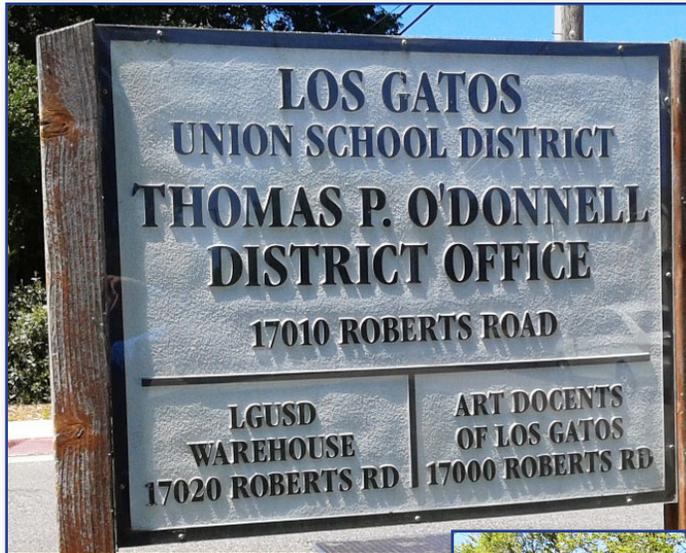




# May 2, 2017 Special Mail Election



## Registrar of Voters Post-Election Report

# May 2, 2017 Special Mail Election

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

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Vote-by-mail (VBM) return envelopes are sorted for processing and tallying.

### Contact Us

#### At the Office

Registrar of Voters  
1555 Berger Drive, Building 2  
San Jose, CA 95112

#### On Social Media

 [www.facebook.com/sccvote](http://www.facebook.com/sccvote)  
 [twitter.com/sccvote](https://twitter.com/sccvote)  
 [www.youtube.com/user/sccvote](http://www.youtube.com/user/sccvote)

#### By Phone

General: 1-408-299-VOTE (8683)  
Toll-Free: 1-866-430-VOTE (8683)

#### By E-Mail

[registrar@rov.sccgov.org](mailto:registrar@rov.sccgov.org)

#### On the Web

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx>



#### Notes

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). **November 13, 2017: Revised late ballot figure on page 12, paragraph 2.**

Published: November 7, 2017

# A Message from the Registrar

I am pleased to present the County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters' Post-Election Report for the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election.

This report is intended to provide a glimpse into how this election compares with other similar elections with regard to voter participation and turnout, election preparation, and vote tallying. Additionally, FAQ boxes and explanations throughout the report provide a wealth of information about election procedures, logistics, and laws.

I hope you find this report as useful and informative as I do.

Sincerely,

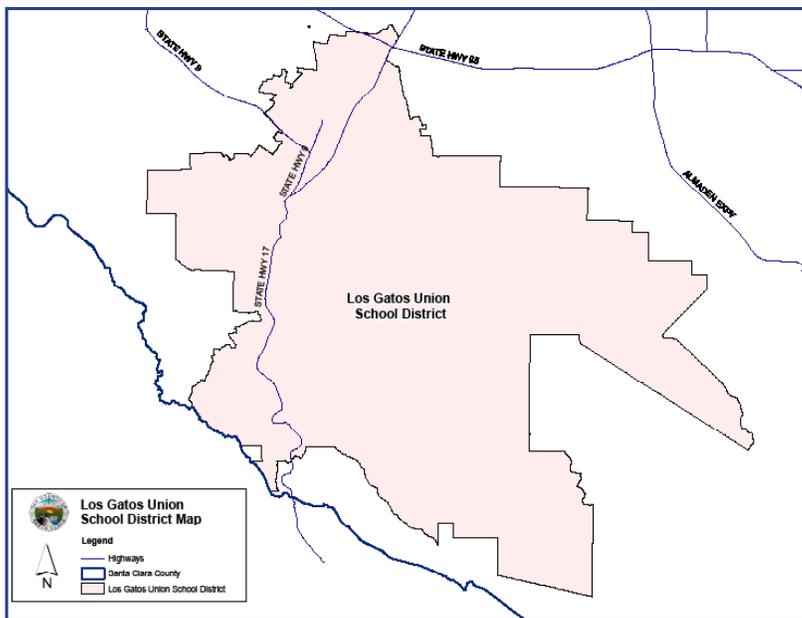


Shannon Bushey  
Registrar of Voters



**Shannon Bushey**  
Registrar of Voters

## Los Gatos Union School District

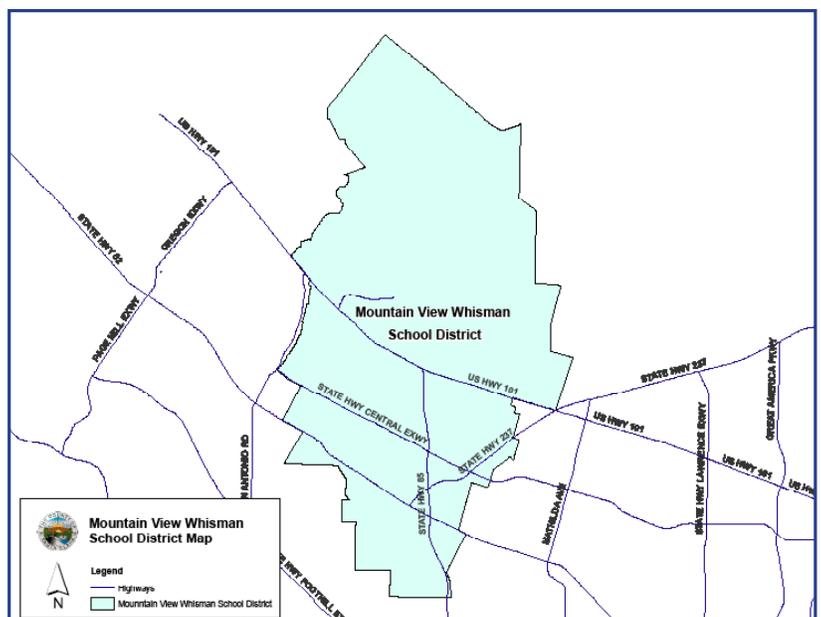


## All-Mail Elections

All-mail special elections have been held in California under certain limited circumstances for decades, and more and more voters are casting their ballots by mail. In 2001, the California Legislature passed a law allowing residents to become permanent vote-by-mail voters, and by 2008, permanent vote-by-mail voters were the voting majority in Santa Clara County. The May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election was the 11th all-mail election conducted by the County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters since 2009.

The May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election involved two jurisdictions — the Los Gatos Union School District, and the Mountain View Whisman School District.

## Mountain View Whisman School District



# I. About This Election

## Introduction

The May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election included two **contests**, both parcel taxes, affecting residents in two specific districts of the county.

Santa Clara County contains many local jurisdictions, including cities, school districts, and special districts. Regular elections are held in June or November, but local jurisdictions occasionally request special elections to be held at other times throughout the year. Local jurisdictions often request special elections when a district governing board seat becomes vacant, when voters must decide a ballot **measure** question, or when a governing board member is faced with a recall.

When certain conditions are met, local jurisdictions may call an all-mail special election instead of having polling places. In an all-mail election, every voter receives a ballot by mail, even those who are not permanent vote-by-mail voters.

The Los Gatos Union School District and the Mountain View Whisman School District each called for a special all-mail election

for May 2, 2017, to place a ballot measure before the voters that would renew a parcel tax. In the case of the Los Gatos Union School District, the parcel tax was originally approved during the June 3, 2008, Statewide Primary Election and renewed in an all-mail election on May 7, 2013. In the case of the Mountain View Whisman School District, the parcel tax was also initially approved in the June 2008 Statewide Primary, and placed on the ballot before the voters to be renewed in the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election. Both parcel tax measures appearing on the ballot for the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election would, if enacted, last for an eight-year period in the school districts.

California law requires the county Registrar of Voters (ROV) to conduct special elections when requested by local jurisdictions. The local jurisdiction reimburses the ROV for all of the costs associated with the special election.

### 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.

### FAQ

**Q:** Why do local jurisdictions choose to call all-mail elections?

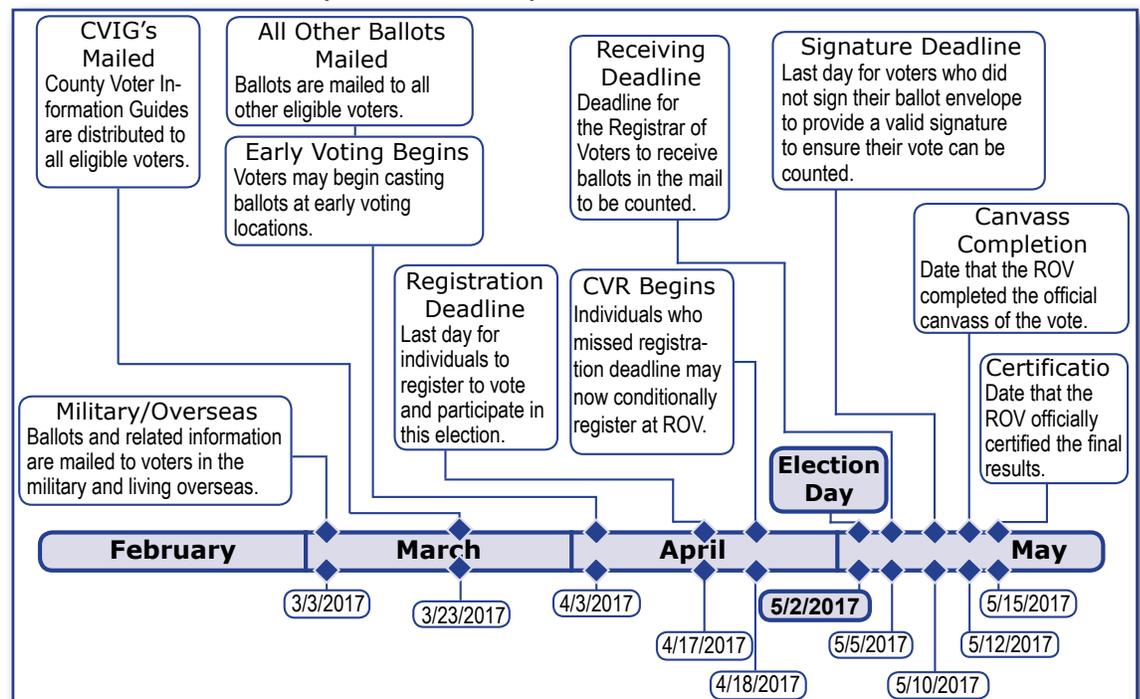
**A:** Elections with polling places require an extraordinary amount of resources, staffing, and logistics. As a result, many local jurisdictions opt to conduct all-mail elections to reduce the costs, especially when the ballot only contains a single item.

### FAQ

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

**A:** A measure is an item that a local jurisdiction or district can place 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.

## Timeline of the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election



# Executive Summary

The Los Gatos Union School District and the Mountain View Whisman School District called for a special all-mail election to be held on May 2, 2017, to ask voters whether to renew a parcel tax that was initially approved by voters in both districts in 2008. The Los Gatos Union and Mountain View Whisman School Districts both requested that the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters (ROV) conduct the election, making the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election the third election of calendar year 2017, joining the March 7, 2017, Special Election, as well as the April 25, 2017, Special Election.

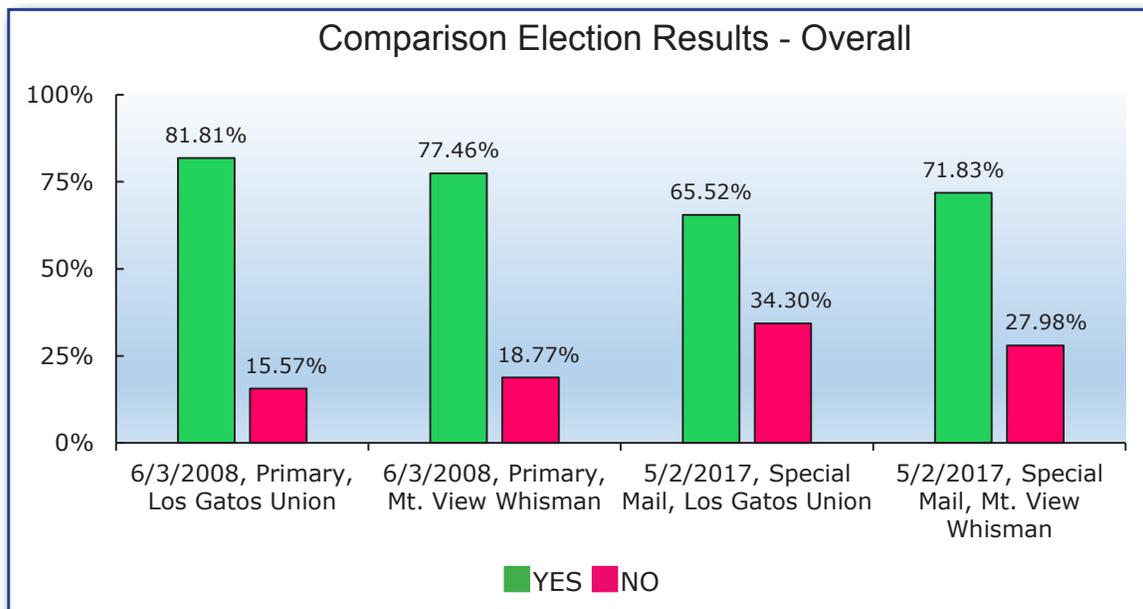
Voters in the Los Gatos Union School District turned out for the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election at a rate nearly six percentage points lower than for the June 3, 2008, Statewide Primary Election. Approximately 40% of registered voters in the Los Gatos Union School District cast a ballot for this election, with all votes cast via vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots.



Voters in the Mountain View Whisman School District turned out for the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election at a rate nearly nine percentage points lower than for the June 3, 2008, Statewide Primary Election. Approximately one-third of registered voters in the Mountain View Whisman School District cast a ballot for this particular election, with all votes cast via VBM ballots. Between the two districts, the turnout rate for the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election was roughly 35%.

As this was a special all-mail election, no polling places were established for the election and all voters received their ballots by mail. Approximately 87% of the ballots cast were received and processed by the ROV prior to Election Day. The ROV was able to tally approximately 91.4% of ballots by Election Day, and close to 100% of the ballots within three days after the election. Results were certified on May 15, 2017 — 13 days after Election Day.

Election	Voting Jurisdiction	Registered Voters	Total Turnout	Turnout Rate
June 3, 2008, Statewide Primary	Los Gatos Union School District	16,589	7,508	45.3%
June 3, 2008, Statewide Primary	Mountain View Whisman School District	26,370	11,095	42.1%
May 2, 2017, Special Mail	Los Gatos Union School District	18,762	7,443	39.7%
May 2, 2017, Special Mail	Mountain View Whisman School District	31,267	10,314	33.0%



# What's New for This Election

As the third election of 2017, the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election served as the third opportunity for voters who were unable to make the 15-day registration deadline to come to the Registrar of Voters' (ROV) office between 14 days prior to the election and Election Day and conditionally register to vote.

## Conditional Voter Registration (CVR)

On January 1, 2017, a new state law known as Conditional Voter Registration took effect. Voters who are unable to make the

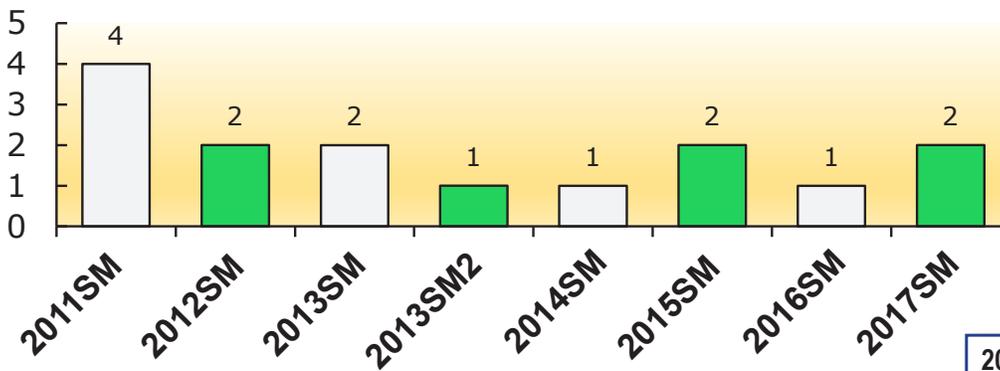
## Election Facts

- 27** precincts
- 2** jurisdictions
- 2** contests
- 2** ballot types

15-day registration deadline for any reason may visit their county ROV office between 14 days prior to the election and Election Day and conditionally register to vote. Upon completion of an affidavit of registration (also called a voter registration card), the voter will be provided a CVR provisional ballot. Upon determination of the validity of the voter's information and eligibility, the registration will become permanent and the

CVR ballot will be counted. No CVR ballots were submitted for the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election.

### Number of Participating Jurisdictions Recent Special Mail Elections



The number of jurisdictions calling special mail elections will vary from year to year.

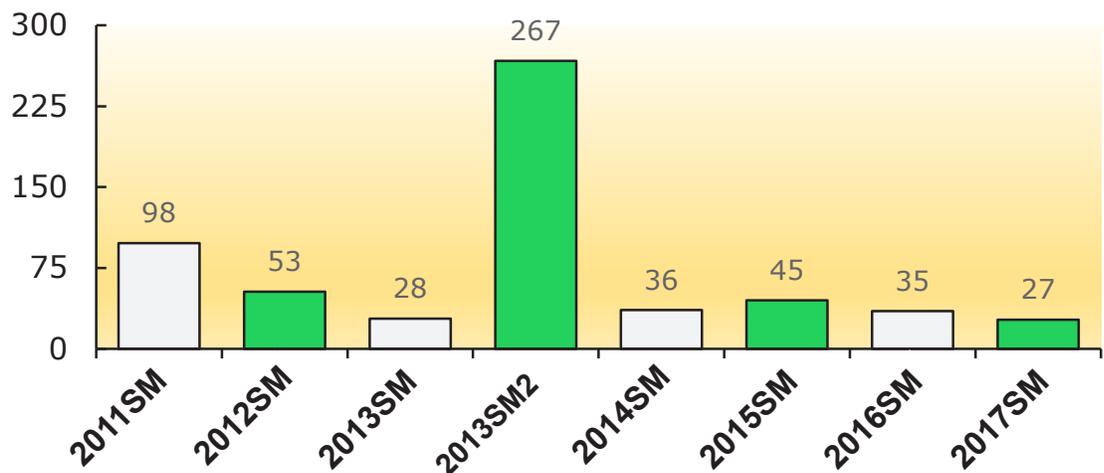
- 2011SM – 5/3/2011 Special Mail
- 2012SM – 5/8/2012 Special Mail
- 2013SM – 5/7/2013 Special Mail
- 2013SM2 – 8/27/2013 Special Mail
- 2014SM – 5/6/2014 Special Mail
- 2015SM – 5/5/2015 Special Mail
- 2016SM – 5/3/2016 Special Mail
- 2017SM – 5/2/2017 Special Mail

## FAQ

**Q:** How often are special mail elections called by local jurisdictions?

**A:** Since 2009, the County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters has conducted at least one special mail election — and sometimes two special mail elections — each year, in addition to the regularly scheduled elections for that year.

### Number of Participating Precincts Recent Special Mail Elections



More jurisdictions may not necessarily mean more precincts. Some jurisdictions are far larger, and have more precincts, than others.

# Familiar Ballot, Familiar Measure

Voters in both the Los Gatos Union School District and the Mountain View Whisman School District saw history repeat itself when they cast their votes either for or against a parcel tax measure during the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election. In the case of the Los Gatos Union School District, a parcel tax measure appeared on the ballot nine years ago in the June 3, 2008, Statewide Primary Election, and again four years ago during the May 7, 2013, Special Mail Election, both in which voters overwhelmingly approved of the measure. Similarly, a parcel tax measure also appeared on the ballot nine years ago during the June 3, 2008, Statewide Primary Election held for the Mountain View Whisman School District, which voters also strongly approved.

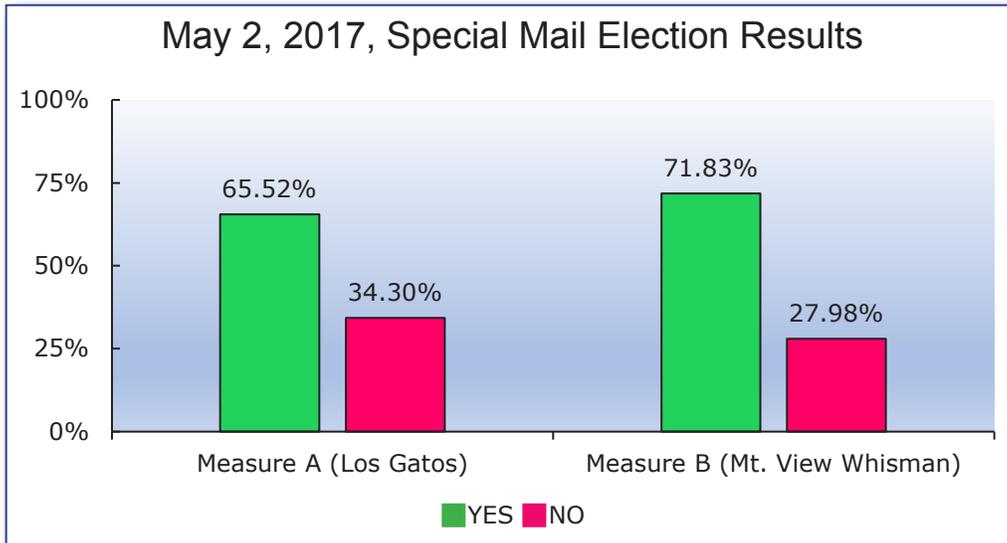
## Difference of opinion this time around

In past elections, voters in both the Los Gatos Union School District and the Mountain View Whisman School District strongly supported such parcel tax measures. However, the May 2, 2017,

Special Mail Election changed that. Although the tax renewal measure for the Mountain View Whisman School District surpassed the required 2/3 majority with nearly 72% of voters in favor, the similar measure for the Los Gatos Union School District fell just short of obtaining the required 2/3 vote, with more than 34% of voters opposing the parcel tax measure. As a result, the parcel tax for the Los Gatos Union School District was not approved.

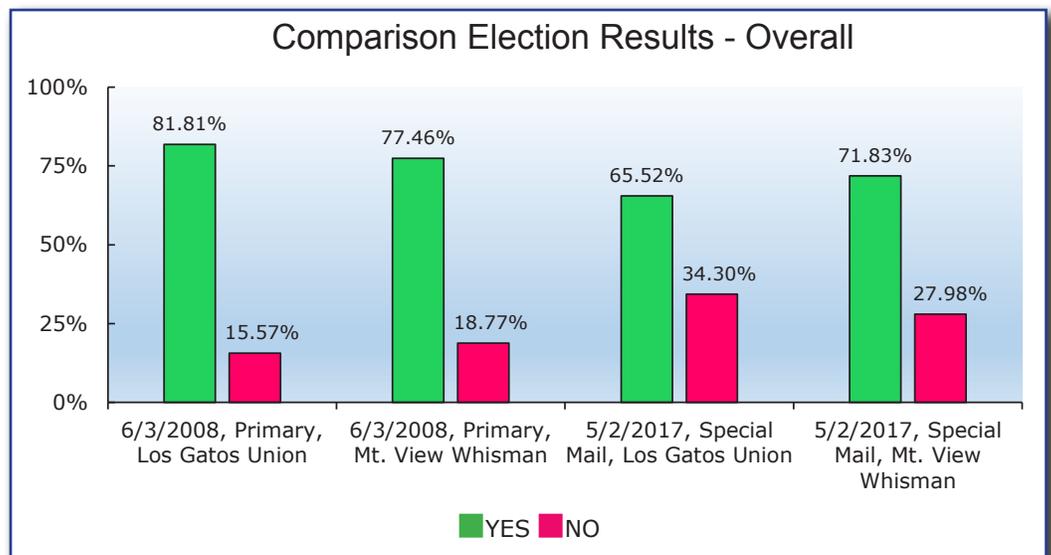
## All-Mail Election vs. Polling Place Election

This report compares data and statistics from the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election to the June 3, 2008, Statewide Primary Election. This comparison is intended to show the differences in voter registration and turnout between an all-mail election and a statewide election involving polling places. It is also intended to show how similar measures have fared in past elections, as well as changes in voting behavior.



The parcel tax measure required a 2/3 majority in each respective participating jurisdiction in order to pass. The measure failed to pass in the Los Gatos Union School District, but did so in the Mountain View Whisman School District.

The May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election saw significantly less support for the parcel tax measures than the previous election in 2008, particularly in the Los Gatos Union School District. This could be possibly attributed to a reduced level of interest in the measure, the parcel tax being the sole issue on the 2017 ballot and prompting strong opinions, or to changing voting behavior or demographics in the school district since 2008, when the economic and mortgage crisis was starting to force many homeowners out of their homes.



# II. Election Planning and Implementation

## Introduction

The May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election was conducted entirely by mail ballots. As requested by both the Los Gatos Union School District and the Mountain View Whisman School District, the Registrar of Voters (ROV) mailed every voter in both districts a ballot and a postage-paid return envelope. Instead of organizing polling places, the ROV set up drop boxes in the districts where voters could deposit their ballots rather than mailing them in.

### FAQ

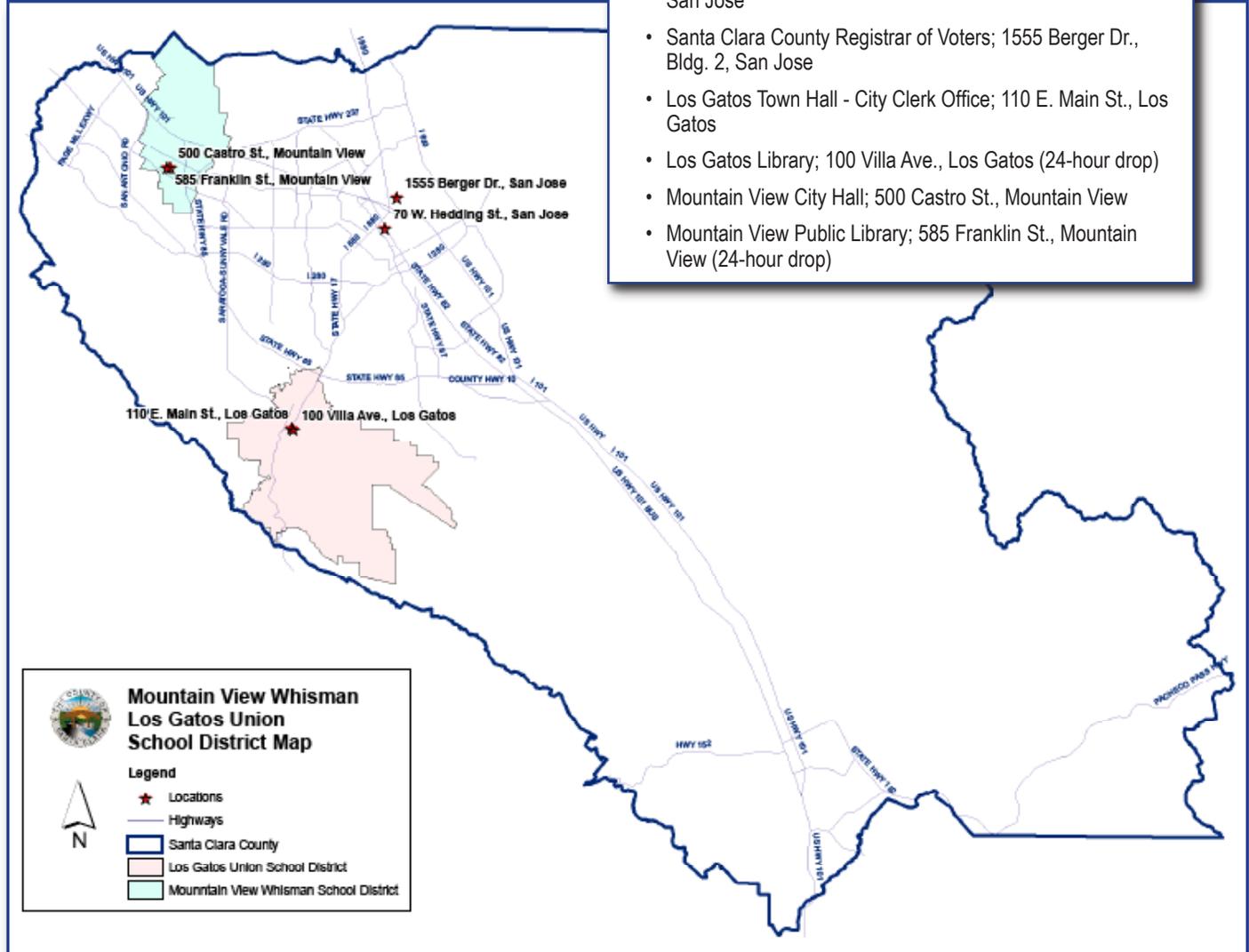
**Q:** Why are some elections conducted only by mail ballots?

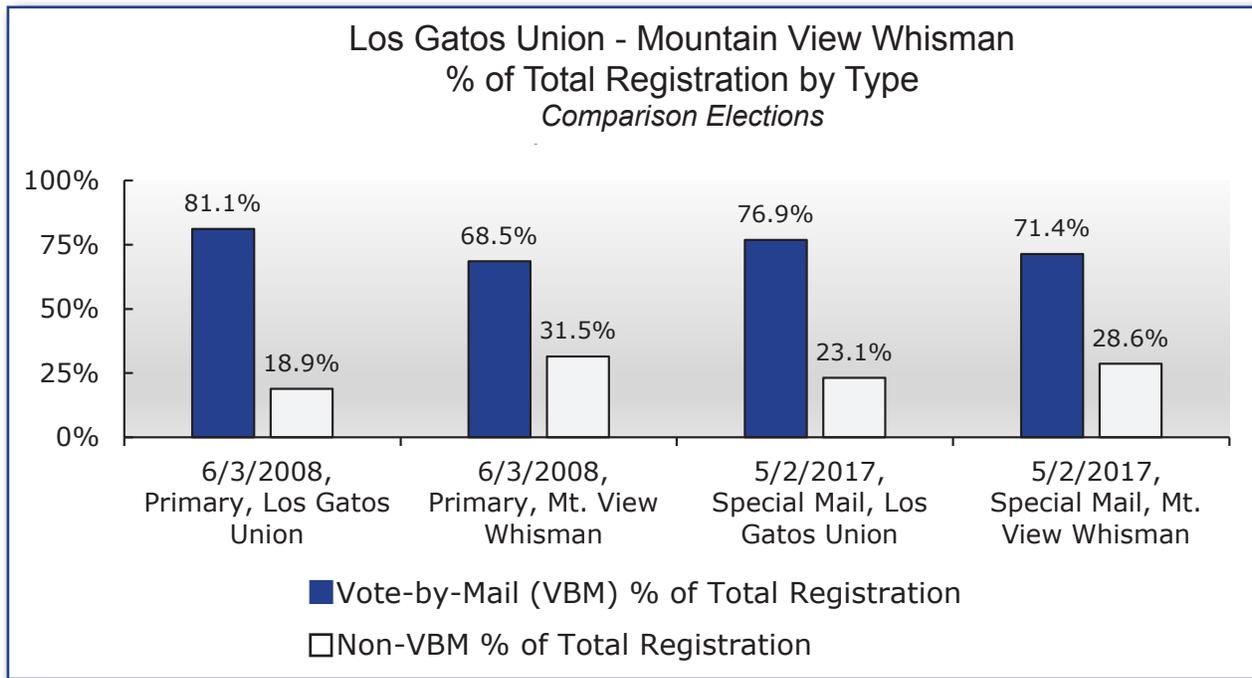
**A:** Because elections require extensive planning and resources, jurisdictions have the option of holding an all-mail election in order to minimize costs and increase convenience for voters. In an all-mail election, in addition to being able drop off their ballots directly at the Registrar of Voters' office, 24-hour ballot drop boxes are conveniently placed in select public locations within the jurisdiction(s).

### Ballot Drop-off Locations Los Gatos Union School District Mountain View Whisman School District

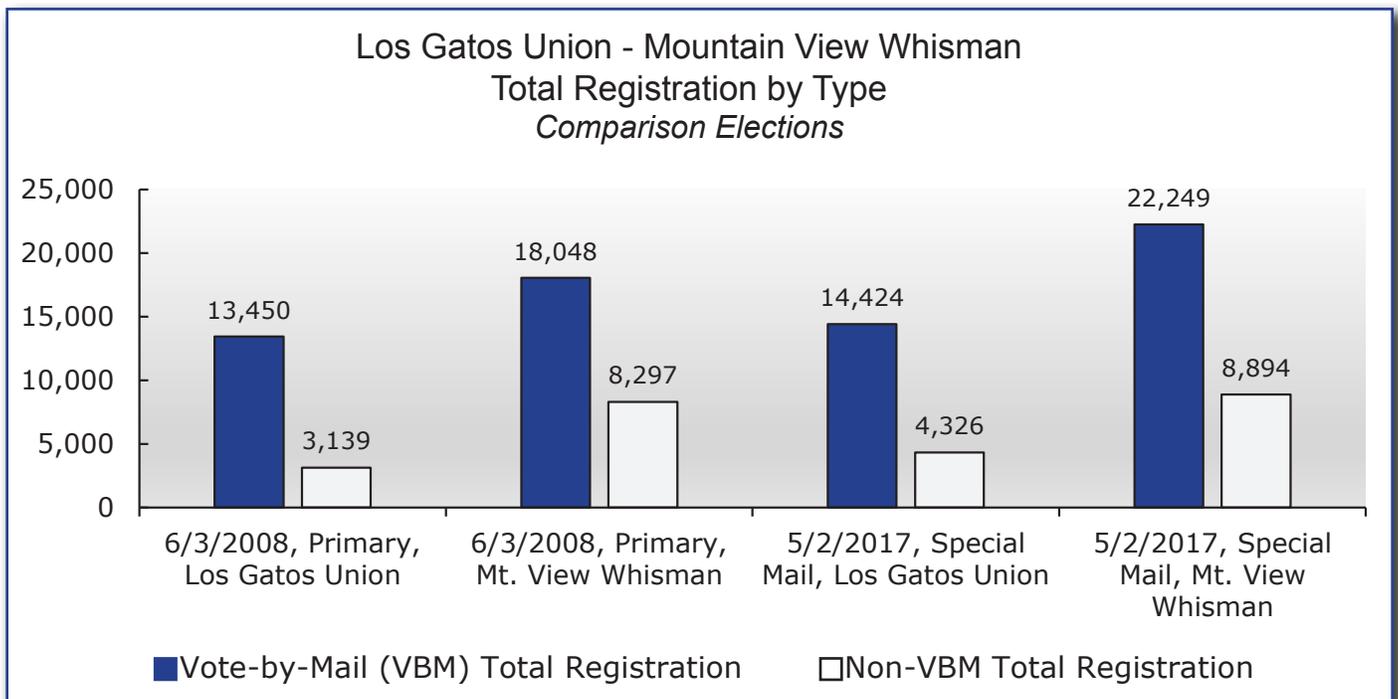
The ROV offered six ballot drop-off locations within the county, as shown on the map:

- Santa Clara County Government Center; 70 W. Hedding St., San Jose
- Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters; 1555 Berger Dr., Bldg. 2, San Jose
- Los Gatos Town Hall - City Clerk Office; 110 E. Main St., Los Gatos
- Los Gatos Library; 100 Villa Ave., Los Gatos (24-hour drop)
- Mountain View City Hall; 500 Castro St., Mountain View
- Mountain View Public Library; 585 Franklin St., Mountain View (24-hour drop)





Although the trend countywide has been an increase in voters voting by mail, the Los Gatos Union School District experienced a decline in the percentage of permanent vote-by-mail (VBM) voters between the comparison elections. The Mountain View Whisman School District saw a modest increase in VBM percentage over this time period.



#### FAQ

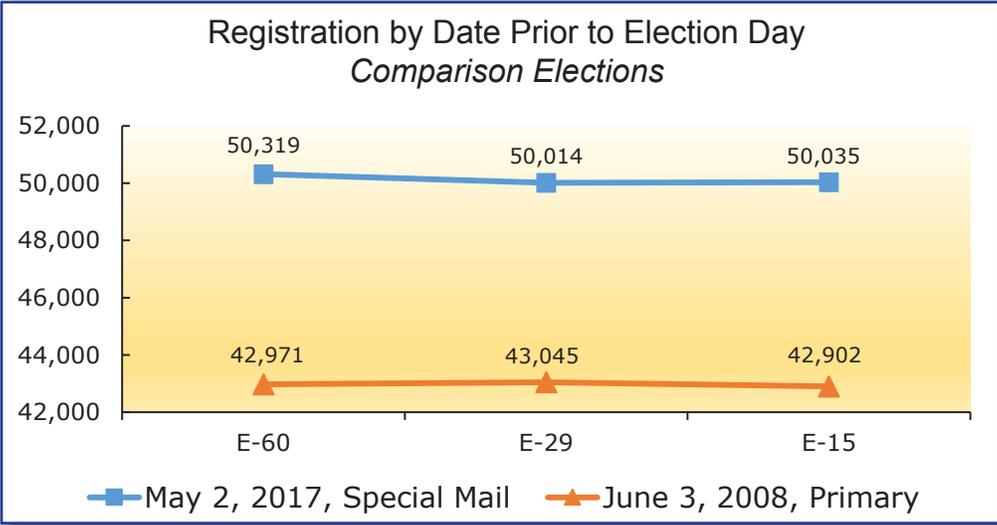
**Q:** What is the difference between a VBM voter and a non-VBM voter?

**A:** VBM voters are voters who have registered as permanent vote-by-mail voters, meaning that for every election, these voters receive their ballot in the mail. Non-VBM voters are voters who typically vote at the polls and do not usually receive a ballot by mail. The May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election, however, was conducted solely by mail without physical polling places, so VBM voters and non-VBM voters alike received their ballots by mail for this election.

#### FAQ

**Q:** Why are precincts created when there are no polling places in an election?

**A:** Regardless of whether polling places will be used, state law requires county elections offices to create precincts according to various district boundaries, comprising a maximum of 1,000 registered voters as of 88 days before an election. The election results are reported by precinct.



### FAQ

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

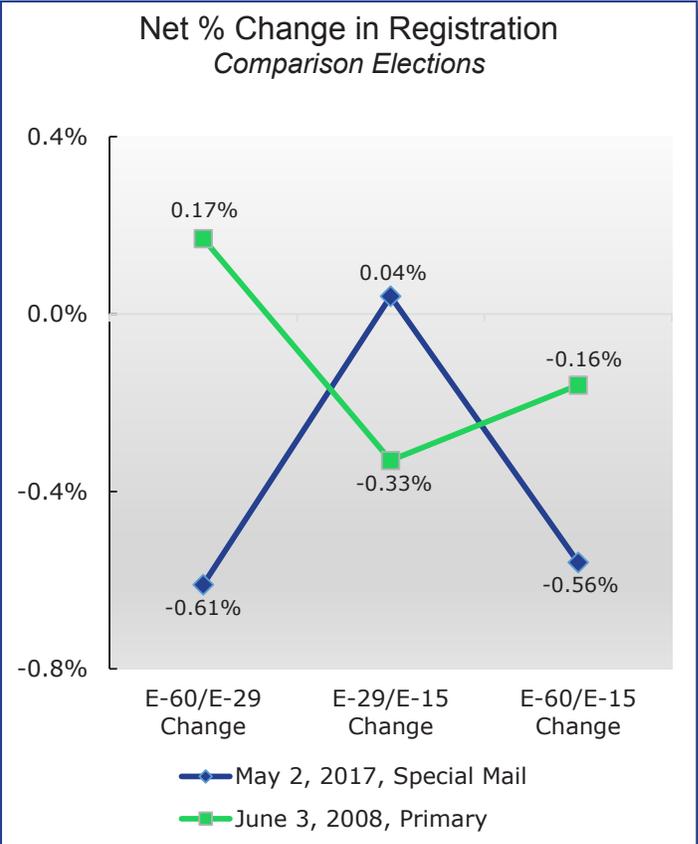
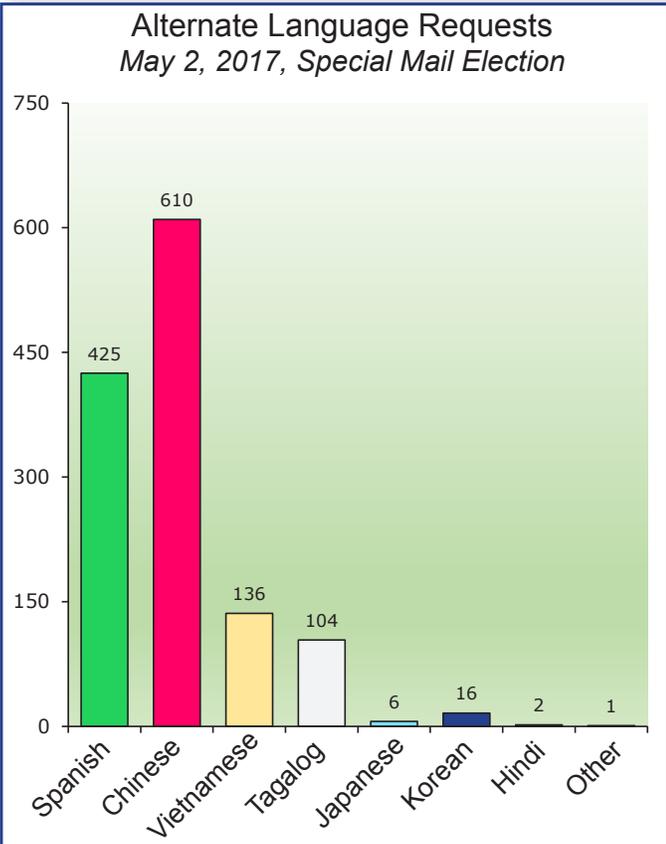
**A:** **E-60**, **E-29**, and **E-15** refer to the number of days before an election. Sixty days before an election (**E-60**, or “E minus 60”), is the day that vote-by-mail ballots are sent to voters in the military and those residing overseas, while 29 days before Election Day (**E-29**) is the date 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.

The total registration in any given jurisdiction is relatively stable, but will frequently spike significantly before a presidential or gubernatorial election, due in large part to increased public interest and voter registration drives conducted by political parties or nonprofit groups. Interestingly, however, the June 3, 2008, Statewide Primary Election behaved similarly to the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election in that both followed a random trend of increasing and decreasing registration changes between milestone dates. For the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election, both school districts experienced a slight net loss of registered voters between E-60 and E-15. For the June 3, 2008, Statewide Primary Election, the Los Gatos Union School District experienced a slight uptick in the total number of registered voters between those same dates, while the Mountain View Whisman School District experienced a slight loss of total registered voters. Normally, in a presidential election year such as 2008, registration changes would be much higher than shown, but this was not the case for these districts possibly due to the higher-interest Presidential Primary being split off from the Statewide Primary in 2008.

### FAQ

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

**A:** As the 2008 presidential election approached, there was a push for 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.



# III. Election Tallying and Post-Election

## Introduction

More than one in three registered voters participated in the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election for the Los Gatos Union and Mountain View Whisman School Districts. Turnout was nearly seven percentage points higher in Los Gatos than in Mountain View.

After conducting the **canvass** for the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election, the Registrar of Voters (ROV) determined that nearly 99% of the ballots received were eligible to be counted in the election.

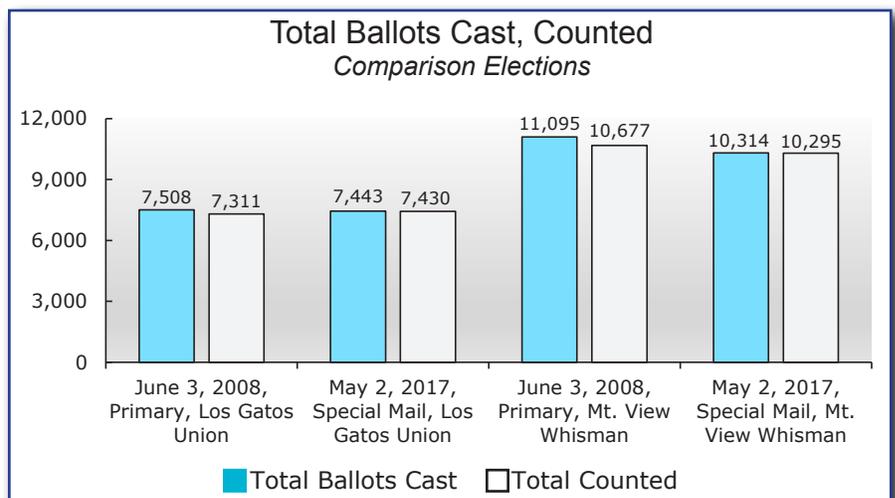
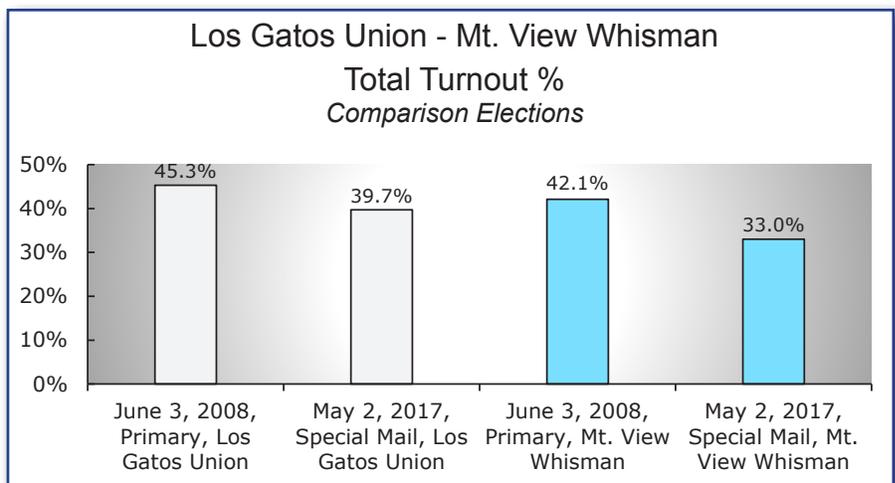
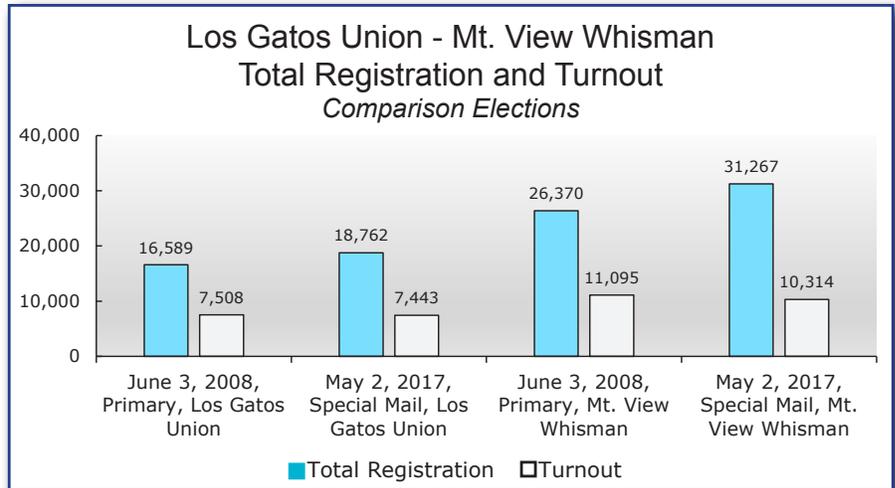
### FAQ

**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 and accurate. The canvass begins immediately following Election Day and must be completed before the Registrar of Voters can certify the election results and provide them to the governing board of the local jurisdiction.

Voter turnout for the Los Gatos Union School District was nearly six percentage points higher in 2008 than in 2017. Similarly, voter turnout was also more than nine percentage points higher in 2008 than in 2017 for the Mountain View Whisman School District. This can be attributed to the fact that 2008 was a Presidential General Election year, which tends to bring voters to the polls.

As in other elections, the vast majority of ballots received are counted. Only a small percentage are not counted, often due to lacking the voter's signature, being received too late, or failure to meet other state-mandated voting requirements.



# Vote Counting

With one contest on the ballot, two jurisdictions, and no local polling places, most voters turned in their ballots early for the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election. By two weeks before Election Day, the Registrar of Voters (ROV) had received over half the total ballots cast in the election. On the day before Election Day, approximately 90% of the total ballots cast were in the ROV office for counting.

The ROV only includes ballots received by the third day after Election Day, or **E+3**, in the count of total ballots cast. Any ballots received after this time are invalid according to state law. As required by law, the ROV kept sealed and did not count 70 ballot envelopes received after E+3, or after May 5, in the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election.

## Ballot Envelopes Processed

Date	E-Date	Total Received	Received by Mail	Dropped Off	E+3	Counted	Challenged
4/3	E-29	0	0	0	0	0	0
4/4	E-28	0	0	0	0	0	0
4/5	E-27	20	0	0	0	19	1
4/6	E-26	43	32	11	0	43	0
4/7	E-25	331	331	0	0	331	0
4/8	E-24	0	0	0	0	0	0
4/9	E-23	0	0	0	0	0	0
4/10	E-22	3,150	3,150	0	0	3,135	15
4/11	E-21	667	517	150	0	664	3
4/12	E-20	2,583	2,583	0	0	2,577	6
4/13	E-19	1,047	999	48	0	1,044	3
4/14	E-18	722	722	0	0	719	3
4/15	E-17	726	678	48	0	726	0
4/16	E-16	0	0	0	0	0	0
4/17	E-15	768	768	0	0	765	3
4/18	E-14	453	396	57	0	451	2
4/19	E-13	786	786	0	0	784	2
4/20	E-12	620	594	26	0	618	2
4/21	E-11	464	464	0	0	463	1
4/22	E-10	322	310	12	0	321	1
4/23	E-9	0	0	0	0	0	0
4/24	E-8	395	395	0	0	393	2
4/25	E-7	311	252	59	0	309	2
4/26	E-6	444	444	0	0	444	0
4/27	E-5	600	568	32	0	599	1
4/28	E-4	320	320	0	0	318	2
4/29	E-3	303	255	48	0	300	3
4/30	E-2	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/1	E-1	611	611	0	0	607	4
<b>5/2</b>	<b>Election Day</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>4</b>
5/3	E+1	958	1	233	724	935	23
5/4	E+2	629	361	2	629	563	66
5/5	E+3	86	0	0	86	13	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>17,989</b>	<b>15,605</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>1,439</b>	<b>17,767</b>	<b>222</b>

Most ballots received during the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election were received prior to Election Day. This is gradually becoming standard for elections as a whole, as a progressively larger number of voters are opting to become permanent vote-by-mail (VBM) voters. In special elections where fewer contests are placed on the ballot, VBM voters are more likely to vote earlier than in statewide or presidential elections.

## 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.

## Challenge Reasons

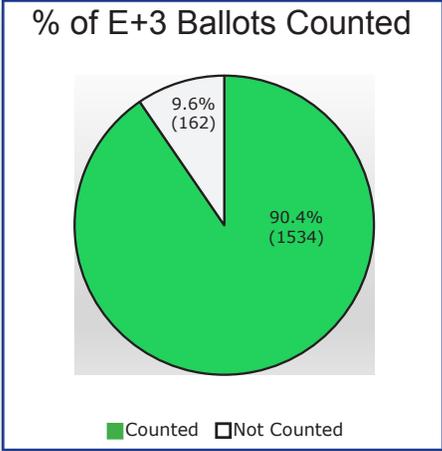
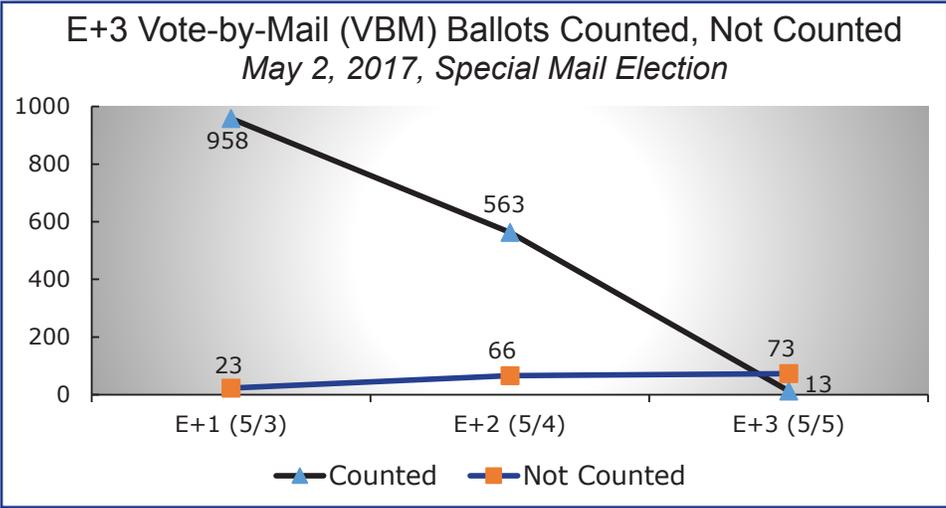
Reason	Explanation	No.
Deceased	Voter has passed away before Election Day	6
Signature Does Not Match	Signature on envelope does not match signature in voter's file	29
No Signature	Voter did not sign the envelope	23
Too Late	Ballot envelope not timely postmarked or arrived too late	226
Void	Ballot is void due to other reasons	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>291</b>

## FAQ

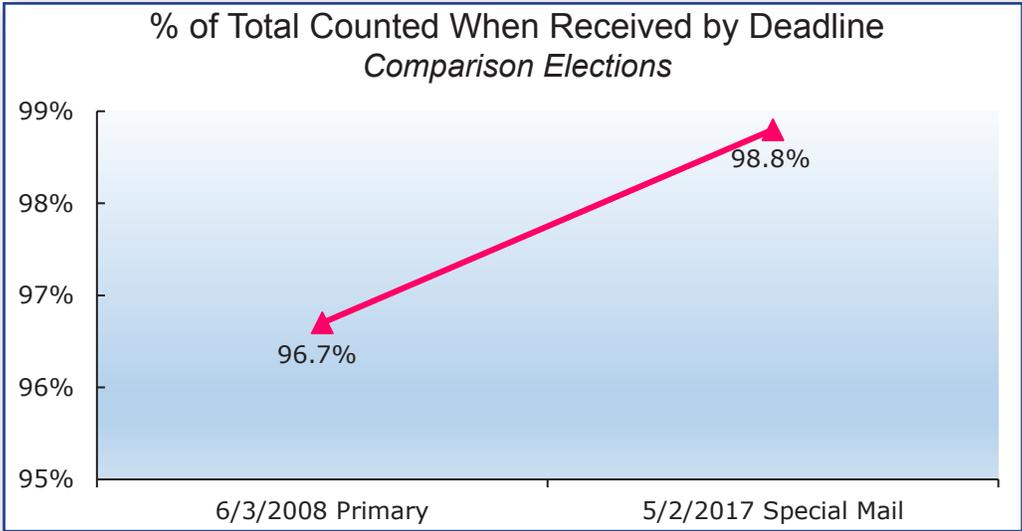
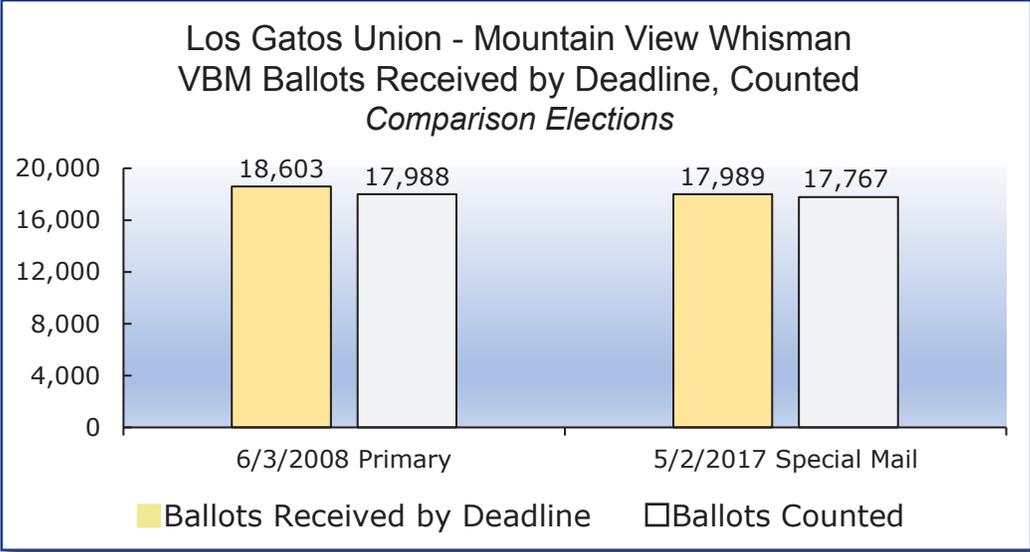
- Q:** What does it mean when a vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot is **challenged**?
- A:** A challenged VBM ballot is one that must be verified before it can be counted. A VBM ballot would be challenged when the envelope is missing a signature or the envelope appears to be signed by someone other than the voter. Challenged ballots are flagged by a sorting machine and manually verified by ROV staff. During the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election, ROV staff contacted 78 voters who had not signed their VBM return envelope. Of these 78 ballots, valid signatures were obtained for 55 ballots that could then be counted as a result of the new state law.

## 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. Just as **E-60** ("E minus 60") denotes the 60th day before an election, **E+1** denotes the first day after an election. **E+3**, therefore, is three days after Election Day.

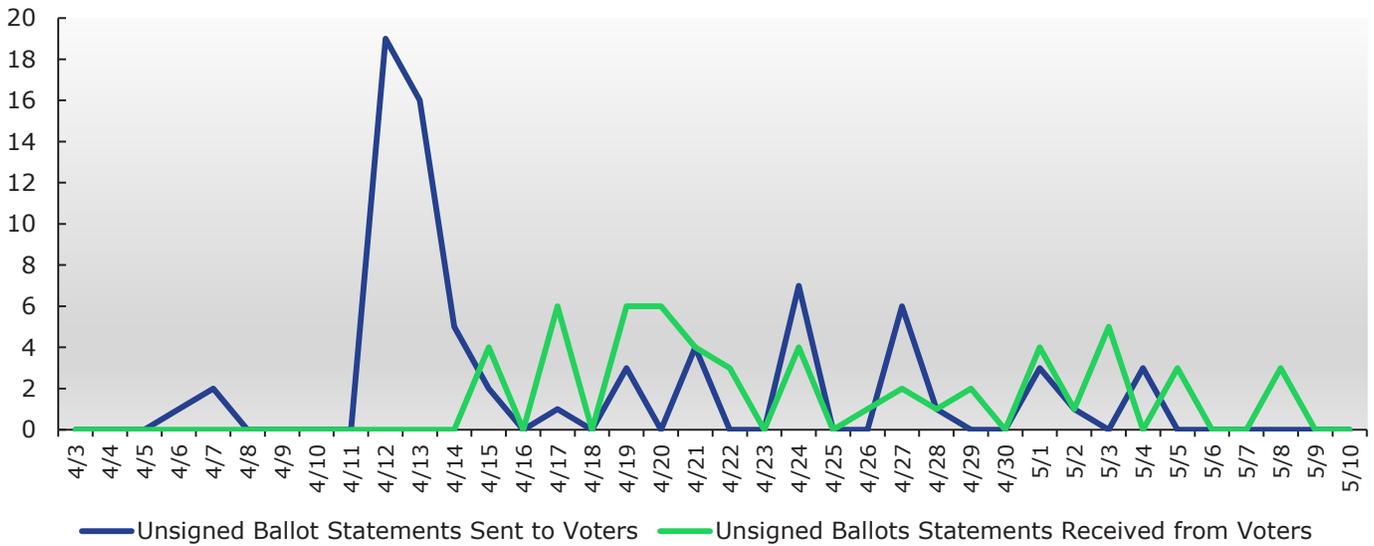


The steadily increasing percentage of voters opting to vote by mail means that the Registrar of Voters (ROV) must work continuously before, on, and after Election Day to process vote-by-mail ballots as quickly as possible. Recent laws require processing for ballots received up to three days after Election Day, and allow unsigned ballot envelopes to be corrected up to eight days after Election Day. By extending the time during which the ROV processes ballots, these laws have lengthened the ballot processing time frame.

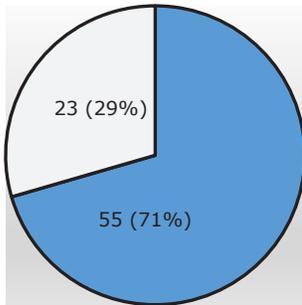


Virtually all ballots received by the state-imposed deadline are counted. For the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election, the deadline for receiving ballots was E+3, or May 5. For the 2008 election, the deadline was 8 p.m. on Election Day. Only a very small number of ballots are not counted, mainly due to not meeting mandated voting requirements. Although the May 2017 election saw a slightly higher percentage of uncountable ballots, the new laws allowing extended delivery times and an opportunity for voters to correct missing signatures on their VBM envelopes have helped ensure that as many ballots as possible may be counted in accordance with the law.

## Unsigned Ballot Statements Sent to and Received from Voters



## Unsigned Ballot Statements



Received and Counted (71%) Not Received/Received Too Late (29%)

## 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.

A new law effective January 1, 2016 allows voters who forgot to sign their vote-by-mail (VBM) envelopes to provide a signature within eight days after Election Day. When the Registrar of Voters' (ROV) office receives an unsigned VBM envelope, staff members send a letter to the voter informing them of the missing signature. Voters may provide the signature by mailing back the form, dropping it off at any ballot drop-off location, or coming in person to sign the envelope. After mailing 78 **Unsigned Ballot Statement** letters, the ROV received corrected signatures back from voters until May 8 — almost all the way until the May 10 deadline. Eleven of the 55 corrected signatures received (20%) would have been received too late for the ballots to be counted before the new law. The 55 corrected signatures equaled 71% of the total unsigned VBM envelopes in the election — a figure on par with other special elections held since the implementation of the unsigned ballot statement law.

## Important Election Dates

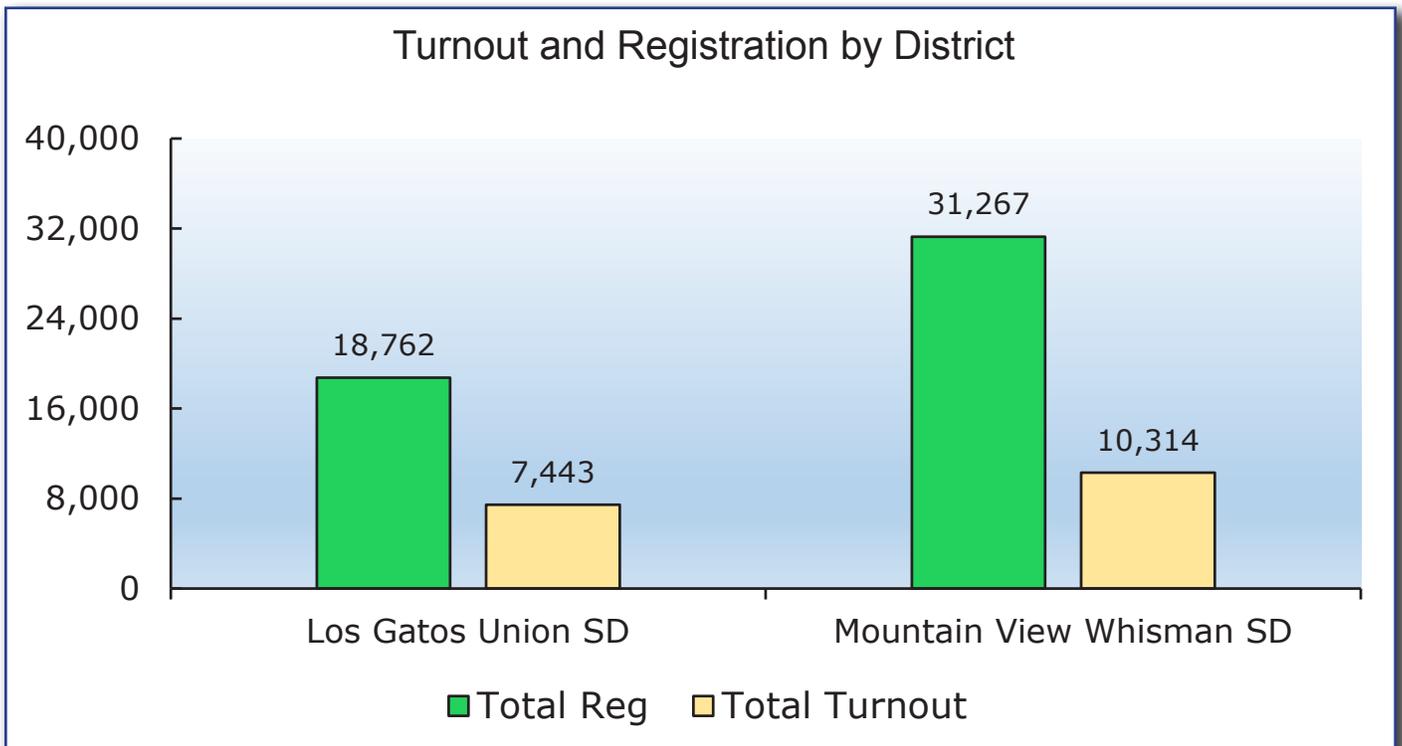
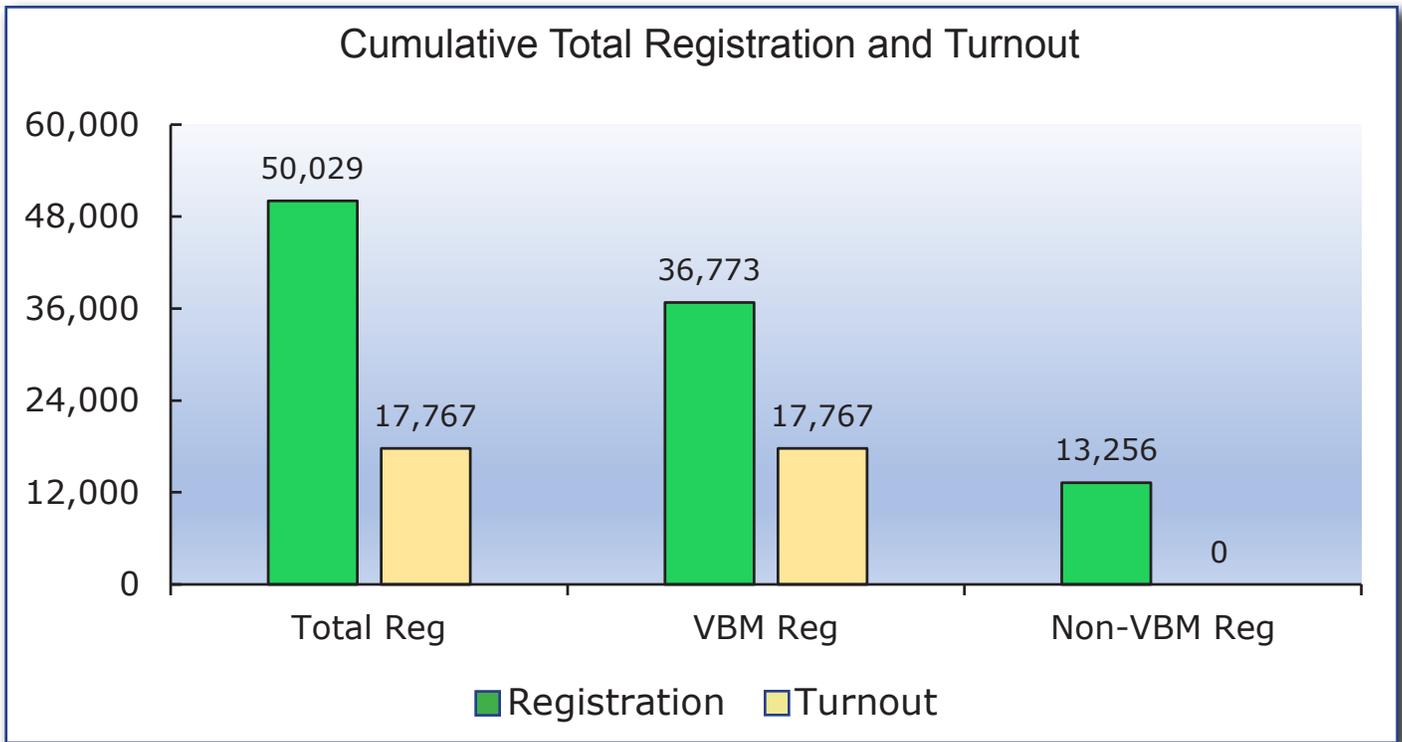
Calendar Date	E-Date	Event
4/3	E-29	Ballots mailed to all registered voters
4/17	E-15	Last day to register to vote
4/18	E-14	Conditional Voter Registration begins
5/2	Election Day	Election Day
5/5	E+3	Last day for the ROV to receive ballots mailed by voters on or before Election Day
5/10	E+8	Deadline for the ROV to receive Unsigned Ballot Statements

Calendar Date	E-Date
4/3	E-29
4/4	E-28
4/5	E-27
4/6	E-26
4/7	E-25
4/8	E-24
4/9	E-23
4/10	E-22
4/11	E-21
4/12	E-20
4/13	E-19
4/14	E-18
4/15	E-17
4/16	E-16
4/17	E-15
4/18	E-14
4/19	E-13
4/20	E-12
4/21	E-11
4/22	E-10
4/23	E-9
4/24	E-8
4/25	E-7
4/26	E-6
4/27	E-5
4/28	E-4
4/29	E-3
4/30	E-2
5/1	E-1
5/2	Election Day
5/3	E+1
5/4	E+2
5/5	E+3
5/6	E+4
5/7	E+5
5/8	E+6
5/9	E+7
5/10	E+8

# VBM Voters and Non-VBM Voters

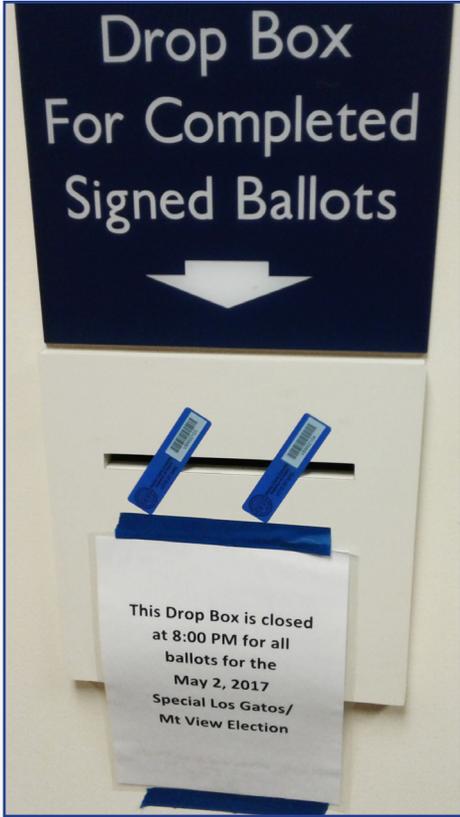
The May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election consisted of a total of 50,029 registered voters in Santa Clara County, which represents nearly 6% of the county's voters. Nearly three-quarters of voters for this election had requested to be permanent vote-by-mail (VBM) voters, slightly higher than the county average. As an all-mail election, no polling places were established. As a

result, the entire vote for this election was via VBM ballots, and even those who were not registered as permanent VBM voters received a mail ballot and cast their vote accordingly. The turnout rate for the Los Gatos Union School District was nearly 40%, while the turnout rate for the Mountain View Whisman School District was 33%.

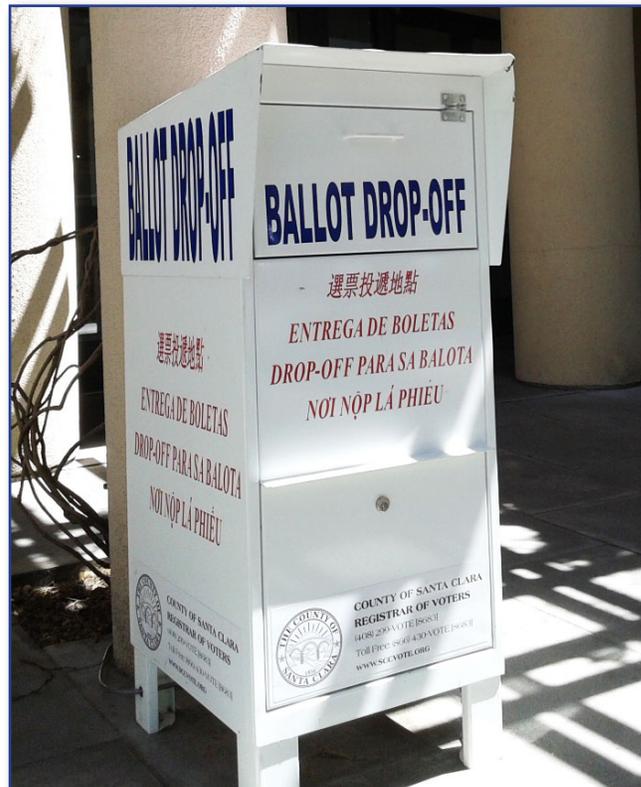
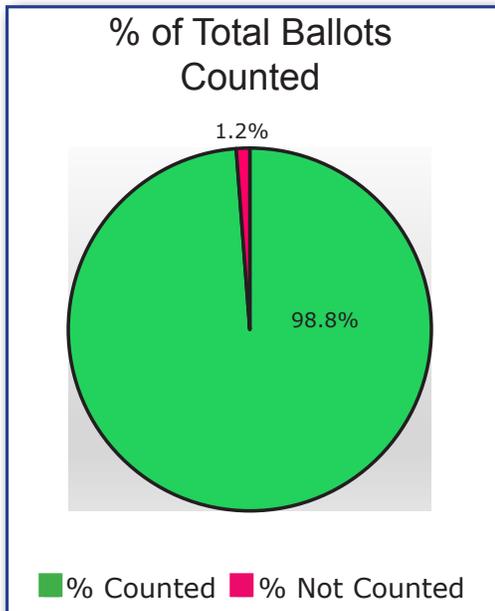
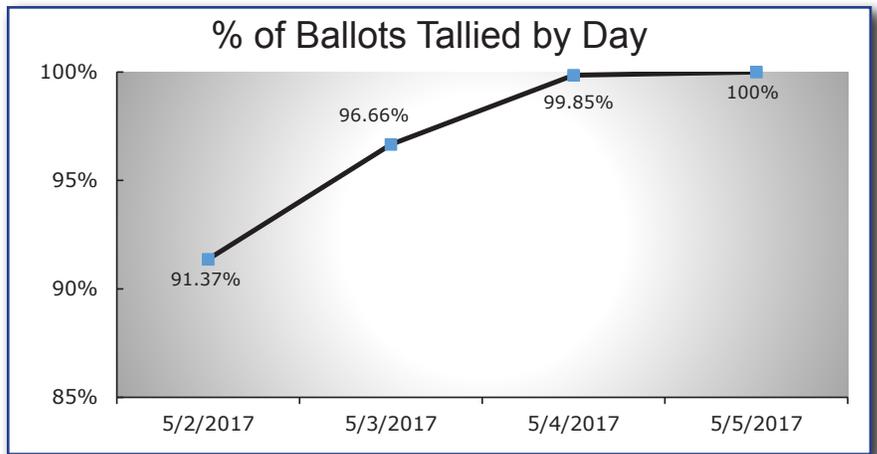
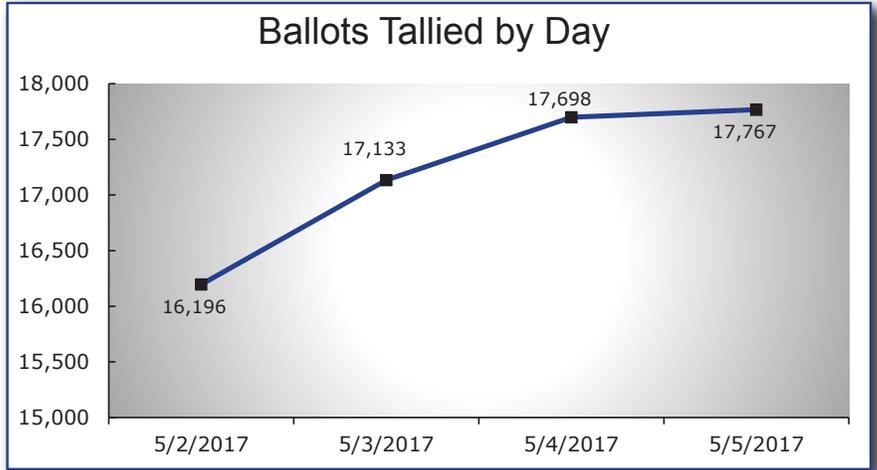


# Final Vote Tally

Within two days after Election Day, the Registrar of Voters' (ROV) office had received 17,968 ballots, or 99.85% of the total turnout for the election. By the sixth day after the election, tallying was completed and nearly every ballot cast for the election was counted.



At 8 p.m. on Election Day, all drop boxes operated by the ROV are sealed so that no additional ballot envelopes can be deposited.



Ballot drop boxes that are available to voters 24 hours a day during the period of E-29 to 8 p.m. on Election Day are secured to a building or its grounds, like the one stationed in front of the Mountain View Public Library used for the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election.

# Final Vote Tally

The vast difference in undervotes between the two elections can be explained by the fact that the June 3, 2008, Statewide Primary Election had far more contests and measures than the 2017 election, and many voters were interested in only one or two contests, and opted to leave blank all others, resulting in a large number of undervotes. Additionally, most special elections like the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election do not involve governing board member contests with more than one open seat. The presence of these multiple-seat contests on the ballot will increase the number of undervotes in an election significantly.

## FAQ

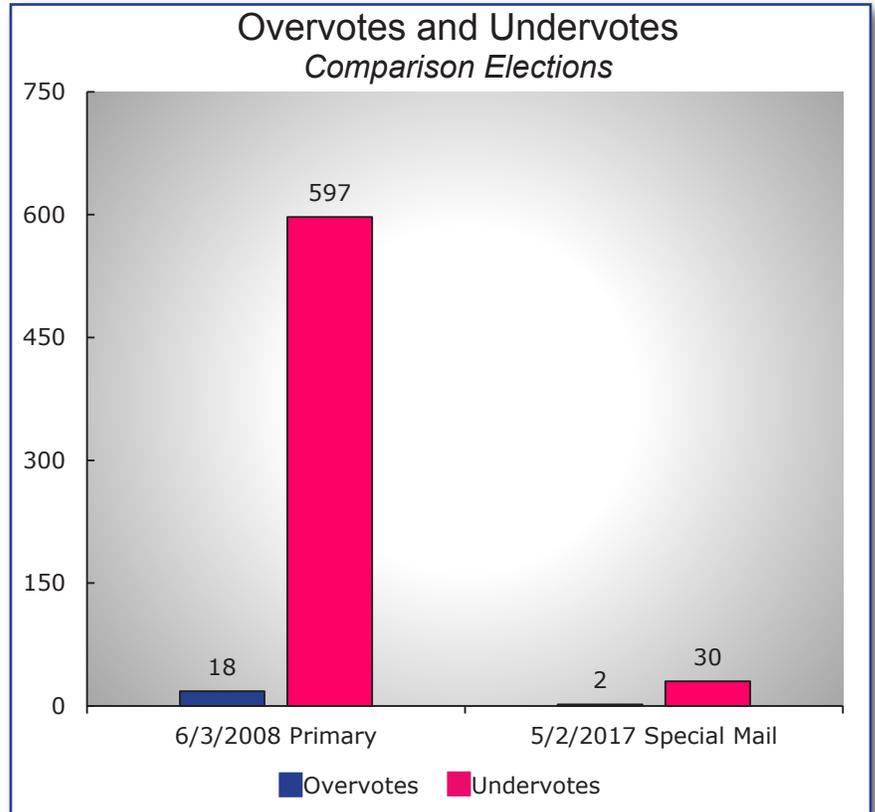
**Q:** What is an **overvote**?

**A:** An **overvote** is when a voter votes for too many choices in a specific contest. When tallying the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election ballots, an overvote was recorded for the one ballot where a voter selected both "Yes" and "No."

## FAQ

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

**A:** An **undervote** is when a voter does not vote for all the eligible choices in a specific election contest. Each blank ballot received in the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election was recorded as an undervote.



## FAQ

**Q:** Was the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election affected by the special elections conducted on March 3 and April 25, 2017?

**A:** Because elections require extensive planning months and sometimes a year in advance, the Registrar of Voters (ROV) often works on multiple elections at the same time. Due to the limited size and scope of the three special elections conducted in spring of 2017, election preparations and implementation were not adversely affected in any way. None of these three elections had voters in common, so voters would not receive ballots for more than one election. Because election results for the April 25 election were not quite 100% final by May 2, the primary election results webpage did alternate between the two elections for several days in early May. The interested public, however, was still able to access results for either election on the ROV website during this time.

Registered Voters: 50,029
Ballots Cast: 17,757
Voter Turnout: 35.49%

**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.](#)

# Postscript

The May 2, 2017, Special Mail Election provides a variety of interesting facts and statistics.

- This election was the **11th all-mail special election the Registrar of Voters (ROV) has conducted since 2009.**
- It was the **third election the ROV conducted in 2017.** The ROV has conducted an average of four elections per year since 2010.
- It concerned two contests, Measure A for the Los Gatos Union School District, and Measure B for the Mountain View Whisman School District, both ballot measures that would renew a parcel tax.
  - Almost **40% of registered voters participated** in the Los Gatos Union School District, and **33% of registered voters** in the Mountain View Whisman School District.
  - **Just over 65% of voters in the Los Gatos Union School District** voted “Yes” on measure A — just short of the two-thirds majority required for passage. However, nearly **72% of voters in the Mountain View Whisman School District**

voted “Yes” on Measure B — giving it the two-thirds requirement needed to pass.

- The **turnout rate was lower** in the Los Gatos Union School District jurisdiction than the rate for the previous parcel tax measure elections in 2008 and 2013, and nearly **nine percentage points lower** in the Mountain View Whisman School District than in 2008.
- **Over 87% of ballots** cast for this election were received prior to Election Day.
- **Nearly 99% of total ballots** received for this election were **counted as valid.**
- A total of **226 ballots were received too late** to be counted in this election.
- The ROV **certified the results on May 15, 2017,** only 13 days after Election Day.

## 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).

# 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).