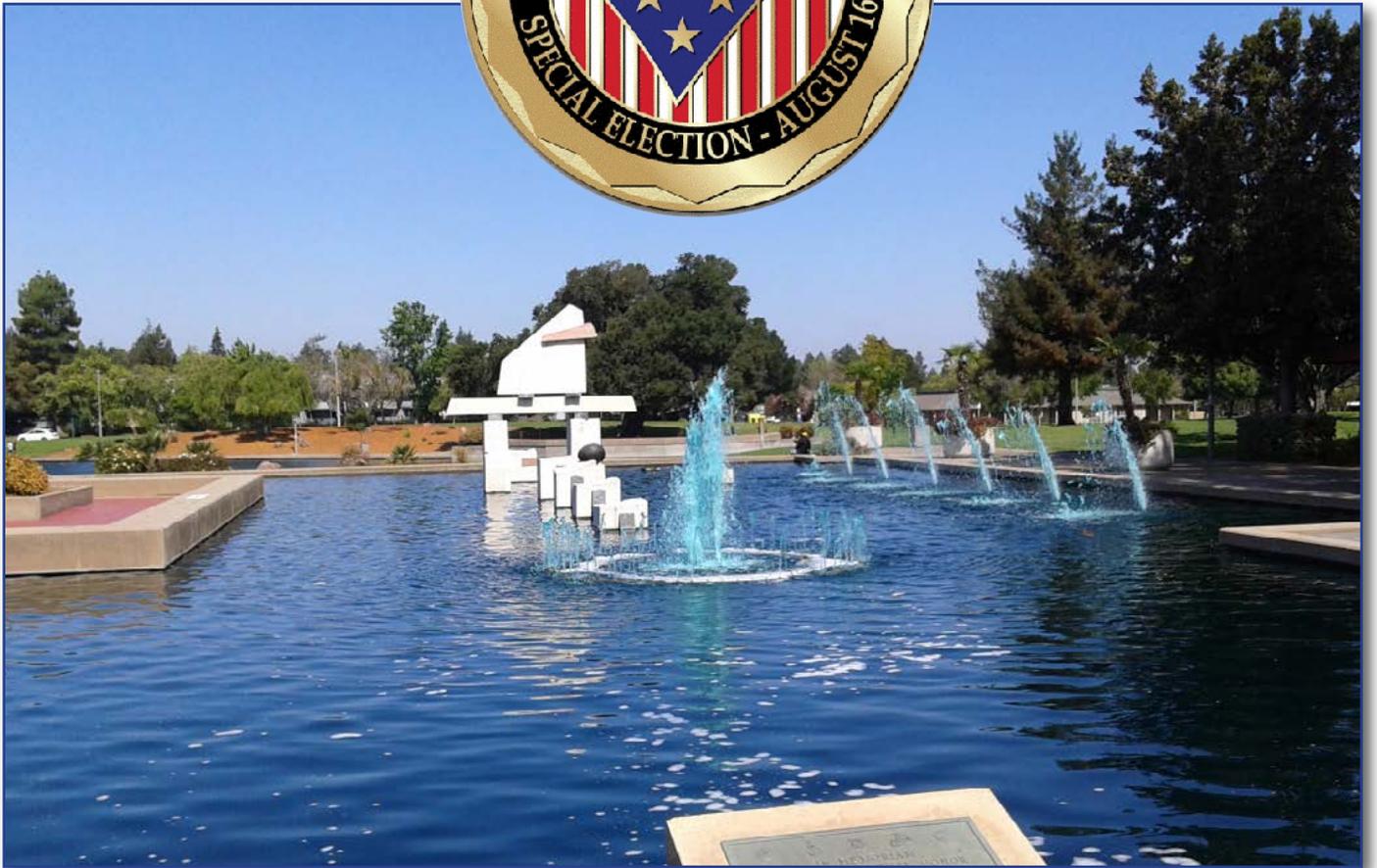




# August 16, 2016, Special Election



## Registrar of Voters Post-Election Report

# August 16, 2016, Special Election

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

### Table of Contents

A Message from the Registrar ..... 3

I. About This Election ..... 4

    Introduction ..... 4

    Executive Summary ..... 5

II. Election Planning and Implementation ..... 6

    Introduction ..... 6

    Election Officers ..... 10

    Early Voting and Ballot Drop-Off ..... 13

III. Election Day and Post-Election Tallying ..... 14

    Midday Pickup ..... 14

    Ballots Cast and Counted ..... 15

Postscript ..... 22

Register, Update, and Participate ..... 22



Election officers at 28 polling places throughout Sunnyvale processed more than 1,000 voters on Election Day.

### Contact Us

#### At the Office

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

#### On Social Media

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sccvote](http://www.facebook.com/sccvote)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/sccvote](http://twitter.com/sccvote)  
YouTube: [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>

#### 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 August 16, 2016, Special Election for the City of Sunnyvale.

The Post-Election 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,

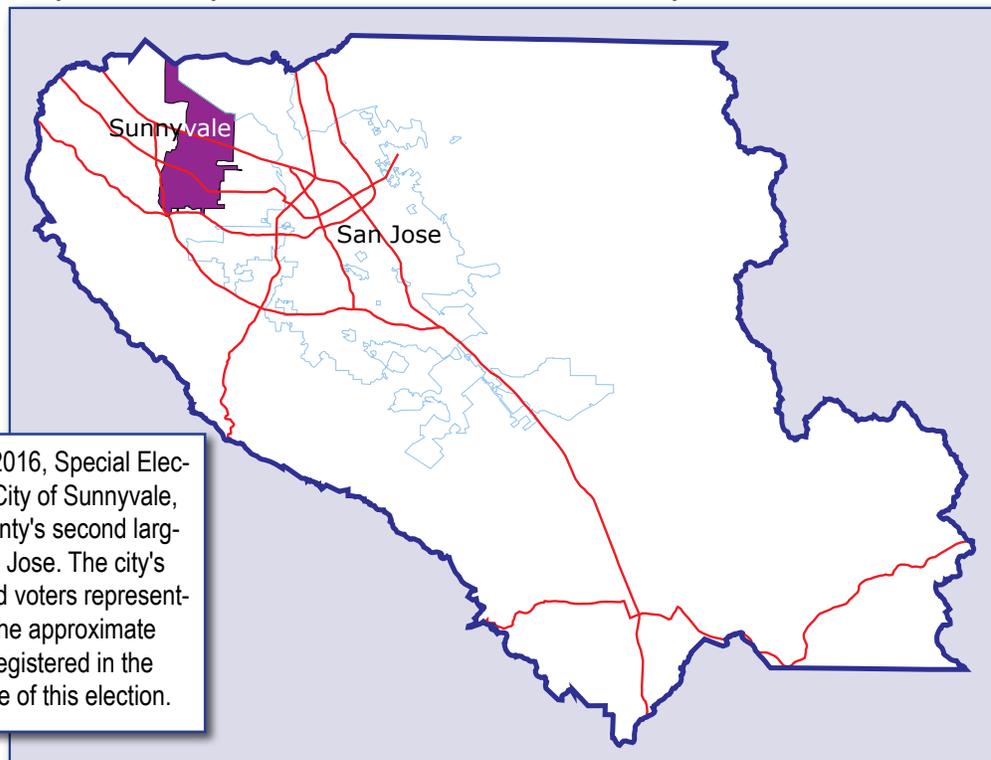


Shannon Bushey  
Registrar of Voters



**Shannon Bushey**  
Registrar of Voters

## City of Sunnyvale and Santa Clara County



## Comparing Elections

With different jurisdictions, voters, and ballot choices involved in special elections, each specially held election should be viewed as unique. The August 16, 2016, Special Election conducted by the Registrar of Voters for the City of Sunnyvale included a single contest to fill a vacant City Council seat. For comparison purposes, this report provides election information about three past vacancy elections held in Santa Clara County – the August 7, 2010, election to fill the State Senate District 15 seat; the July 30, 2013, election to fill the County Board of Supervisors District 2 seat; and the June 23, 2015, election to fill the City of San Jose District 4 seat. Each of these three vacancy elections differs from the August 2016 Sunnyvale election in that they were run-off elections where voters voted for one of the two highest vote-getters from an earlier primary election. The August 2016 Sunnyvale election, however, was the sole opportunity for city voters to select one of three candidates to represent Council Seat 4. This report also profiles the previous City of Sunnyvale election where voters voted for City Council – the November 5, 2013, Consolidated Election – as well as the most recent special election involving the city's voters – the May 3, 2011, all-mail Special Election for the Sunnyvale School District that covers a large part of the city. Only the Sunnyvale districts' data from these two elections are used in this report. When it was not possible to separate Sunnyvale's from the other jurisdictions' data, results from those two elections were not included. Since these two elections share voters with the August 16, 2016, Special Election, making them more closely comparable, the three elections are grouped together graphically in reverse chronological order, followed by the three special vacancy run-off elections.

# I. About This Election

## Introduction

The August 16, 2016, Special Election included a single **contest** only affecting residents in a specific jurisdiction within the county – the City of Sunnyvale.

### 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.

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.

The City of Sunnyvale called a special election for August 16, 2016, to fill an unexpired term on the City Council. Sunnyvale Council Seat 4 became vacant when the seat's previous councilmember resigned on April 4, 2016. Consistent with its city charter, on April 19, 2016, the Sunnyvale City Council passed a resolution within 30 days of the councilmember's resignation:

- Declaring the seat vacant;
- Calling for a special municipal election to be held to fill the vacancy; and
- Requesting the County Registrar of Voters (ROV) conduct the election.

### FAQ

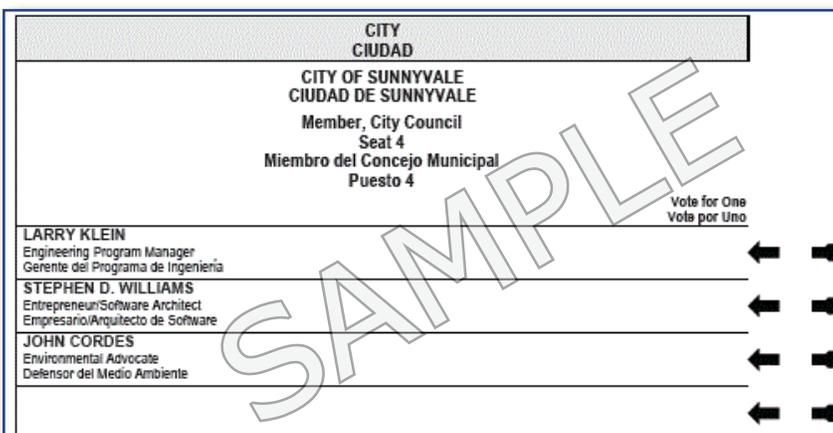
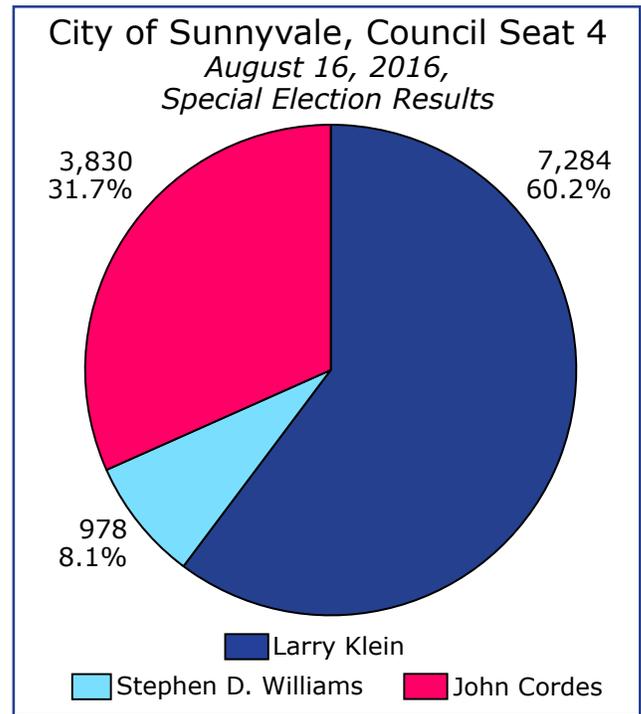
**Q:** Why did the City of Sunnyvale call a special election?

**A:** The City's charter requires a special election for a vacant city council seat to be held within 120 days of the date the City Council declares the seat vacant.

California law requires the 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.

### One Council Seat, Three Candidates

Sunnyvale is one of three cities in Santa Clara County where voters vote for councilmembers by seat or district. In Sunnyvale, candidates for City Council run for a specific seat rather than for an at-large seat. Voters across the city can vote for just one candidate in as many council seats as appear on the ballot. Sunnyvale voters could choose one of three City Council candidates for the one and only seat on the ballot in the August 16, 2016, Special Election. Winning candidate Larry Klein received a substantial majority of votes cast for Council Seat 4 in this election, as shown in the chart below.



The sequence of candidates on the ballot for the August 16, 2016, Special Election was determined by a randomized alphabet drawing conducted by the California Secretary of State 82 days before the election. On May 23, 2016, the Secretary of State provided the ROV with the randomized alphabet to use for the City Council contest. As shown in the sample ballot image at left, the letter "K" was drawn before the letter "W" and the letter "W" was drawn before the letter "C."

# Executive Summary

On April 19, 2016, the City of Sunnyvale called a special municipal election to fill an unexpired City Council seat and requested that the County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters (ROV) conduct the election, making the August 16, 2016, Special Election the fourth scheduled election of 2016, joining the May 3, 2016, Special Mail Election, the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, and the upcoming November 8, 2016, Presidential General Election.

Voters turned out for the August 16, 2016, Special Election at a lower rate than both the previous Sunnyvale City Council election in 2013 and the most recent special election held in the city involving a 2011 parcel tax for the Sunnyvale School District. Just over 23% of voters in the district cast a ballot in the August 16, 2016, Special Election. Nearly 30% of vote-by-mail voters voted in the election compared with only 7% of polling place voters.



More than 91% of the ballots cast in the election were vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots, with only about 9% of the ballots cast at the polls. Over 80% of VBM ballots were received and processed by the ROV prior to Election Day, lower than the very high percentage of early VBM ballots received in the August 17, 2010, Special Election, but higher than in either of the other two special vacancy elections from 2015 and 2013.

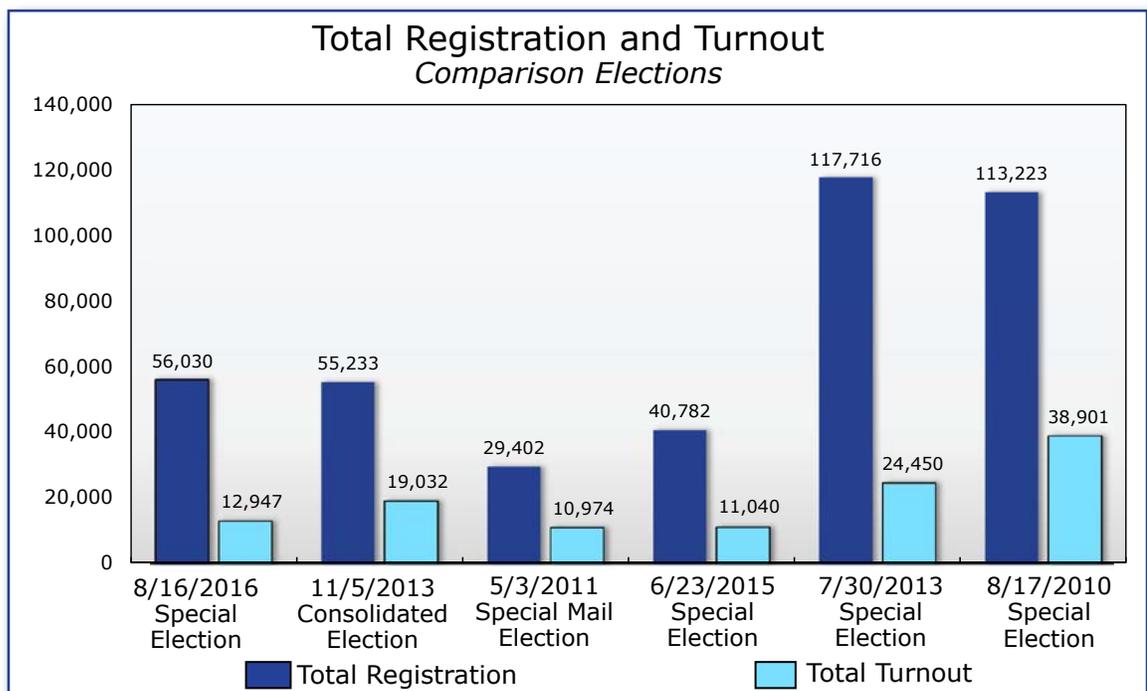
The ROV was able to tally 92.2% of the total ballots cast by Election Day, 99.9% within three days, and 100% of the ballots within a week of Election Day, certifying the results of the election by August 29, 2016 – 13 days after Election Day.

This election saw continued trends toward increased vote-by-mail voting, more bilingual election officers and election officers overall at the polls, and higher percentages of VBM and total ballots being counted in these special polling place elections.

## Comparison Election Profiles

Election	Voting Jurisdiction	Registered Voters	Total Turnout	Turnout Rate
August 16, 2016, Special Vacancy Election	City of Sunnyvale Seat 4	56,030	12,947	23.1%
November 5, 2013, Consolidated Election	City of Sunnyvale	55,233	19,032	34.5%
May 3, 2011, Special Mail Election	Sunnyvale School District	29,402	10,974	37.3%
June 23, 2015, Special Vacancy Run-off Election	City of San Jose District 4	40,782	11,040	27.1%
July 30, 2013, Special Vacancy Run-off Election	County of Santa Clara District 2	117,716	24,450	20.8%
August 17, 2010, Special Vacancy Run-off Election	State Senate District 15	113,223	38,901	34.4%

In the August 16, 2016, Special Election, just over 23% of registered voters in the City of Sunnyvale voted for City Council, a turnout rate more than 10 percentage points lower than the two prior Sunnyvale comparison elections. Among the four special vacancy elections, the 23.1% turnout rate in the August 16, 2016, Special Election is higher only than the turnout rate for the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors District 2 run-off election in July 2013. In all three vacancy run-off elections, the turnout in the run-off was slightly higher than in the primary that had been held several weeks prior. The August 16, 2016, Special Election did not have a primary.



# II. Election Planning and Implementation

## Introduction

Although planning was carried out on a smaller scale than during preparations for either of the two presidential elections in 2016, the ROV followed all of the same planning steps in preparing for the August 2016 special polling place election.

### Precinct Consolidation

The County of Santa Clara is divided up into hundreds of local precincts according to the various congressional, state, county, school, and special district boundaries. After the nominations period closes prior to an election, ROV staff members verify which of these districts will have contests on the ballot in order to determine the number of precincts to be consolidated with nearby precincts. This process is known as precinct consolidation.

Each consolidated precinct will have only one **ballot type**, though because of precinct population density or geographic considerations more than one precinct could have the same ballot type. With only one contest on the ballot, precinct consolidation for the August 16, 2016, Special Election was more straight-

### Election Facts

- 29 voting precincts
- 28 polling places
- 1 mail ballot precinct
- 1 contest, 1 ballot card
- 7" by 12" ballot dimensions

forward than it would be before a countywide election with greater numbers of ballot contests. When consolidating precincts, ROV staff considers the number of registered voters in each precinct, careful to avoid the creation of precincts divided by freeways or other geographic barriers.

### Polling Place Preparations

Once consolidation is complete and the number and distribution of precincts have been determined, ROV staff begins the work of recruiting polling places for the election. Polling place availability and accessibility are major factors in choosing a location when a precinct has more than one historically used polling place. Polling places are surveyed periodically for wheelchair and public transit access, and they are surveyed again before an election if they have not been used for several years, or if the room or building has changed since the last use. During this time the ROV also recruits election officers, analyzing the consolidated precincts to determine which languages are needed in which polling places.

### 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 ROV creates different ballots with different combinations of contests. Each ballot with its own unique combination of contests is a ballot type. In many elections, the ROV must create numerous ballot types because districts frequently overlap in ways where not all voters vote in both contests.

### FAQ

**Q:** Could the City of Sunnyvale have requested an all-mail special election instead of a polling place election?

**A:** No. A vacant city council seat would not qualify for an all-mail special election under state law unless the city or district has 1,000 or fewer registered voters.

### FAQ

**Q:** How often does the ROV conduct special vacancy elections?

**A:** Since 2010, the ROV has conducted seven special vacancy elections – the August 16, 2016, Special Election, as well as three primaries and three run-offs – averaging out to more than one a year. Prior to this election, the last time a special vacancy election was held for the City of Sunnyvale was more than 25 years ago, in January 1991.



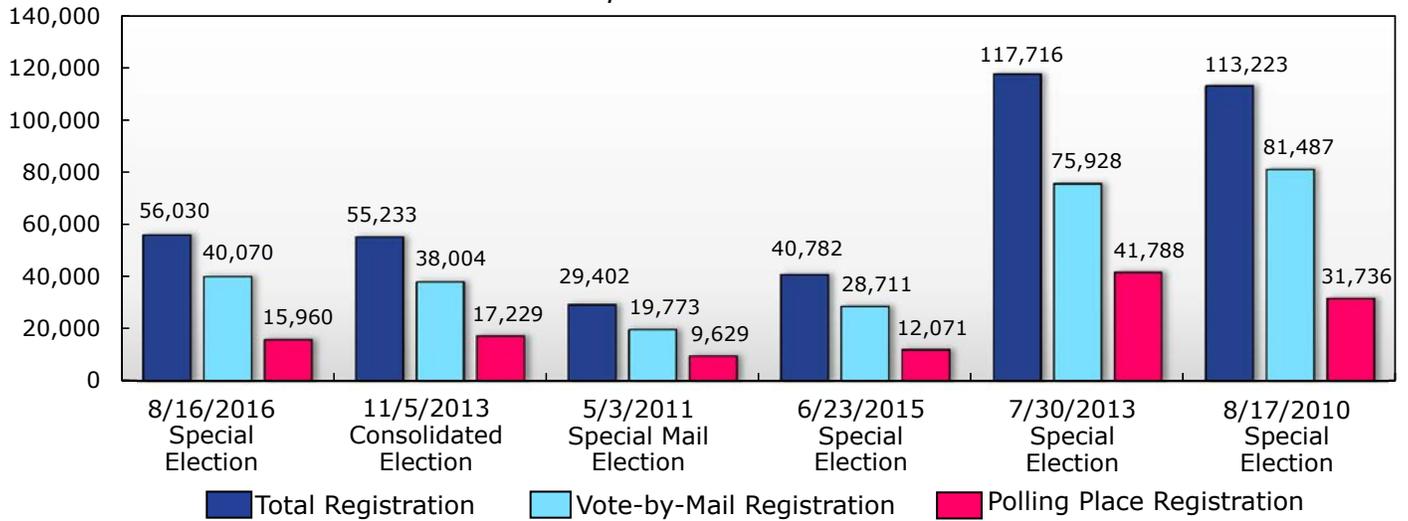
Election officers ask a voter to sign the polling place roster confirming residency in the precinct.

### FAQ

**Q:** Could the City of Sunnyvale request that the ROV consolidate the election with the November 2016 Presidential General Election?

**A:** No. The City's charter provides a special election may be consolidated with the next general statewide election only if such an election is held within 180 days of the vacancy date. This City Council seat became and was declared vacant more than 180 days before the November 8, 2016, Presidential General Election.

## Total Registration and Registration by Type *Comparison Elections*

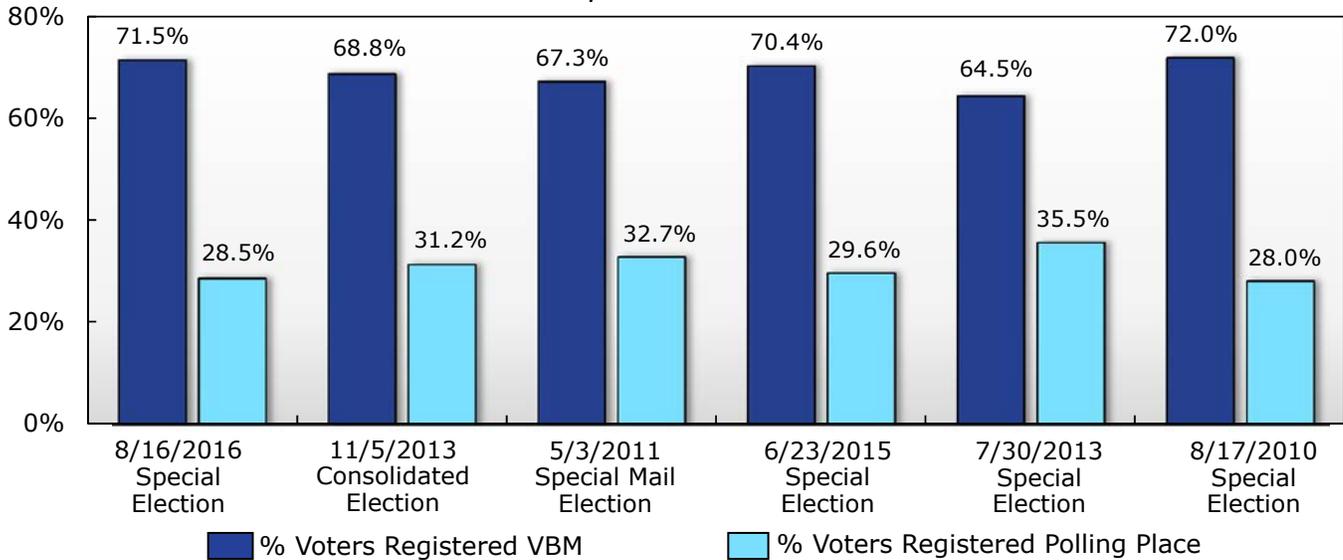


### FAQ

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

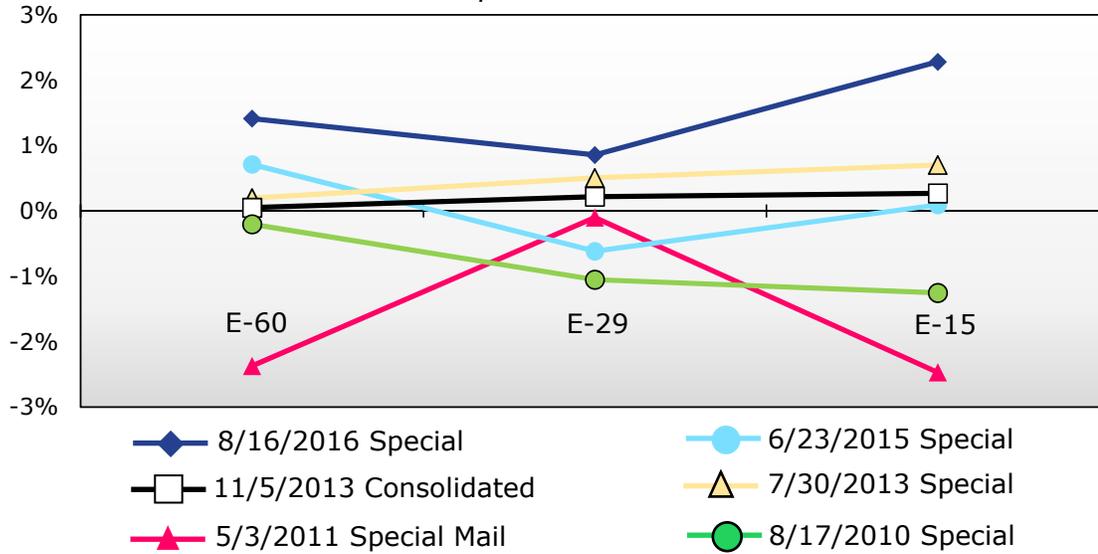
**A:** VBM voters are voters who have registered to permanently vote by mail, meaning that for every election, these voters receive their ballot in the mail. Polling place voters are voters who typically vote at the polls and do not usually receive a ballot by mail. In all-mail ballot elections like the May 3, 2011, Special Mail Election, all polling place voters are mailed a ballot. These voters may also drop off their ballots, or vote in person at the Registrar of Voters' office, if they prefer.

## % Registration by Type *Comparison Elections*



The graphs above depict the vote-by-mail and polling place registration numbers for the comparison elections. Although the percentage of VBM voters registered countywide has increased significantly in the past decade – giving Santa Clara County the highest VBM registration rate among California's 10 largest counties – the comparison elections show a range of approximately seven percentage points from the lowest to highest ratios of registered VBM voters.

### % Change in Registration by Date Prior to Election Day Comparison Elections



The total registration in any given jurisdiction is relatively stable, but will frequently jump 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. The only jurisdiction that saw its registration increase substantially between **E-60** and **E-15**, the registration deadline, was the City of Sunnyvale before the August 16, 2016, Special Election. Much of this increase can likely be attributed to voters in the district registering in anticipation of voting in the November 8, 2016, Presidential General Election.

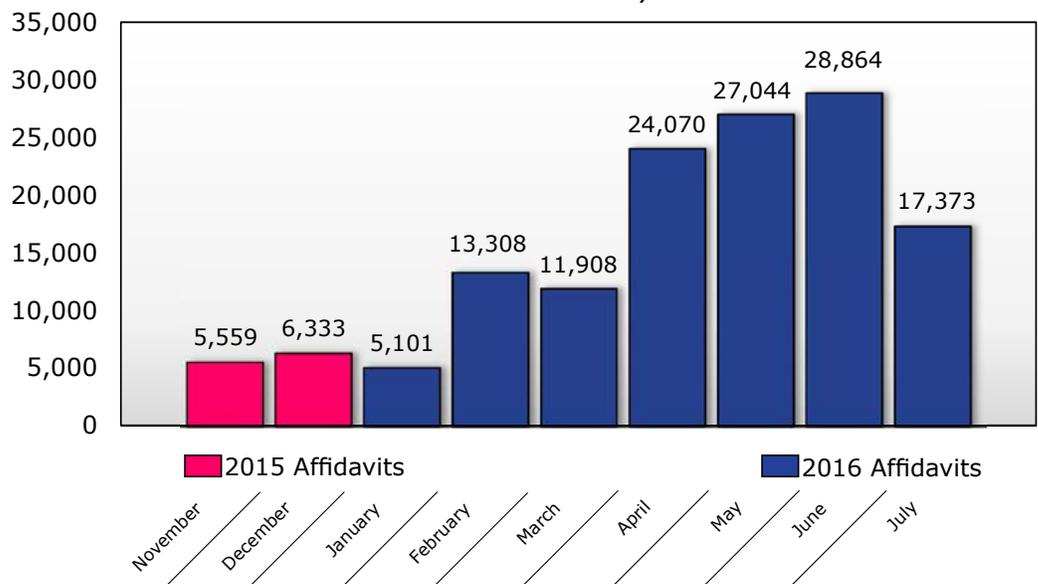
Election	60 Days Prior (E-60)	29 Days Prior (E-29)	15 Days Prior (E-15)	% Change E-60/E-29	% Change E-29/E-15	% Change E-60/E-15
August 16, 2016, Special	54,780	55,554	56,030	1.4%	0.9%	2.3%
November 5, 2013, Consolidated	56,632	55,289	55,233	-2.4%	-0.1%	-2.5%
May 3, 2011, Special Mail	29,375	29,584	29,402	0.7%	-0.6%	0.1%
June 23, 2015, Special	40,498	40,577	40,782	0.2%	0.5%	0.7%
July 30, 2013, Special	117,401	117,461	117,716	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%
August 17, 2010, Special	114,660	114,426	113,223	-0.2%	-1.1%	-1.3%

### FAQ

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

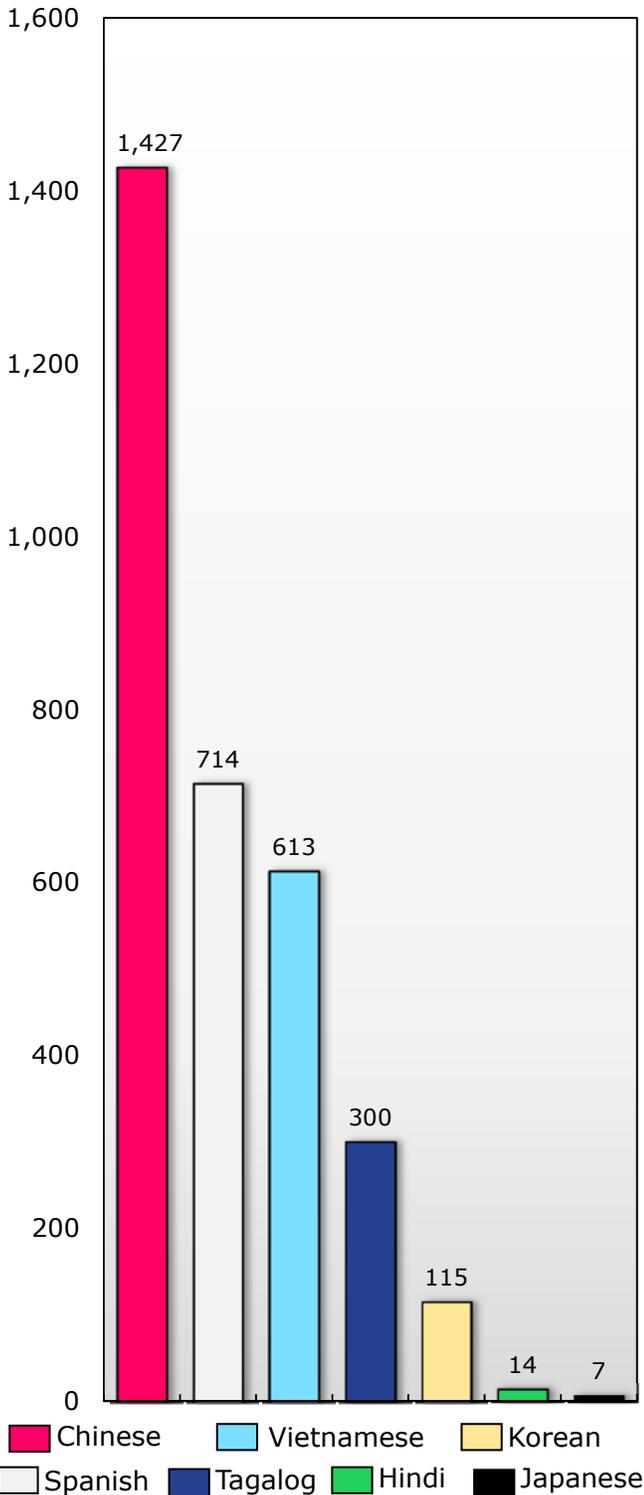
**A:** **E-60**, **E-29**, and **E-15** refer to the number of days before an election. Sixty days before an election (**E-60**, or "E minus 60"), is the first day that vote-by-mail ballots can be sent to voters in the military and those residing overseas. Twenty-nine days before Election Day (**E-29**) is the first 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.

### Monthly Voter Registration Affidavits Received Countywide November 2015 – July 2016



The above graph shows the growth in voter registration affidavits received in Santa Clara County during the past nine months. Though dropping off after the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, the volume of registration affidavits received by the Registrar of Voters' office is expected to increase in the months leading up to the November 8, 2016, Presidential General Election.

## Language Requests by Language August 16, 2016, Special Election



In teams of two, Registrar of Voters ballot layout staff members proofread translations of election materials.

## FAQ

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

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

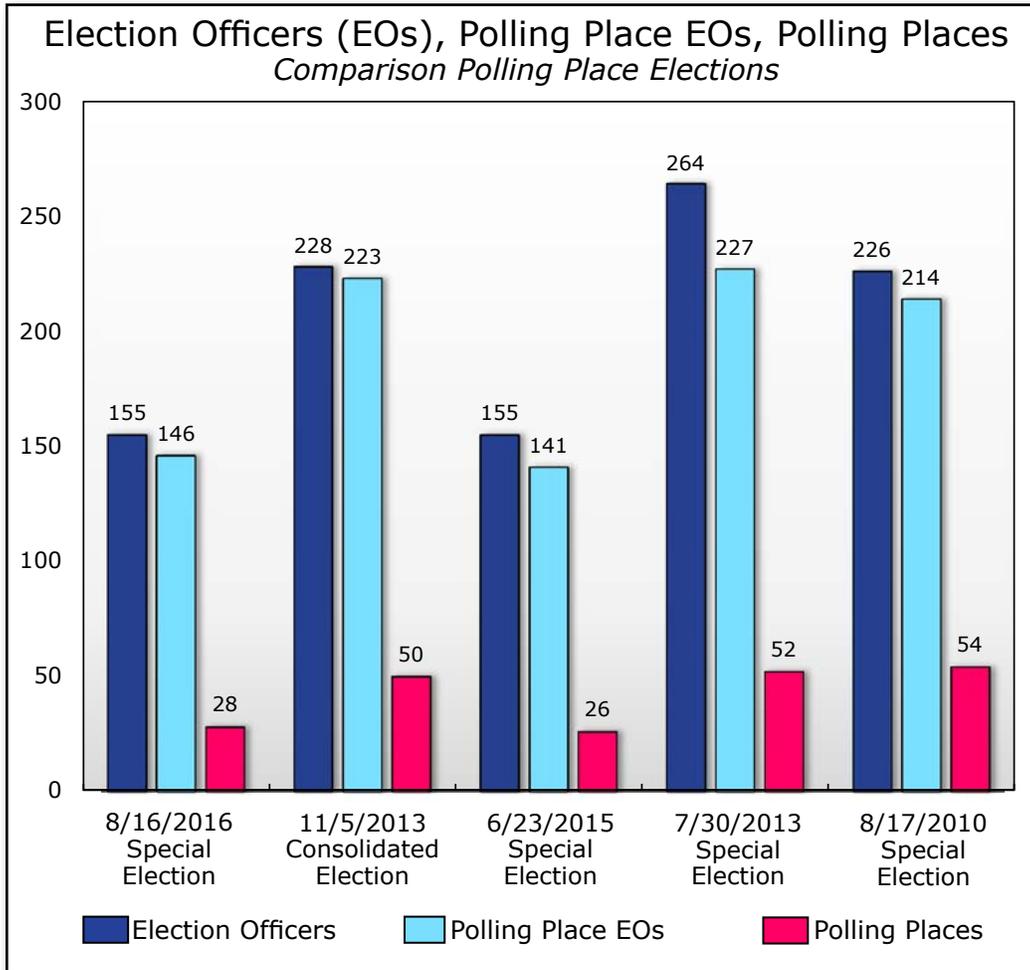
Chinese is the most commonly requested language by Sunnyvale voters for receiving election materials, followed by Spanish and Vietnamese. The number of requests for Chinese in all three Sunnyvale elections was nearly double that for the next most frequently requested language. There were also over three times as many requests for Chinese materials than the next highest language – Vietnamese – for voters in the August 17, 2010, Special Election. For the two special vacancy elections in San Jose – in July 2013 and June 2015 – requests for Vietnamese language materials outpaced other languages by a considerable margin. In the July 30, 2013, Special Election in County Board of Supervisors District 2, more than 12,500 requests for Vietnamese materials were fulfilled. Requests for materials in any language other than English for each of the two San Jose elections were about triple the number of language requests for the other four elections, including the August 16, 2016, Special Election, which saw the lowest percentage of language requests among the three Sunnyvale comparison elections.

Election	Chinese	Spanish	Tagalog	Vietnamese	Korean	Hindi	Japanese	Khmer	Any Lang.	% of Registered Voters
August 16, 2016, Special	1,427	714	300	613	115	14	7	0	3,190	5.7%
November 5, 2013, Consolidated	1,616	748	353	669	110	2	7	0	3,505	6.3%
May 3, 2011, Special Mail	831	588	304	464	39	0	3	0	2,229	7.6%
June 23, 2015, Special	1,927	520	746	4,150	32	17	9	1	7,402	18.2%
July 30, 2013, Special	1,208	7,379	1,288	12,507	37	4	4	1	22,428	19.1%
August 17, 2010, Special	2,906	829	193	888	90	0	0	0	4,906	4.3%

# Election Officers

Election officers are volunteers who serve many functions at the Registrar of Voters' office (ROV). In addition to staffing polling places, election officers provide technical support and de-

liver needed supplies to polling places, return ballots and supplies to the ROV on Election Day, and answer phone calls from voters and other election officers.



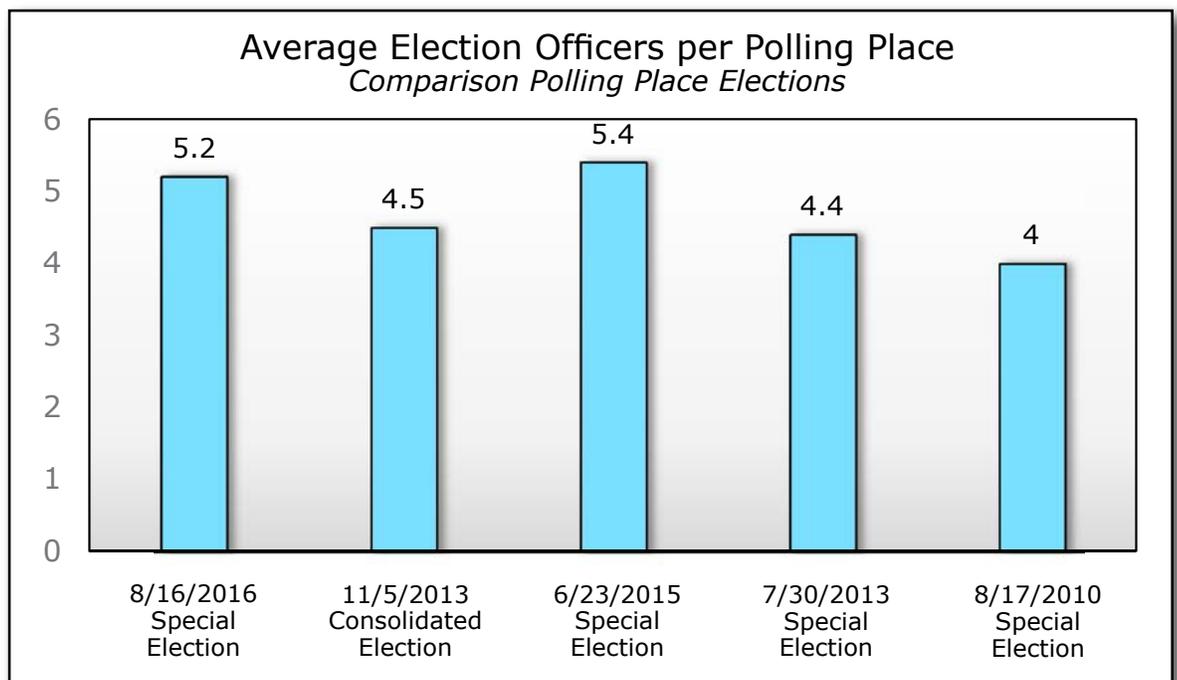
## FAQ

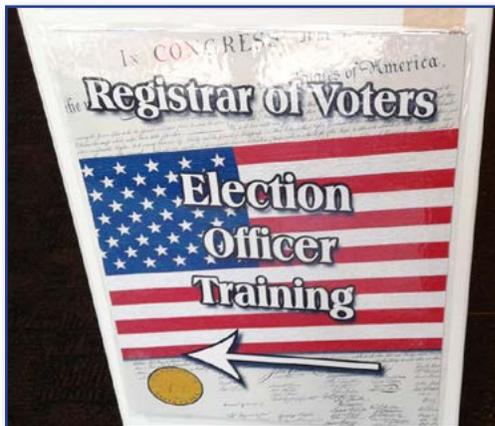
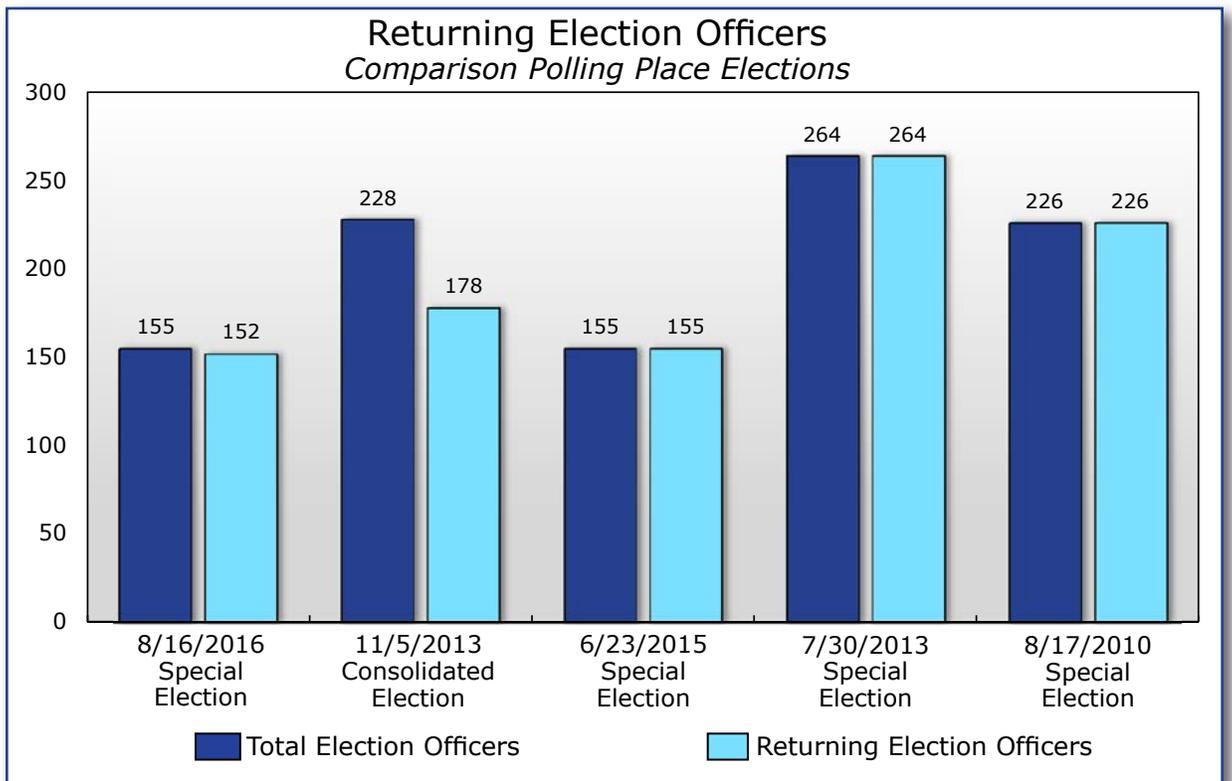
**Q:** What are the requirements to be an election officer?

**A:** For the August 16, 2016, Special 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.

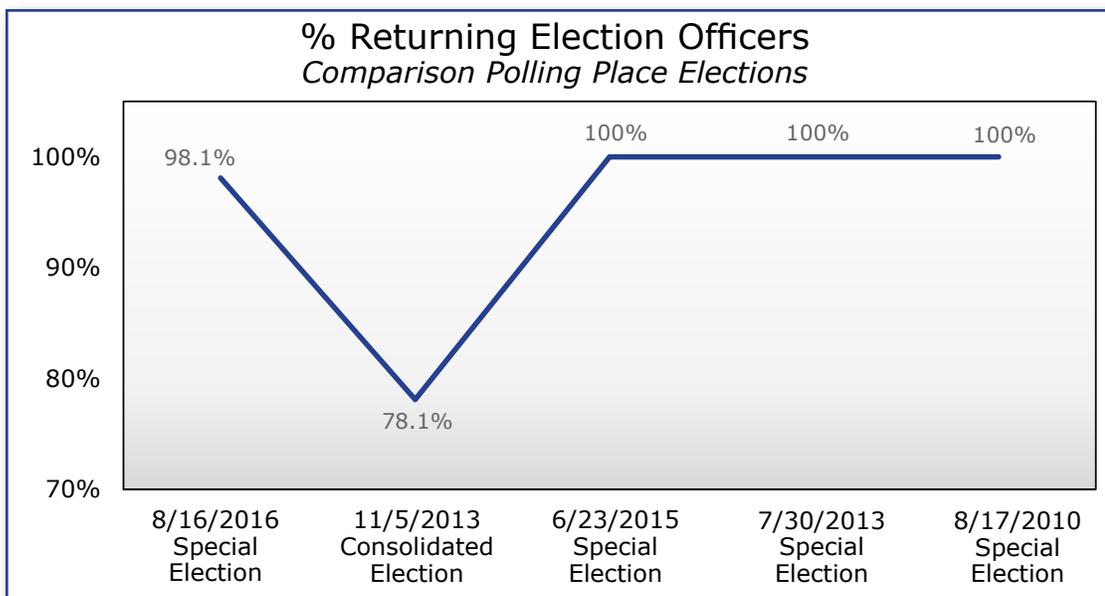
The ROV usually seeks to assign four or more election officers per polling place. Each polling place must be sufficiently staffed in order to process voters efficiently, provide targeted language assistance, maintain security over the ballots, and ensure that all procedures for opening and closing the polls are followed. The ROV also recruits standby election officers to serve as substitutes on Election Day.

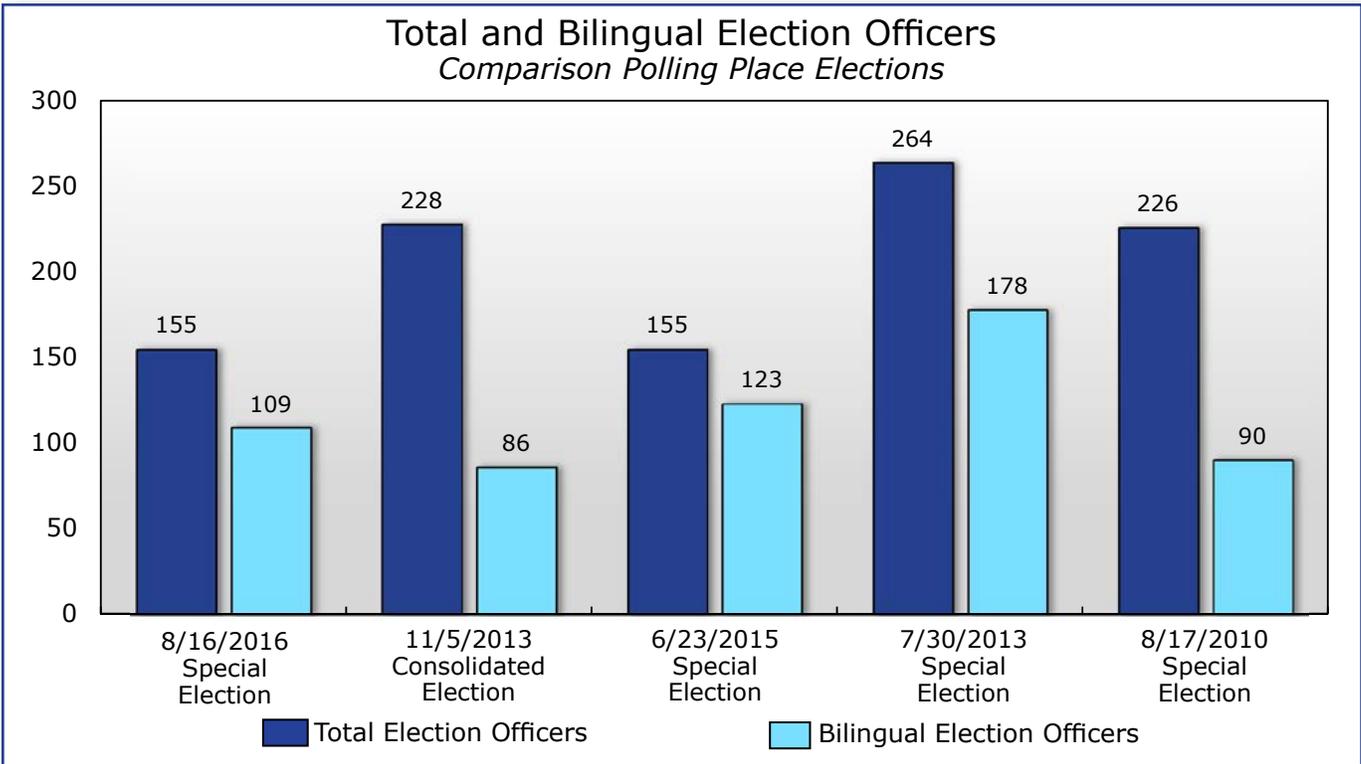
The number of election officers serving voters at each polling place has increased over the past several years. This trend is illustrated by the comparison polling place elections, at right.



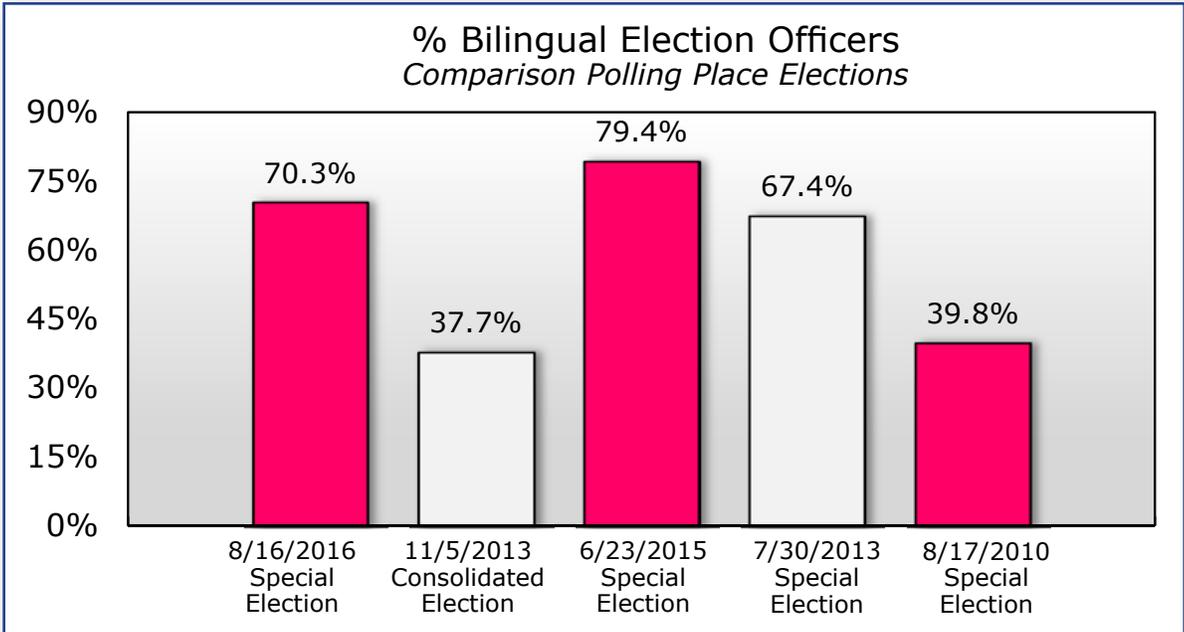


Having more election officers (EOs) assigned to polling places usually means that a higher percentage of those officers have never served at the polls before. Even when EOs have served in prior elections, training is extremely important as election laws regularly change from year to year, and election procedures may need to be adapted to the contests in the election. Therefore, the Registrar of Voters sets a goal of having as many EOs as possible attend training prior to Election Day. For the November 5, 2013, Consolidated Election, which had a higher percentage of first-time EOs, all 228 attended training. For the August 16, 2016, Special Election, 153 out of 155 EOs (98.7%) attended training prior to Election Day.





The Registrar of Voters (ROV) is required by state and federal law to provide bilingual election officers at polling places where sizable populations speak languages other than English. As a result, the percentage of bilingual election officers in a given election can vary widely depending on the language diversity of the local jurisdictions involved. Even though the percentage of voters requesting a ballot in a language other than English declined slightly between the November 5, 2013, Consolidated Election for the City of Sunnyvale and the August 16, 2016, Special Election, the ROV was able to retain many of its bilingual election officers who had served in the recent June 2016 Presidential Primary. This enabled the ROV to provide enhanced language support in the August 2016 special election.



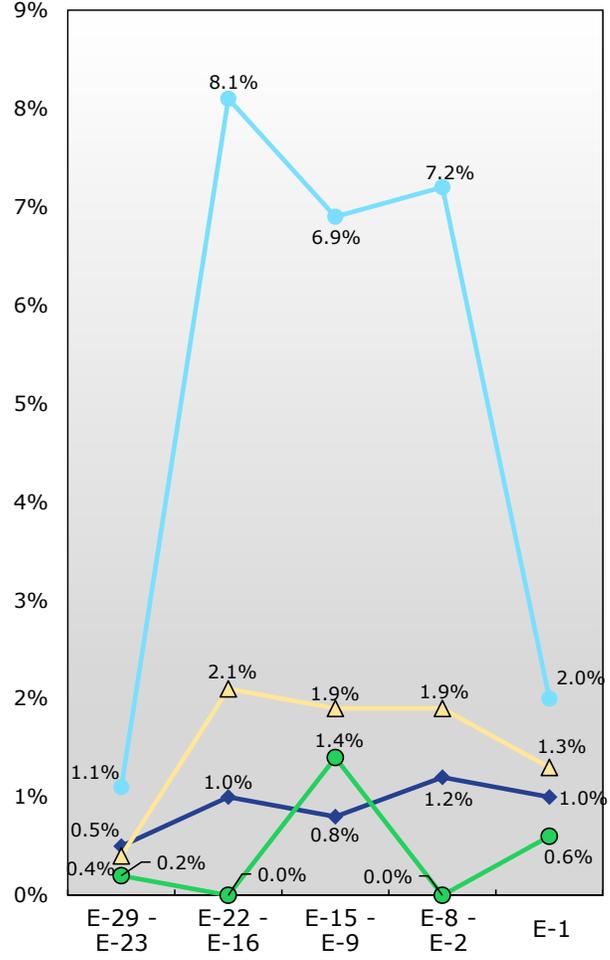
# Early Voting and Ballot Drop-Off

The County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters' office (ROV) believes that voting should be as easy and accessible as possible, and that voters should have as many convenient methods of voting as possible. Starting 29 days before every election, the ROV serves as a polling place, where staff members register voters before the **E-15** deadline, accept vote-by-mail ballot envelopes, or print a ballot on demand for voters wishing to vote in person. Private voting booths and one or more accessible electronic voting machines equipped with an audio ballot device are set up in the ROV lobby during early voting.

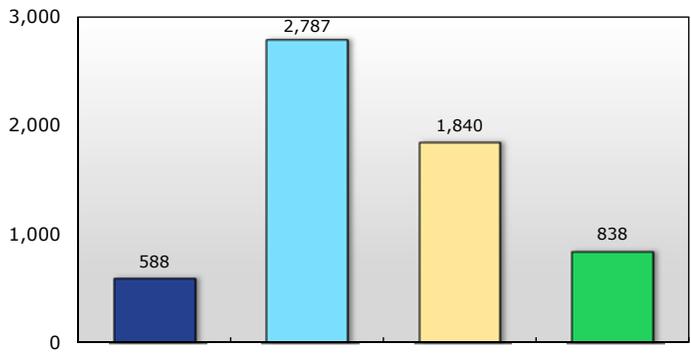
## Early Voting and Drop-Off Locations August 16, 2016, Special Election

Location	Address	Early Voting	24-Hour Drop-Off	Drop-Off	Drive-Thru
ROV Office	1555 Berger Dr., San Jose	●	●	●	
Sunnyvale Public Library	665 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale		●	●	●
County Government Center	70 W. Hedding St., San Jose			●	
Sunnyvale City Hall	650 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale			●	

### % Early Voting and Drop-Off Votes of Total Ballots Cast Special Vacancy Polling Place Elections

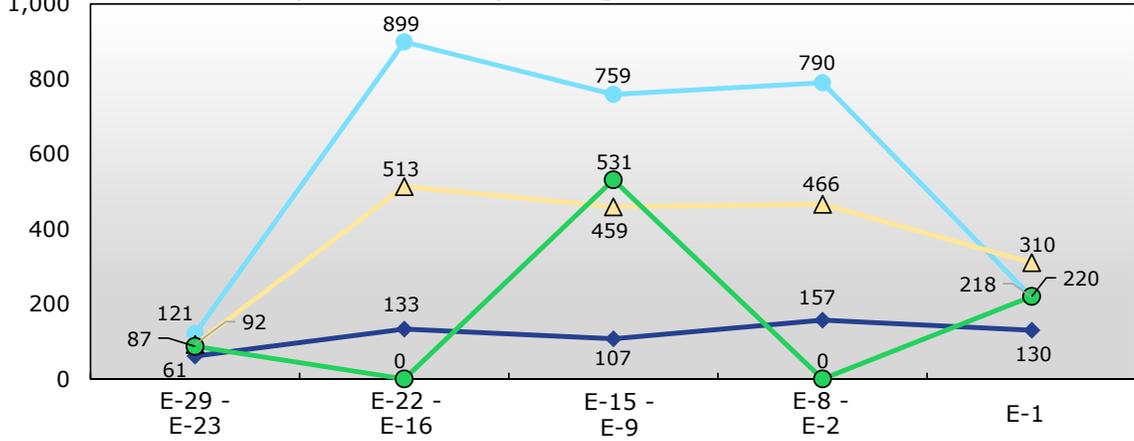


### Total Early Voting and Drop-Off Votes Special Vacancy Polling Place Elections



- ◆ 8/16/2016 Special
- 6/23/2015 Special
- ▲ 7/30/2013 Special
- 8/17/2010 Special

### Early Voting and Drop-Off Votes by Date Special Vacancy Polling Place Elections



As these graphs show, comparatively greater numbers of voters in the July 2013 and June 2015 special elections took advantage of early voting options, most likely due to these districts' closer proximity to the ROV office, San Jose City Hall, and the County Government Center, all popular ballot drop-off locations.

# III. Election Day and Post-Election Tallying

## Midday Pickup

Prior to 2016, state law prohibited the Registrar of Voters (ROV) from opening the sealed ballot bags at 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 bags and bring them back to ROV headquarters to begin tallying the ballots. This process is known as the midday pickup.

The ROV implemented a pilot program in the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary, to try out the new midday pickup process. In the August 16, 2016, Special Election, the ROV continued the successful program by picking up ballots from all 28 polling places during the afternoon on Election Day. Couriers arrived between 3 and 4 p.m. 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.

The midday pickup program allowed the ROV to get a head start on tallying ballots that otherwise would not have arrived at the ROV office until at least an hour after the polls closed at 8 p.m. An ample portion of the precinct ballots cast in an election can now be tallied before the polls close. Accordingly, the earliest Election Night results released by the ROV can show greater vote totals.

In the June 2016 Presidential Primary midday pickup, the ROV was able to retrieve nearly 15% of the total precinct ballots cast in the election from a quarter of the 804 polling places countywide. This time, by picking up midday from all 28 polling places, the ROV was able to retrieve close to half of all polling place ballots cast in the August 16, 2016, Special Election.

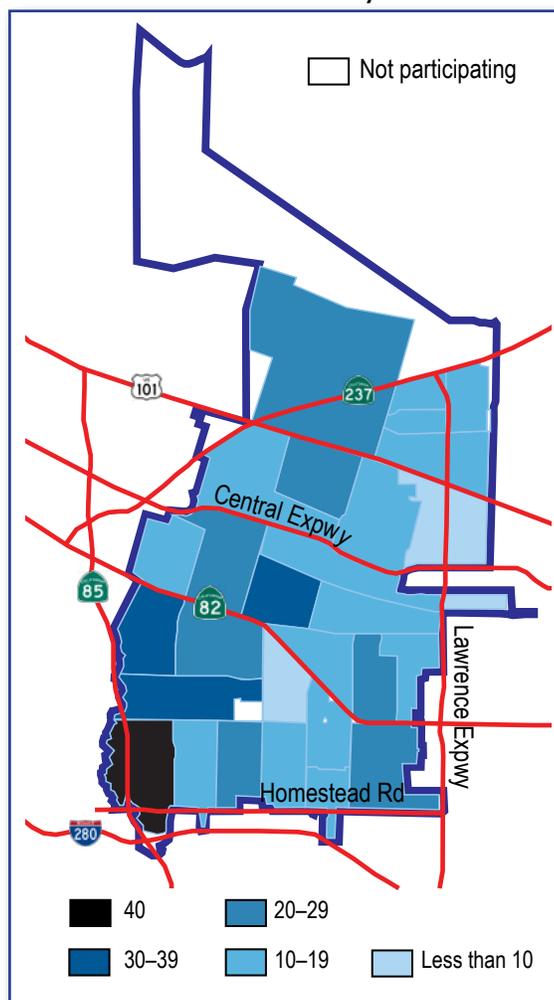
### Midday Pickup Returns August and June 2016 Elections

August 16, 2016 Special	Picked Up Midday	Total in Election	% from Midday
Polling Place Ballots (No PVs)	512	1,031	49.7%
Vote-by-Mail	257	11,934	2.2%
Provisionals (PVs)	33	97	34.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>13,062</b>	<b>6.1%</b>

June 7, 2016 Primary	Picked Up Midday	Total in Election	% from Midday
Polling Place Ballots (No PVs)	12,940	89,298	14.5%
Vote-by-Mail	8,586	324,071	2.6%
Provisionals (PVs)	2,196	25,273	8.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,722</b>	<b>438,642</b>	<b>5.4%</b>

The map at right depicts the volume of polling place ballots retrieved by precinct during the midday pickup on Election Day in the August 16, 2016, Special Election. The most polling ballots cast prior to the midday pickup was 40 ballots from precinct 4043, whose polling place was a private residence in the southwest corner of Sunnyvale.

### Midday Pickup Polling Place Ballots Returned by Precinct



Midday receivers check in a courier team delivering bags of voted ballots.

# Ballots Cast and Counted

While every election includes some portion of the ballots that cannot be counted, over 99% of ballots cast in the August 16, 2016, Special Election were valid and therefore included in the election results. Sixty-seven of the 115 ballots not counted in the election were due to voters submitting their vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot too late. Of the ballots received on time, over 99.4% were determined to be valid during the **canvass** of election results.

## Extended Vote Counting

New laws that allow ballots to be counted up to eight days after Election Day had a modest impact on the administration of this election. The law providing for acceptance of VBM ballots up to three days after Election Day enabled the Registrar of Voters (ROV) to count, out of 11,936 total VBM received, a total of 316 VBM ballots (2.6%) that would not have been counted in the past. The recent law that allows voters to provide a missing signature on their VBM envelope up to eight days after Election Day produced three additional ballots that the ROV was able to count that could not have been counted in past years. An additional 25

## 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.

voters provided a missing signature on their **Unsigned Ballot Statement** on or before Election Day, as was required before the 2016 law allowing more time. By contrast, the ROV received over 15,000 VBM ballots alone during this extended vote-counting window in the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary, more ballots than the 12,947 cast in the August election altogether.

## Provisional Voting

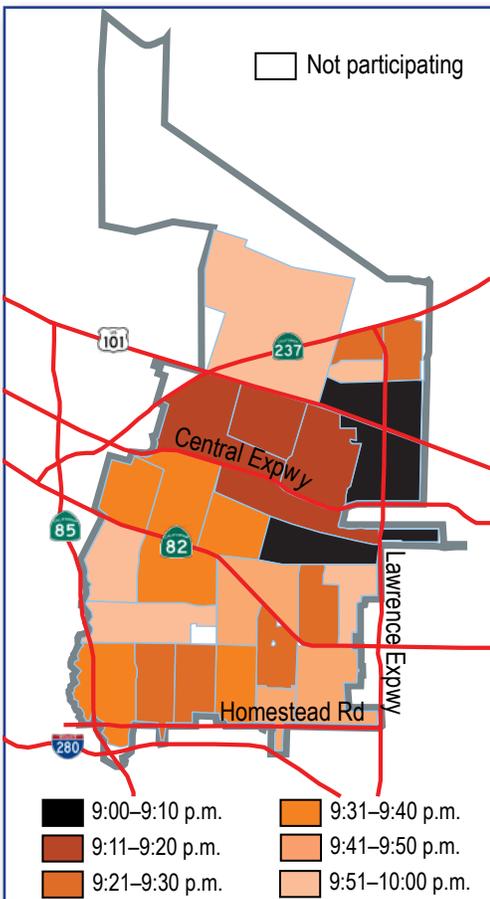
The comparatively low polling place turnout in the August 16, 2016, Special Election translated into very few instances of provisional voting. Only 97 provisional ballots were cast in the election, of which five were found to be invalid. With only one ballot contest and no conflicts with voters' political party registration status, no provisional ballots would be partially counted in most special elections. Further, the ROV typically experiences higher percentages of provisional voters during presidential elections when more new and infrequent voters come to the polls. Whereas it took ROV staff members a week and a half to determine the eligibility of provisional ballots cast in the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, it took staff only about an hour to do so in this 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.

## Precincts Reporting by Time

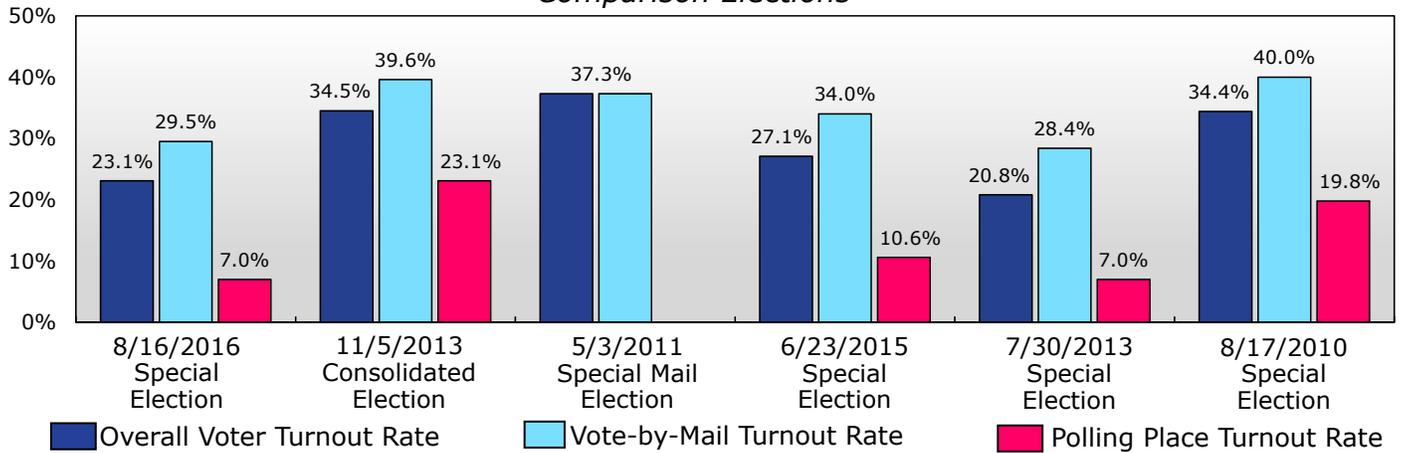


The map at left illustrates the time on Election Night that voted ballots and other critical election materials from each precinct were returned in the August 16, 2016, Special Election. Ballots and election materials from all 28 precincts arrived between 9 and 10 p.m. on Election Night. The map appears to indicate that the precincts reporting the earliest had polling places located close to freeways and expressways, while precincts in Sunnyvale's interior residential areas generally reported later.

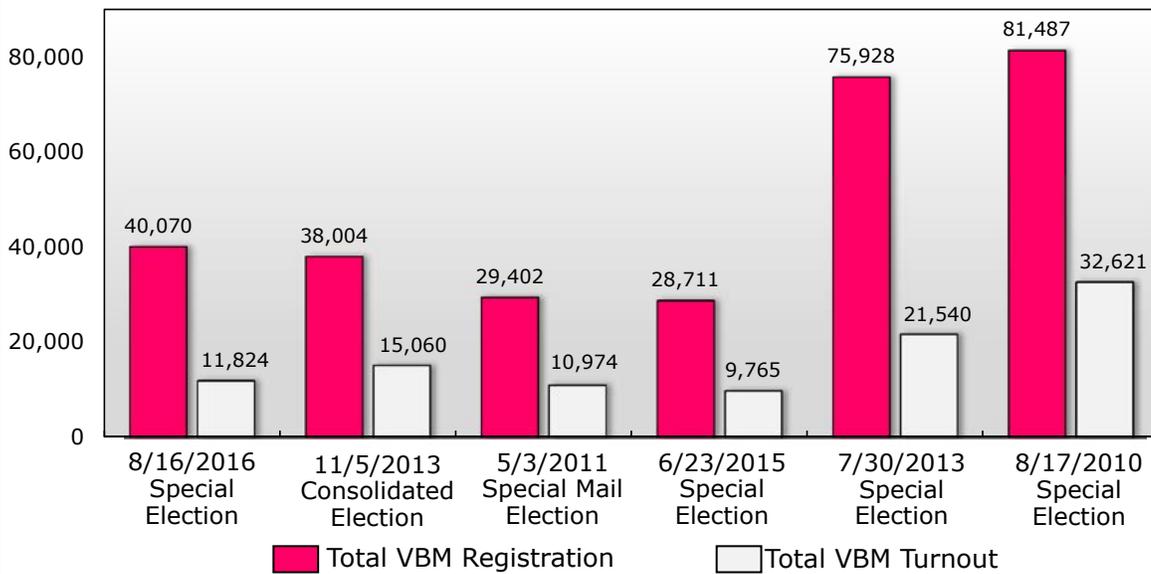


After being tallied on Election Night, voted ballots are ejected by a vote-tallying machine, after which they are prepared for secure storage.

## Voter Turnout Rates by Voting Method *Comparison Elections*



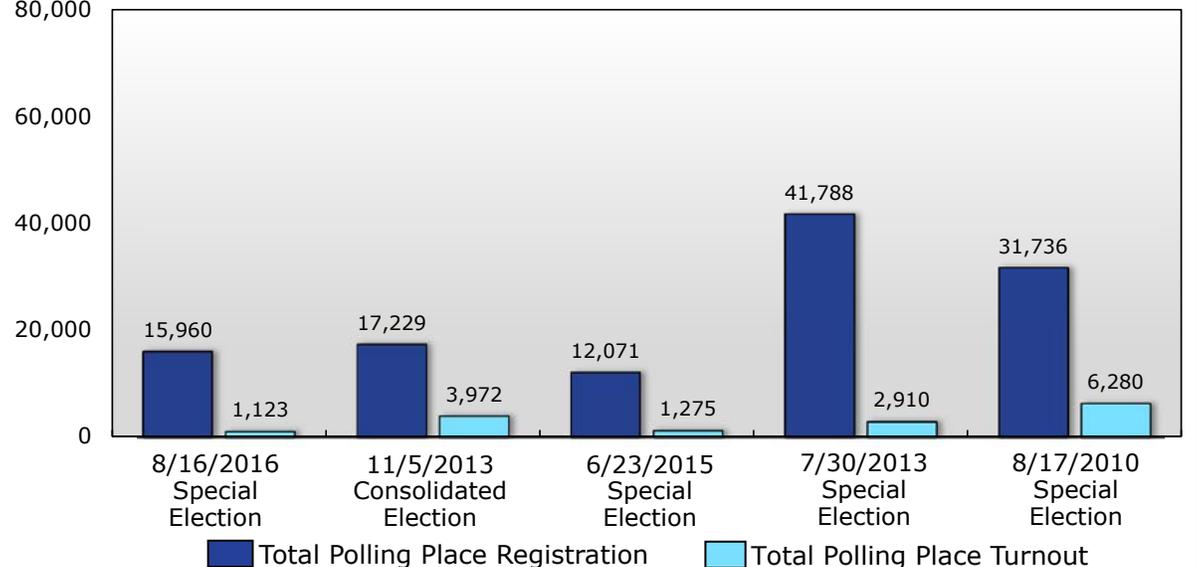
## Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Registration and Turnout *Comparison Elections*



Though composition of a district and voter interest in what's on the ballot play important roles, voter turnout in all-mail special elections significantly outpaces voter turnout in special elections with polling places. Since 2010, the average turnout rate for the seven special polling place elections is 25.1%, compared with 38.1% for the nine all-mail special elections during the same time period.

In general, vote-by-mail (VBM) voters participate at a higher rate than non-VBM voters, as revealed by these graphs. By contrast, voter participation rates in the recently held June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election were nearly even between voters of both voting methods.

## Polling Place Registration and Turnout *Comparison Polling Place Elections*



## Vote-by-Mail Envelopes Received and Processed

Date	E-Date	Total Received	Received by Mail	Dropped Off	Counted	Challenged
Before 7/25	Before E-22	1,417	1,356	61	1,409	8
7/25	E-22	1,764	1,760	4	1,758	6
7/26	E-21	0	0	0	0	0
7/27	E-20	815	719	96	813	2
7/28	E-19	957	925	32	953	4
7/29	E-18	279	278	1	278	1
7/30	E-17	0	0	0	0	0
7/31	E-16	0	0	0	0	0
8/1	E-15	917	917	0	914	3
8/2	E-14	327	243	84	327	0
8/3	E-13	450	450	0	447	3
8/4	E-12	368	349	19	368	0
8/5	E-11	315	312	3	311	4
8/6	E-10	276	275	1	275	1
8/7	E-9	0	0	0	0	0
8/8	E-8	434	425	9	433	1
8/9	E-7	129	47	82	128	1
8/10	E-6	378	375	3	377	1
8/11	E-5	318	267	51	316	2
8/12	E-4	331	331	0	328	3
8/13	E-3	249	237	12	0	0
8/14	E-2	0	0	0	0	0
8/15	E-1	487	357	130	487	0
<b>8/16</b>	<b>Election Day</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>1,009</b>	<b>4</b>
8/17	E+1	368	41	327	367	1
8/18	E+2	274	274	0	269	5
8/19	E+3	29	29	0	9	20
8/20	E+4	0	0	0	0	0
8/21	E+5	0	0	0	0	0
8/22	E+6	27	27	0	0	27
8/23	E+7	0	0	0	0	0
8/24	E+8	5	5	0	0	5
After 8/24	E+9 and Later	9	9	0	0	9



Not surprisingly, the vote-by-mail ballot drop box in the parking lot of the Registrar of Voters' office is the county's most popular drop box.

### 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, especially in countywide elections, 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.

Over a quarter of the total vote-by-mail ballots received in the August 16, 2016, Special Election arrived at the Registrar of Voters' office a full three weeks before Election Day. In a countywide election, a chart like the one above would show the volume of ballots peaking on Election Day and in the days just before and after Election Day.

### Vote-by-Mail Challenges

Reason	Explanation	Number
Deceased	Voter passed away before Election Day	6
No Ballot	VBM return envelope was empty	4
No Signature	Voter did not sign the return envelope, and did not provide a signature or Unsigned Ballot Statement by August 24 deadline	18
Signature Mismatch	Signature on envelope does not match signature in voter's file	14
Too Late	Received after deadline	67
Void	Voter ineligible to vote for another reason	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>110</b>

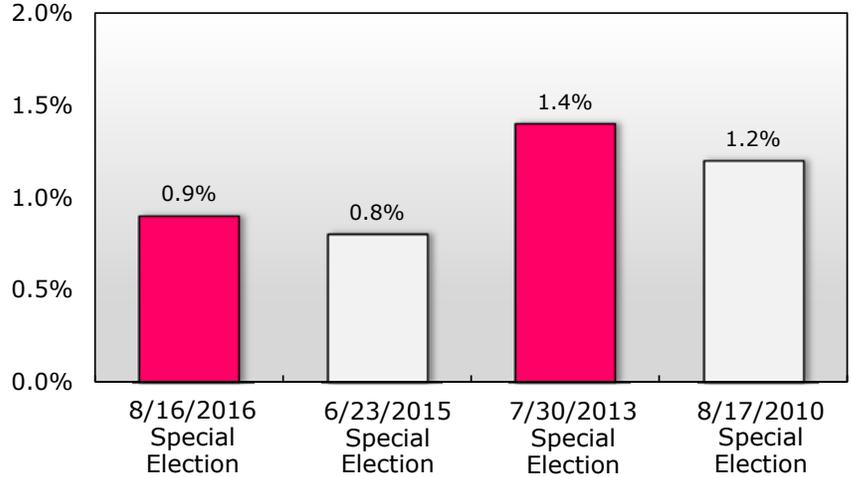
## E+3 Ballots Received, Counted August 16, 2016, Special Election

Date	Received	Counted	Not Counted
E+1 (8/17)	39	38	1
E+2 (8/18)	274	269	5
E+3 (8/19)	29	9	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>26</b>

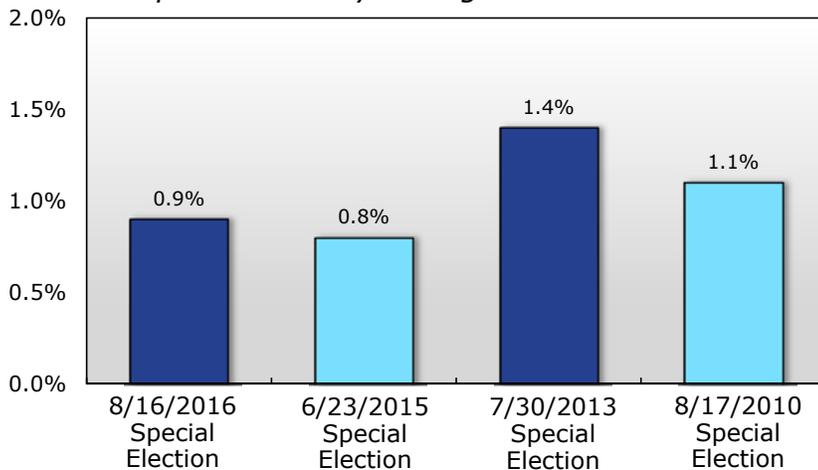
## % E+3 Ballots Counted

Date	% Counted	% Not Counted
E+1 (8/17)	97.4%	2.6%
E+2 (8/18)	98.2%	1.8%
E+3 (8/19)	31.0%	69.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>92.4%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>

## % VBM Ballots Not Counted Special Vacancy Polling Place Elections



## % Total Ballots Not Counted Special Vacancy Polling Place Elections



A law that took effect in 2015 allows the Registrar of Voters (ROV) to count vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots received up to three days after Election Day as long as the envelope is postmarked on or before Election Day. This election, the ROV received 342 VBM ballots after Election Day, with 316 of these ballots being correctly postmarked and counted. Unfortunately, 26 either were missing the postmark or were postmarked too late to be counted. The effect of the 2015 law can be seen in two most recent special vacancy elections, which saw a lower percentage of VBM ballots going uncounted. Because in special polling place elections VBM ballots comprise over 70% of the ballots cast and provisional ballot acceptance rates are similar, the percentages of total ballots counted and VBM ballots counted in these elections are nearly identical.

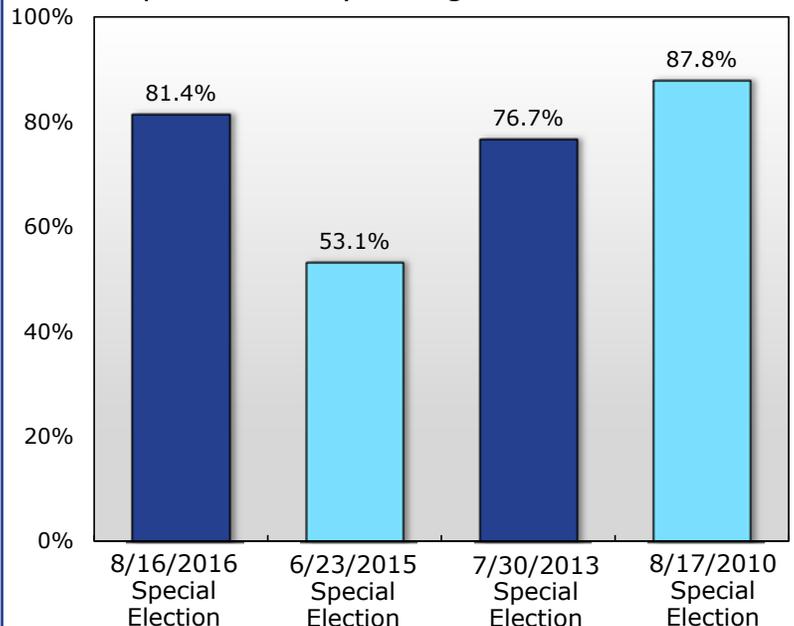
## FAQ

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

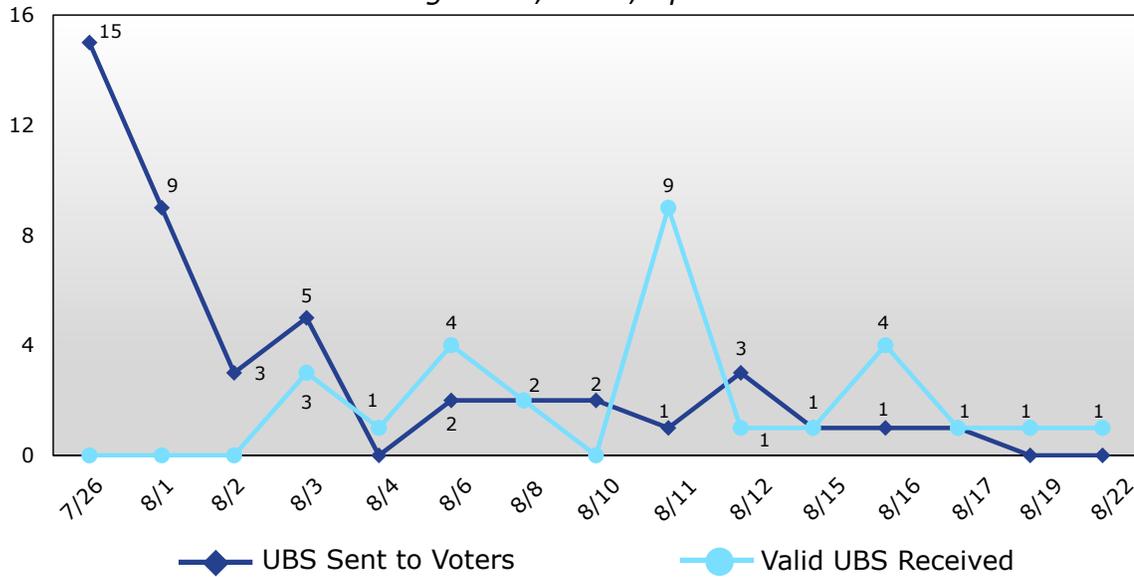
**A:** Like the days preceding an election, the Registrar of Voters tracks days following an election in relation to Election Day. **E+1** ("E plus 1") means the first day after an election. **E+3**, therefore, is three days after Election Day.

While the July 2013 and June 2015 special elections experienced more early voting and voters dropping off their ballots, a higher percentage of voters in the August 2010 and August 2016 special elections mailed their VBM ballots in early. In county-wide elections, the percentage of VBM ballots returned early tends to be lower. For example, the percentage of VBM ballots received by the ROV prior to Election Day in the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election was 63.7%.

## % VBM Ballots Received Prior to Election Day Special Vacancy Polling Place Elections



### Unsigned Ballot Statements (UBS) Sent and Received August 16, 2016, Special Election



The graph at left depicts the points on the August 2016 election calendar when Registrar of Voters (ROV) staff mailed letters to voters informing them of a missing signature on the vote-by-mail return envelope, and when voters mailed their unsigned ballot statements (UBS) back to the ROV. Twenty-eight out of 45 UBS – or nearly two-thirds – were returned on time with valid signatures, allowing these votes to be counted.

### 1% Tally Facts and Figures

	1% Tally	Election Total	% Counted in 1% Tally
No. of Precincts	1	29	3.4%
Registered Voters	2,566	56,030	4.6%
Ballots Counted	677	12,947	5.2%
Turnout	26.4%	23.1%	n/a
Qualified Write-In Votes	31	765	4.1%
Overvotes	2	56	3.8%
Undervotes/Blanks	1	34	2.9%
Variance	1	n/a	n/a

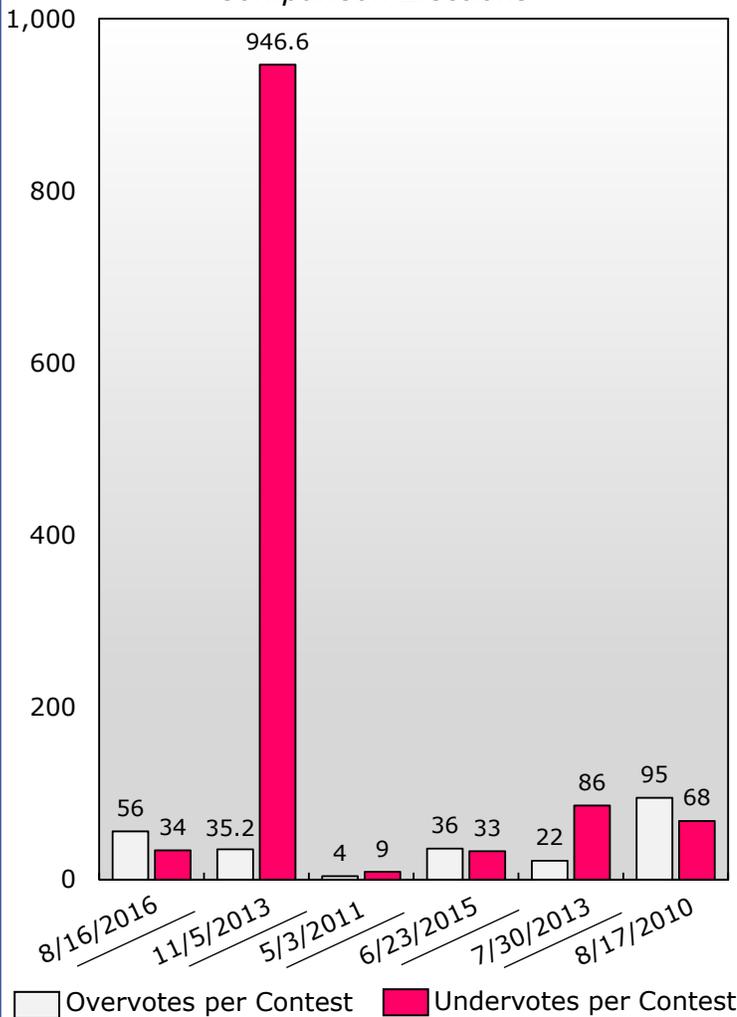
After every election the ROV performs the 1% manual tally, verifying the accuracy of the vote-tallying machines' count by manually tallying the votes of 1% of the precincts in the election and comparing the total to the vote-tallying machines' total. It was discovered during this 1% manual tally that a smudge on one ballot led the vote-tallying machine to read the contest as an overvote. The ballot should have instead registered a vote only for winning candidate Larry Klein. With shorter ballots, instances where voters overvote contests or leave them blank are fairly rare in special elections. In the comparison elections, the November 5, 2013, Consolidated Election stands out. In that election, City of Sunnyvale voters could vote on a total of six contests – three City Council seats and ballot measures each – and a substantial number of voters skipped one or more of these contests.

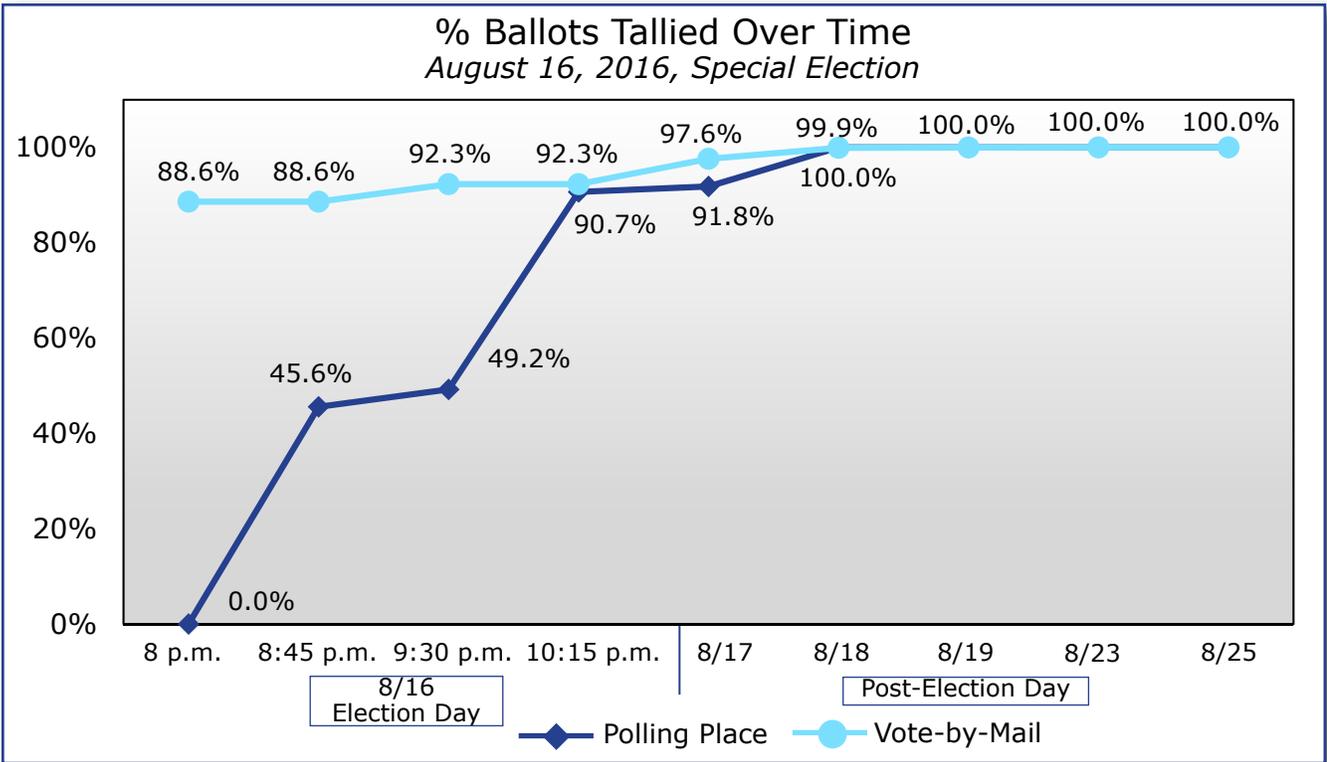
### FAQ

**Q:** What are **overvotes and undervotes**?

**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. An **undervote** is when a voter does not vote for all the eligible choices in a specific contest. Each blank ballot received in the August 16, 2016, Special Election was recorded as an undervote.

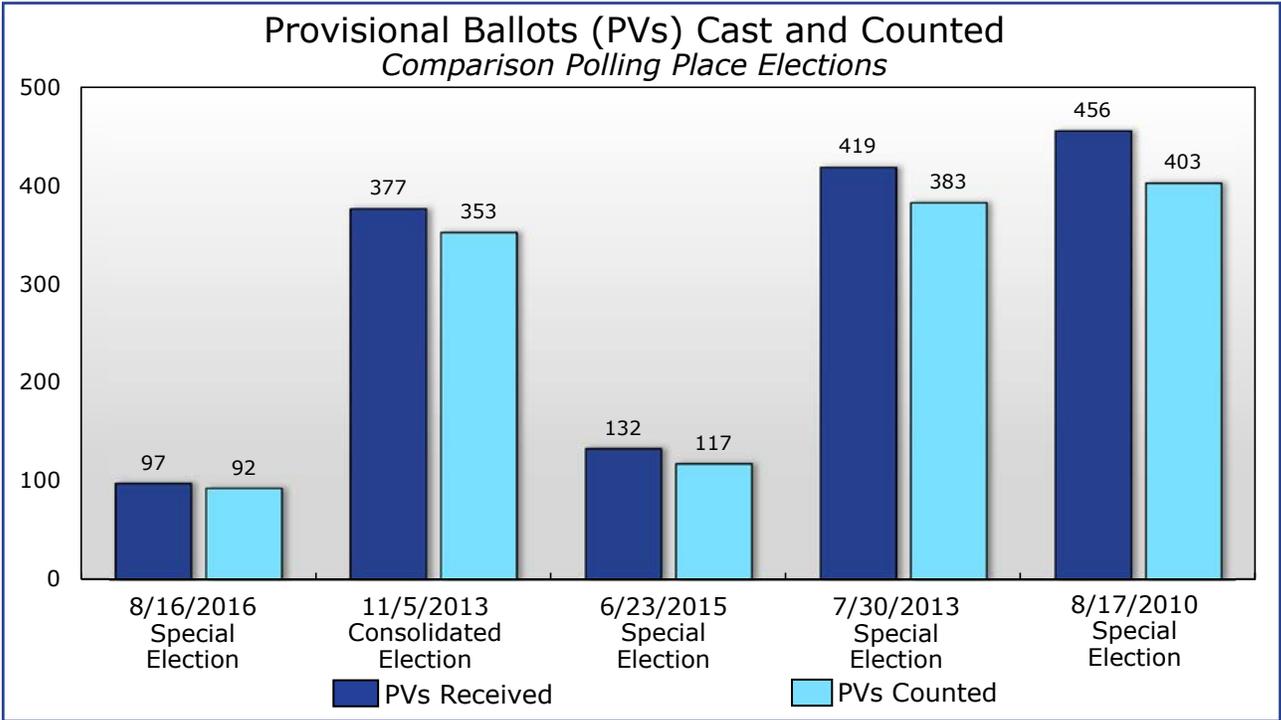
### Overvotes and Undervotes per Contest Comparison Elections



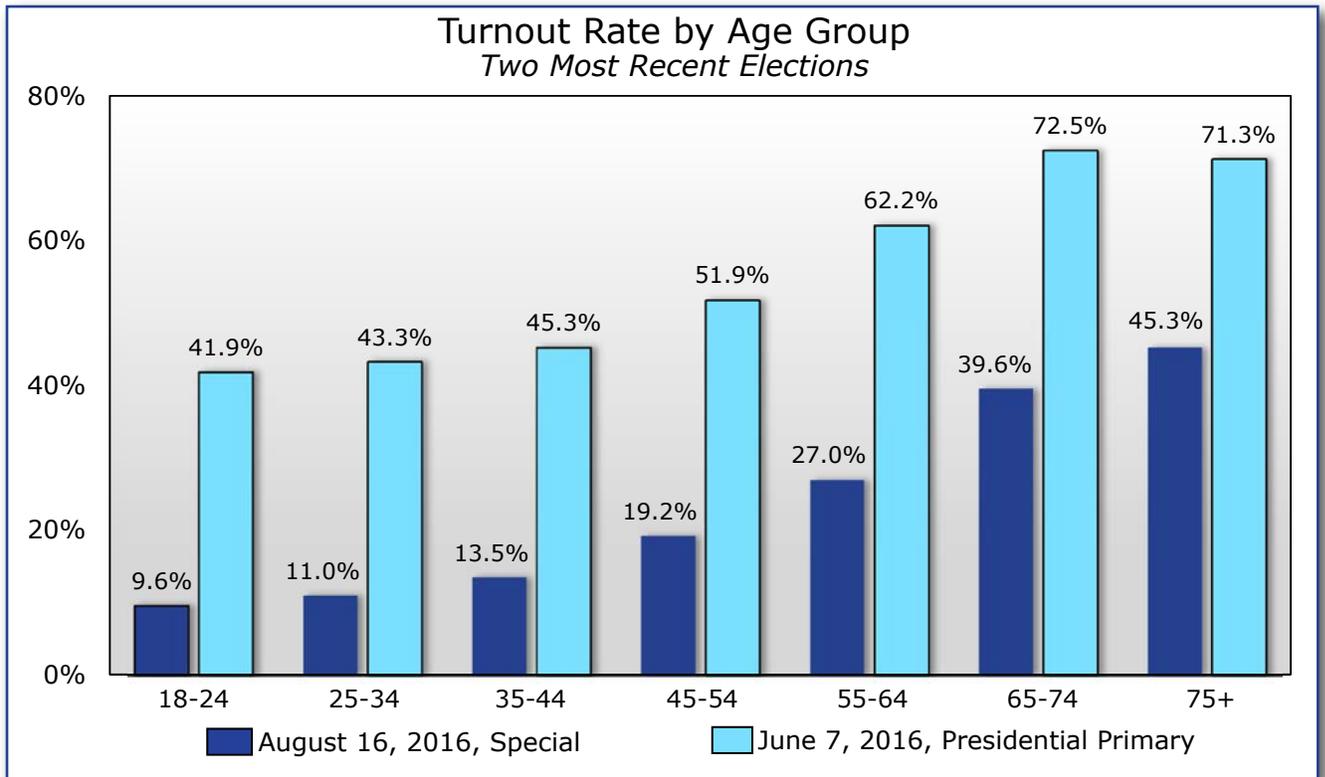


Starting 10 days before the election, all of the vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots received prior to Election Day are processed and tallied before 8 p.m. on Election Day. State law, however, does not allow the Registrar of Voters (ROV) to release the first results until the polls close. The first point on this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

second point at 8:45 p.m. on Election Day represents the tallied polling place ballots that were retrieved during the midday pickup on Election Day. Because over 80% of the VBM ballots were received prior to Election Day, the ROV was able to tally nearly 90% of the total valid VBM ballots received before releasing the first results on Election Night. By two days after Election Day, only a dozen or so ballots remained to be processed and tallied.



The majority of provisional ballots (PVs) cast by voters at the polls are ultimately counted. In the comparison polling place elections, about 90% of PVs were counted – slightly higher than in larger countywide elections. Almost 95% of PVs were counted in the August 16, 2016, Special Election, the highest rate among comparison elections. Of the five PVs not counted, three were for voters not registered in Santa Clara County, and two were for voters not signing or providing enough information on the envelope to verify eligibility.



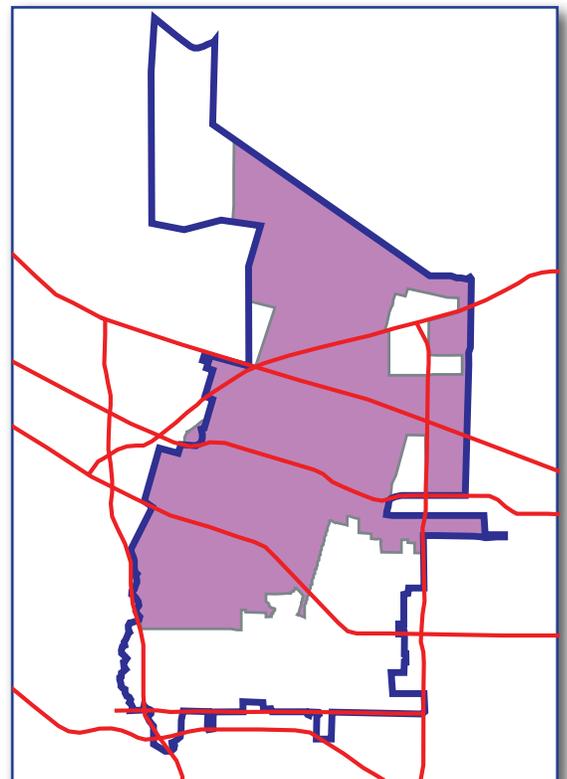
Younger voters did not turn out in large numbers for the August 16, 2016, Special Election. Less than one in 10 voters in the youngest age group voted for Sunnyvale City Council Seat 4. By comparison, over four in 10 voters in the 18-24 age group turned out in the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election. The higher the age group, the more narrow the turnout gap in the August 2016 Special Election, as compared with June 2016 Presidential Primary.

### Sunnyvale School District and City of Sunnyvale Boundaries



The shaded area in the map at right represents the Sunnyvale School District.

The district serves the lion's share of the City of Sunnyvale, outlined here with thicker border. Even though the portion served by the Sunnyvale School District does not encompass some of Sunnyvale's more affluent neighborhoods in the southern part of the city, the voter turnout rate in the all-mail May 2011 special election, concerning a parcel tax measure that passed, eclipsed the turnout rate in the August 16, 2016, Special Election for City Council by more than 14 percentage points – 37.3% to 23.1%.



# Postscript

Despite the small number of voters participating in the August 16, 2016, Special Election, the election process provides us with many interesting stats and facts:

- This was the **third of four elections the Registrar of Voters (ROV) will conduct in 2016**, the average number of elections held by the ROV since 2010.
- It involved a vacant city council seat in the City of Sunnyvale:
  - Winning candidate **Larry Klein** received over **60% of the votes**, besting two other candidates.
  - Despite his victory, winner Klein must run again in the November 8, 2016, Presidential General Election, if he wishes to continue holding his Council seat.
  - The deadline to file nomination paperwork for the November 2016 election was August 12, 2016, four days before the August 16, 2016, Special Election was held.
  - By Election Day, both Klein and second-place finisher **John Cordes** had **already timely filed nomination paperwork for November**, as did a third candidate, **Mike McCarthy**.
- The **ROV needs be ready** to conduct a special vacancy election at **any time throughout the year**.
- The timing of special vacancy elections can be difficult to predict. The ROV successfully conducted the August special vacancy election **between the two major presidential elections of 2016**.
- It marked the **seventh special vacancy election** held by the ROV **since 2010**.
- For the third consecutive election, more than **half of the election officers** serving at polling places were bilingual.
- Even with polling place voting, about **90% of the ballots cast** in the election were tallied before the polls closed.
- By a **week before Election Day**, well over **half of the total ballots** in the election had been processed by the ROV.
- **Over 99% of ballots** received by the deadline were **counted as valid** in this election.
- The ROV **certified the results on August 29, 2016**, only 13 days after Election Day.

## Post-Election Reports

Find this and other 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 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 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).