

# County of Santa Clara

## Registrar of Voters

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San Jose, CA 95112  
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www.sccvote.org



April 3, 2017

### **NOTICE OF OBSERVER OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MAY 2, 2017, SPECIAL MAIL BALLOT ELECTION**

You or your representative are invited to observe the May 2, 2017, Special Mail Ballot Election at the Registrar of Voters (ROV), 1555 Berger Drive, Building #2, San Jose, CA, 95112. ROV's election activities are open to the public to observe at any time. The following is only a partial list of ROV's election activities. Dates are subject to change. Please call one to two days before the date you wish to observe to confirm the actual date and time of the activity you wish to observe.

#### **DRE Touch Screen Voting Machine Preparation and Testing**

This is the loading of election data and comprehensive election logic and accuracy testing that ensures that each machine is securely programmed and prepared properly. Testing is comprised of 19 major sequential steps to ensure the integrity of the vote counting on Election Day. Testing will occur April 21, 2017, at approximately 8:30 a.m.

#### **Optical Scan Pre-LAT (Logic and Accuracy Testing)**

The optical scan system is tested prior to each election by using a pre-marked set of test ballots. The ballots test the computer system's ability to prevent over-votes and account for under and invalid votes. The preparation of the ballot test desk and testing of the tabulation equipment will begin on April 21, 2017, at approximately 8:30 a.m.

#### **Returned Vote by Mail Ballot Processing**

In accordance with the California Elections Code Section 15101, et seq., the ROV will begin processing of returned Vote By Mail Ballot Envelopes on April 18, 2017. Ballots received by 8:00 a.m., on May 2, 2017, in our office and from the Post Office, will be tallied and included in the results posted at 8:05 p.m., on Election Night. Approximately 95 - 98% of the remaining ballots received on Election Day at all return sites will be counted by May 3, 2017. Due to a recent change in state law, ballots postmarked on Election Day and received by May 5, 2017, are valid. These ballots may continue to be processed and tallied through the evening of May 5, 2017.

As a result of another change in state law, Vote By Mail Ballots returned without the required voter signature on the return envelope can be corrected by the voter by 5:00 p.m., on May 10, 2017. These ballots may continue to be processed and tallied through the evening of May 10, 2017.

## **Election Night Ballot Receipt and Counting**

The "Semi-Official Election Results" will be posted at approximately 8:05 p.m., Election Night, on the ROV website at [www.sccvote.org](http://www.sccvote.org).

### **Official Canvass**

Pursuant to the California Elections Code Section 15301, the election canvass must start the Thursday after the election. Although Thursday, May 4, 2017, is the first official start of the election canvass, Santa Clara County prefers to begin this process one day earlier, on Wednesday, May 3, 2017. The canvass process is open to the public and continues for at least 6 hours a day (Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays excepted) until completed. After completing this process, the election results are then certified by the Registrar of Voters and made public.

The canvass includes, but is not limited to, the inspection of all materials and supplies; processing and counting valid Vote-by-Mail; counting valid write-in votes and the 1% manual recount.

Sincerely,



Shannon Bushey  
Registrar of Voters