
BARBARA DUNMORE
Registrar of Voters



2724 Gateway Drive
Riverside, CA 92507-0918
(951) 486-7200
FAX (951) 486-7335
www.voteinfo.net

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

November 8, 2010

Re: A MESSAGE FROM THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS – Putting Voters First

Dear Riverside County Voters:

A higher than expected number of voters cast ballots in Riverside County in last week's General Election. Every voter who wanted to vote in Riverside County in Tuesday's (Nov. 2) election was afforded the opportunity to cast a ballot. As the County's Registrar of Voters my first responsibility is to you, the voter.

In addition to the exceptional cadre of over 3,000 poll workers who make democracy work in this county, each and every election the Registrar's staff goes above and beyond requirements to make sure voters have ballots. This election we hand delivered ballots to a housebound couple in Moreno Valley, and to woman in Hemet whose car broke down on the way to vote. We also orchestrate the delivery of ballots to voters in hospitals on Election Day all across the county. In the past elections, we've arranged personal delivery of a ballot to a voter in Desert Center unable to get to his post office box in time to vote.

Tuesday's election was well executed. All polls opened on time to serve a higher than projected turnout, sufficient ballots were available, and extra poll workers meant assistance was readily available when needed. Despite a smooth, trouble-free voting day, attention has been focused on the 45 minute delay of the initial election night results. That too was a service to voters.

When most polls in the county closed at 8 pm, the Registrar of Voters lobby was full of last minute voters. State law requires a poll to remain open until all voters in line or marking their ballots at 8 pm cast their ballot. Results cannot be released before polls close.

When the last voter turned in his ballot at 8:35 pm, the button was pressed to tally a record number of 200,000 ballots cast and counted before Election Day. The results report did not display the number of precincts counted, later attributed to an overload software program. The issue was corrected by the third results update.

Candidates want to know where they stand on Election Night and media representatives want to be the first to report the results of winners and losers. Voters, too, are anxious to know who is presumed to be elected. But state and federal laws provide for an electoral process that allows voters to cast a secret ballot, free from intimidation, and absent outside influence in the polling place.

The voting booth is where we exercise our most precious right and that final voter in the lobby has the same rights and deserves the same consideration as all voters who cast a ballot before him. Not only was the law followed on Election Night, but voters' selections were not altered by them having knowledge of the results before they completed casting their ballot.

Election Day is Voters' Day. The day freedom is preserved through participation in our electoral system. Everyone who participates is equal regardless of race or economic circumstance or political philosophy, age or gender. That's what makes democracy work.

As the County Registrar, I have always put the voter first and worked tirelessly on your behalf to count every valid ballot accurately and to ensure the election process in Riverside County is conducted with the utmost integrity and in accordance with all laws.

As the Registrar of Voter's Mission Statement reflects, you can be assured our electoral process is conducted professionally, consistently demonstrating neutrality and non-partisan decision-making, based upon a thorough knowledge of and compliance with all election laws, administered timely, responsively and with integrity on behalf of those we serve.

Respectfully,

Barbara Dunmore

Registrar of Voters
County of Riverside