

# NAACP Meeting

Monday, July 6, 2020

Gail L. Pellerin, County Clerk

831-454-2419 \* [info@votescount.us](mailto:info@votescount.us)

# Ballots will be mailed to ALL voters in November!

We will mail ballots to all voters in Santa Cruz County to promote safe voting at home.

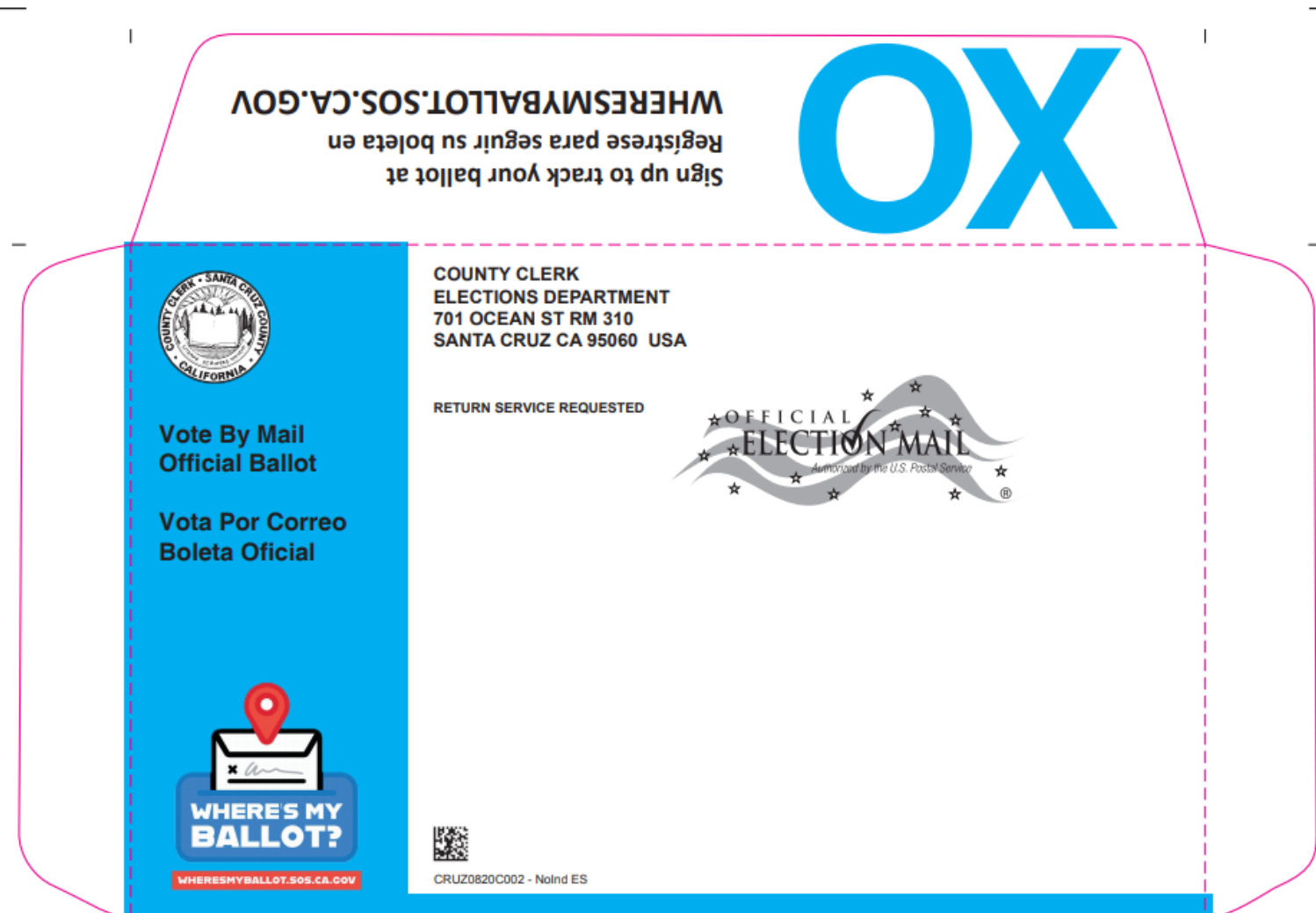
We will have 14 drop boxes available 24/7 until 8pm Election Night, plus drop boxes at each voting location, city clerks' office & postage paid envelopes for easy return.

We plan to have 17 in-person voting locations open Saturday – Tuesday, Oct. 31 to Nov. 3 to flatten the voting curve, per the Governor's Executive Order to have 1/10k voters.



Our ballots will  
be mailed with a  
hug & a kiss!

BallotTrax to  
track your ballot!



# Key Dates and Deadlines

- **July 13 – August 7:** Candidate filing
- **August 7 – 12:** Candidate filing extension if the incumbent does not file
- **August 13:** Random Alpha – SOS alpha will determine order of local contests. County random will determine order of State Senate and State Assembly
- **September 4:** Military and Overseas ballots go out - RAVBM
- **October 5:** First day to mail ballots. Current VR = 166,218
- **October 19:** Last day to register to vote – may be extended
- **October 31 – November 3:** Voter service centers open
  - 9am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday
  - 8am to 5pm on Monday
  - 7am to 8pm on Tuesday
- **November 29:** Deadline to cure a missing or non-comparing signature
- **November 30:** Deadline to declare those elected to school and special districts. Conflicts with the other deadlines to certify the election.
- **December 1:** Deadline to certify presidential contest. Dec. 3 for all others.

# Safe Candidate filing July 13 – Aug 7

- First, candidates will complete the preliminary candidate information and submit to us to prepare their Declaration of Candidacy.
- Online appointment calendar to set up time to come in and file paperwork.
- All docs are posted online. We will encourage candidates to complete and print the forms to bring with them to their appointment.

# Campaigning in a COVID world – advice from Dr. Gail Newel

It is hard to get COVID-19 from inanimate objects.

The biggest risk lies with close contact with other people. Close contact is defined as within six feet for more than 10 minutes, regardless of face coverings.

As case rates continue to increase, it is more important than ever to follow the social distancing requirements, which include:

- Wearing a face covering while engaging with others at work or in public;
- Keeping a six-foot distance from persons who are not members of your household;
- Frequently washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering coughs or sneezes with tissue or fabric, or using your elbow; and
- Staying home if you are sick with a fever or cough.

Campaigns are encouraged to do voter outreach in an outdoor public setting where they can stand more than six feet away from voters.

# Offices on the ballot



## Nominees for:

- President & Vice President
- Congress
- State Senate
- State Assembly
- Superior Court Judge
- County Supervisor, 1st District

## And

- City Councils: Capitola (2); Santa Cruz (4), Scotts Valley (3), Watsonville (Districts 1, 2 & 6)
- 2 County Boards of Education/2 Community College Boards
- 6 Unified School Districts
- 8 Elementary School Districts
- 9 or 10 Fire Districts (Central and Aptos may merge)
- 5 Water Districts
- Port District
- 2 Recreation Districts

# 12 State Propositions on the November ballot



- **Proposition 14** Authorizes Bonds to Continue Funding Stem Cell and Other Medical Research. Initiative Statute.
- **Proposition 15** Increases Funding for Public Schools, Community Colleges, and Local Government Services by Changing Tax Assessment of Commercial and Industrial Property. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.
- **Proposition 16** Government preferences. (ACA 5, Resolution Chapter 23, Statutes of 2020)
- **Proposition 17** Elections: disqualification of electors. (ACA 6, Resolution Chapter 24, Statutes of 2020)
- **Proposition 18** Elections: voting age. (ACA 4, Resolution Chapter 30, Statutes of 2020)
- **Proposition 19** The Home Protection for Seniors, Severely Disabled, Families, and Victims of Wildfire or Natural Disasters Act. (ACA 11, Resolution Chapter 31, Statutes of 2020)
- **Proposition 20** Restricts Parole for Non-Violent Offenders. Authorizes Felony Sentences for Certain Offenses Currently Treated Only as Misdemeanors. Initiative Statute.
- **Proposition 21** Expands Local Governments' Authority to Enact Rent Control on Residential Property. Initiative Statute.
- **Proposition 22** Changes Employment Classification Rules for App-Based Transportation and Delivery Drivers. Initiative Statute.
- **Proposition 23** Authorizes State Regulation of Kidney Dialysis Clinics. Establishes Minimum Staffing and Other Requirements. Initiative Statute.
- **Proposition 24** Amends Consumer Privacy Laws. Initiative Statute.
- **Proposition 25** Referendum to Overturn a 2018 Law That Replaced Money Bail System With a System Based on Public Safety Risk.



# Local Measures

## Just one so far!

- Aromas San-Juan School District bond measure.
- Deadline to call an election for a measure is August 7.

# Registration and Election Data

## Confidential Voter File

- Pursuant to Elections Code Sections 2187, 2188 and 2194, voter registration information is available to persons or groups for election, scholarly, journalistic or political purposes, or governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State. Each written request to view, purchase, or use voter registration information must be submitted in person and with identification on an application available at the Santa Cruz County Elections Department.
- Form to purchase voter file data is online at [www.votescount.us](http://www.votescount.us)
- We also post who is purchasing data.

Deadline is October 19 – may be changed due to COVID.

Voters can register to vote online at [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://www.registertovote.ca.gov).

Cards are available at post offices, city halls, DMV, or we can mail them to a voter.


Voter outreach limited due to COVID.

If a voter does not sign up in time, California now has Same Day Voter Registration where voters can register and vote up to and including Election Day.

Provisional voting will continue to be used in the event a voter's eligibility cannot be determined at the time they show up to vote.

# Voter Registration

# Current Voter Registration numbers for Santa Cruz County

 **Count Statistics - Sant**

**District View**

Language Counts    **VBM Program Status Counts**    Party Counts

Status		Total Req	Poll Voter Req	Perm VBM
<b>Active</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	166,218	48,529	116,369
DEM		97,946	27,643	69,439
REP		23,032	6,210	16,749
AIP		3,757	857	2,891
GRN		1,249	444	785
LIB		1,511	396	1,109
PAF		555	156	399
CNP		6	1	5
NPP		37,087	12,471	24,275
MISC		1,075	351	717
<b>Cancelled</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	126,756	81,198	44,965
<b>Inactive</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	42,400	29,762	12,292

- Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-64-20 signed on May 8 and N-67-20 signed June 3, elections officials will mail ballots to all voters in the State of California. Mailing ballots to all voters is intended to preserve public health in the face of the threat of COVID-19, and to ensure that the November election is accessible, secure and safe for all Californians who can vote from the safety of their own homes. In-person voting options will also be provided.
- **October 5, 2020** is the first day Santa Cruz County will mail ballots to voters who are registered to vote and on the active voter file.
- Ballots are also available at the Santa Cruz County Elections Department and the Watsonville City Clerk's Office from October 5 through 8pm Election Day, November 3.

## Voting in November 2020

# How to return your ballot after voting from home

Voters may return their ballot in one of the following ways:

- Drop it off at one of our 24-hour drop boxes
  - Aptos - Cabrillo College Parking lot R by the stadium
  - Aptos – Public Library, 7695 Soquel Dr.
  - Aptos - Polo Grounds near the dog park, 2255 Huntington Dr.
  - Ben Lomond - Highlands Park, 8500 Highway 9
  - Capitola – 420 Capitola Ave in the City Hall parking lot
  - Felton - Covered Bridge Park at Mt. Hermon and Graham Hill Rd
  - Santa Cruz - 701 Ocean St in front of the County Government Center
  - Santa Cruz – 212 Church St in the public parking lot
  - Scotts Valley – 1 Civic Center Dr in the City Hall parking lot
  - Watsonville – 316 Rodriguez St in the municipal public parking lot 14
  - Watsonville – 1432 Freedom Blvd parking lot
  - UCSC Quarry Plaza
  - We will add two more drive-up drop off boxes for November.
- Return it in person before and including Election Day at the County Elections Office or any of the City Clerks' Offices.
- Return it to a voter service center open Saturday, Oct. 31 to Tuesday, Nov. 3.
- Mail it so it is received on time – ballots postmarked on or before Election Day and received by November 20, 17 days after the election, will be considered received on time.

# In-person voting options.

In-person voting options will be available for voters to do any of the following:

- Return a voted ballot
  - Obtain a second ballot
  - Vote on the accessible tablet
  - Vote a Spanish ballot on the tablet
  - Register and vote on the same day
  - Vote provisionally
  - Any other voting service
- In-person voting locations will include the Santa Cruz County Clerk's Office and Watsonville City Clerk's Office. Open 29 days.
  - The plan is to have 17 voter service centers to serve voters in the county from Saturday, October 31, through 8pm, Tuesday, November 3.
  - All centers will adhere to public safety guidelines regarding mask wearing, disinfecting, physical distances, and any other protocols that may be in place. Since this is an evolving situation and there is no way to know what will be happening in October, voters are directed to check the Santa Cruz County Elections Department's website at [www.votescount.us](http://www.votescount.us) for the latest voting information.





# Voter Service Center locations used in March

Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Office

Watsonville City Clerk's Office

Simpkins Family Swim Center

Capitola City Hall

Community Foundation

Pajaro Valley Community Conference Room

UCSC – Bay Tree Conference Center

Scotts Valley Skypark

Zayante Fire Station

Ag Extension/Behavioral Health





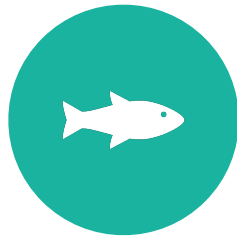
RESURRECTION  
CHURCH



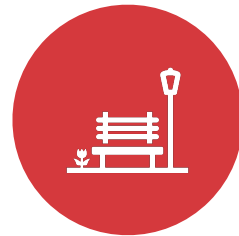
FELTON LIBRARY



LOMA PRIETA



TWIN LAKES CHURCH



HIGHLANDS PARK



OTHER IDEAS?  
DRIVE THRU VOTING  
MOBILE VOTING TRUCK

Possible  
locations to add  
in November.

We need 7  
more locations  
to meet ratio of  
1/10k voters

# How Do Californians Want to Cast their Ballots During the COVID-19 Crisis?

## New Electorate Study by

Thad Kousser, UC San Diego

Mindy Romero, California Civic Engagement Project at University of Southern California

Mackenzie Lockhart, UC San Diego

Seth Hill, UC San Diego, and

Jennifer Merolla, UC Riverside

## Conclusions

- Overall, a strong majority of California's eligible electorate would prefer to cast a ballot by mail in November's election
- But not all Californians favor this option –choices about how to cast ballots vary significantly across the diverse racial and ethnic groups in our electorate
- Some voters say that they would not participate in the election if it is conducted either exclusively through the mail or exclusively through in-person options

# More Conclusions

- When thinking about in-person voting experiences, voters who read scientific projections about a scenario in which the COVID-19 crisis peaks in the fall were more uncomfortable at the prospect of waiting in line or working at a polling place
- There were also significant differences by race and ethnicity in comfort levels
- But voters of all types under all scenarios became much more comfortable with casting ballots in a polling place that adheres to social distancing protocols
- It is important to note that these are their survey responses... rather than measures of behavior
- Whether the preferences that they expressed about how to cast ballots shapes their participation will be revealed in November 2020

<https://futureofcaelections.org/wp-content/uploads/M-Romero-Presentation-Ballots-During-COVID-19-NES-MAY-21-2020-REVISED-With-Link-1.pdf>

## Personal Preferences on How to Cast a Ballot, by Race and Ethnicity

Significant differences in preferences among eligible voters in selecting voting by mail as their top option:

- 54.3% of non-Latino whites
- 54.2% of Asian American
- 48.0% of African Americans
- 47.9% of Latinos

These differences suggest that if any voting options are made completely unavailable to eligible voters, such changes could have a disparate impact across groups

# Personal Preferences on How to Cast a Ballot, by Race and Ethnicity

When we asked if they would vote if a mail ballot was their only option:

5.1% of African Americans said that they would not vote

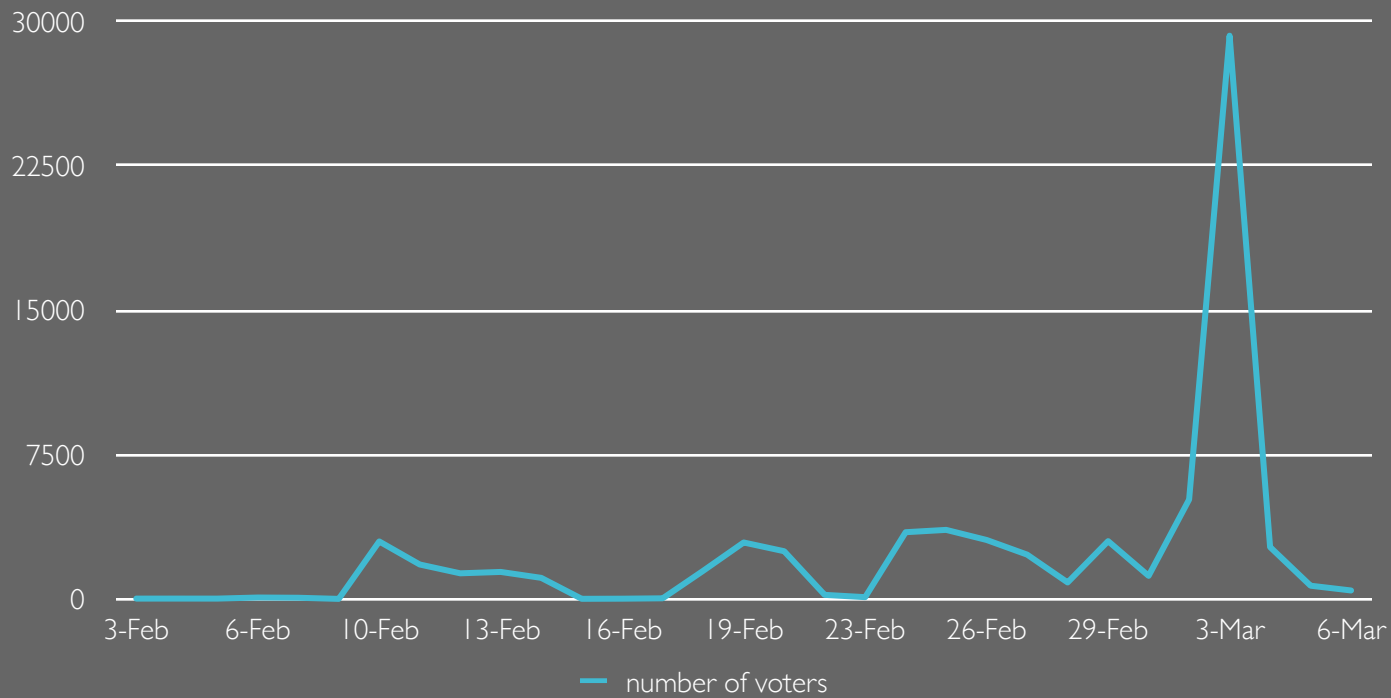
4.8% of Asian Americans

3.3% of non-Latino whites

2.3% of Latinos

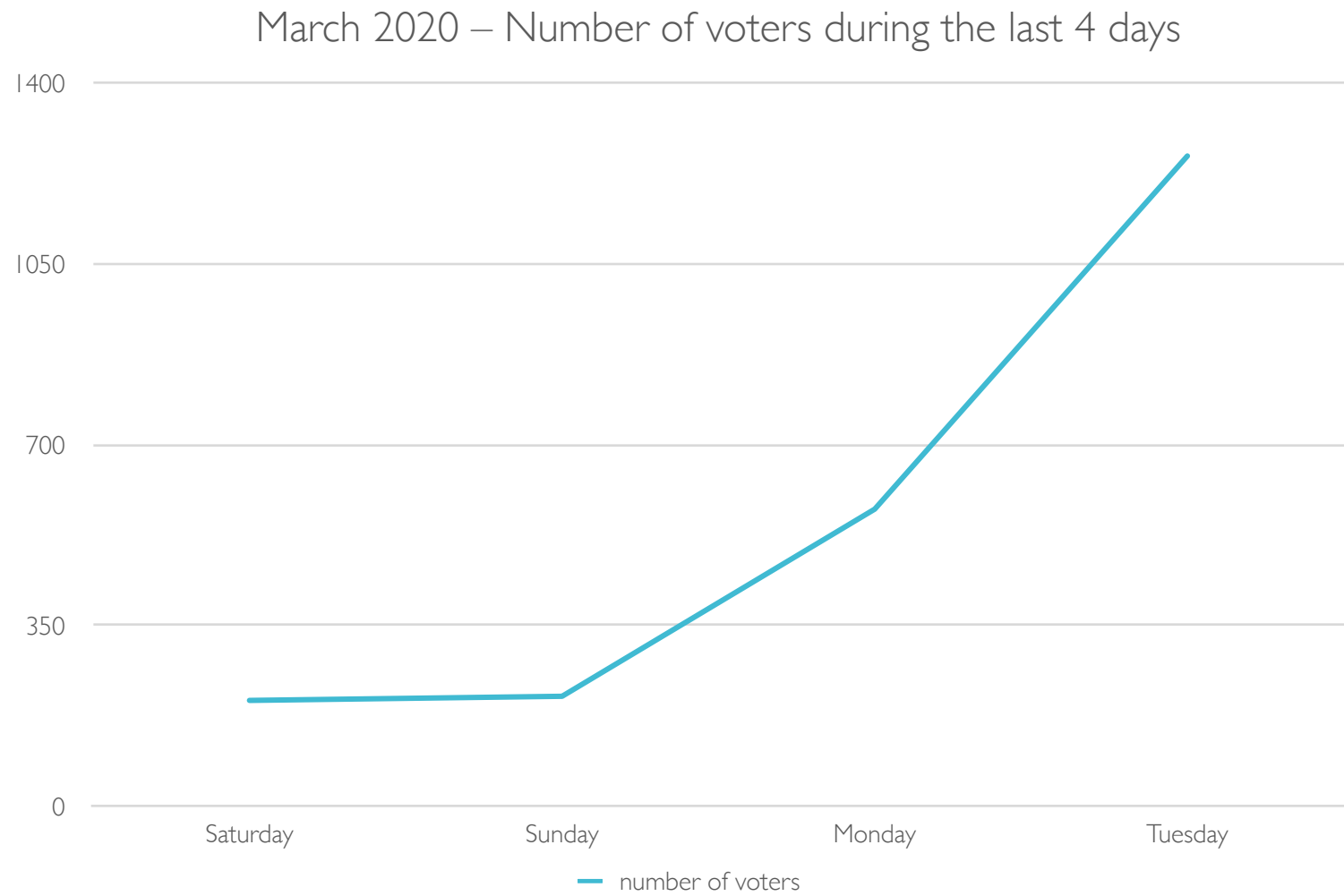
6/

March 2020 – Return of ballots by day



We need to  
flatten the voting  
curve!

Turnout during  
the last 4 days at  
our voter  
service centers



# March numbers

- Registered voters: 163,526
- Total votes cast: 103,900
  - Votes cast at the polls: 33,222
  - Votes cast by mail ballot: 70,678
  - Turnout = 63.56%... Or what I call a D grade!
- Number of mail ballot requests: 121,579
- Number of mail ballots challenged: 852
  - Too late: 632
  - No signature: 108 (77 were cured)
  - Sig didn't compare: 95 (35 were cured)
  - Empty envelope: 14
  - Two ballots in one envelope: 1
- Number of Same Day Registration voters: 3,086
  - Number counted: 2,935
- Number of Provisional ballots cast: 2,802
  - Number counted: 2,774



# Vote-by-mail safeguards

## Postmark + 17 (new law just signed)

- Vote-by-mail ballots that are postmarked on or before Election Day or is time stamped or date stamped by a bona fide private mail delivery company on or before Election Day and received by the county elections official by the 17th day after the election shall be considered received on time.

**The signature on the ballot envelope is compared to the signature on file.**

## Cure for unsigned ballot envelopes or non-comparing signatures

- Voters who failed to sign their vote-by-mail ballot envelope or has a signature that does not compare to what is on file will have until 2 days prior to the certification of the election to provide a signature on a Signature Statement to the County Elections Department. The Signature Statement may be returned to the County Elections Official by mail, FAX, email, hand-delivered, or dropped off at a voter service center or drop box.

**No one can solicit the vote of a vote-by-mail voter, or do any electioneering, while in the residence or in the immediate presence of the voter, and during the time he or she knows the vote-by-mail voter is voting.**

- Any person who knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

## Ballot processing and counting...

- Since all voters will be mailed a ballot, we will process ballots and prepare for ballots to be counted as soon as they are received pursuant to a new law enacted on 6/18/2020.
- Of course, we can only process votes if we have them. We encourage voters to vote early, and not wait until the last day.
- Step 1 – peel signature tab from envelope (we did 70,678 ballots in March 2020!)
- Step 2 – run ballots through sorter where the signature is captured.
- Step 3 – clerks at computers will pull up batches where they can view 5 signatures from ballot envelopes and the signature from the corresponding voter for each voter.
- Step 4 – ballots are sorted into good sigs match, no sig (letter sent) and sig compare questions, which get checked by another clerk.
  - Step 4a – letters are sent to the voters who did not sign their envelopes so they can fill out a form and cure their missing signature.
  - Step 4b – envelopes where sigs don't compare are put through two clerks for double checking. We will try to search for other signatures, printing, etc. We will try to call or email the voter if they have provided that information. Otherwise, they are sent a letter with a form they can fill out to cure their non-comparing signature.

## ...Ballot processing and counting

- Step 5- envelopes are opened and ballots are extracted.
  - Step 5a – clerks work in teams and make sure if they have 100 empty envelopes, they have 100 ballots.
  - Step 5b – if there are any ballots that cannot be read by the scanners due to tears or spills, the ballots are sent to a ballot duplicating board.
  - Two-person duplicating boards remake any problem ballots. Original ballots are maintained as the official voting record.
- Step 6 – ballots are bundled and labeled with a form to be sent to ballot counting.
- Step 7 – ballots are counted in batches and the form is completed with the operator number, initials, number counted and number rejected.
  - Step 7a – ballots that have been successfully counted are put into boxes, marked and stored.
  - Step 7b – ballots that were not counted, go to a ballot duplicating board.
- Step 8 – ballots that need adjudication, are reconciled at computer stations.
- Step 9 – ballots are tallied, and the vote is audited.
- Step 10 – the ballot count is posted on the website as an update.

# Election Night

Polls close at  
8pm

Ballot drop  
boxes close at  
8pm



We will continue to prepare ballots for the count until 11pm.



At 11pm, we will focus on scanning and final counting of the ballots we have in the system.



Semi-official election night results will be released sometime after midnight.



History has shown that we will count more ballots after Election Day than on Election Night.



So no victory parties yet! Results are NOT final until all votes are counted, audited, and verified.



Election officials are big fans of big margins!!

# The Canvass

Like fine wine, it takes time.



- The Canvass is the official tally of votes for any given election. The purpose of the canvass is to account for every ballot cast and ensure that every valid vote cast is counted accurately in the final election totals.
- The Canvass accounts for every ballot cast on Election Day, every qualified returned ballot from voters who voted using the ballot we mail them, every qualified Same Day Voter Registration ballot, every accepted provisional ballot, every challenged ballot, and every qualified military and overseas ballot.
- The Canvass enables an election official to resolve discrepancies, correct errors, and take any remedial actions necessary to ensure completeness and accuracy before certifying the election.
- Estimated number of outstanding ballots will be prepared by Friday, including the number of Same Day and Provisional Ballots. We will not have the number by district until the ballots are all keyed in as returned.
- There are several audits conducted during the Canvass to verify the results including a 1% manual tally of the results making sure every contest is audited.





Deadline to certify is Dec. 1 for presidential contest, Dec. 3 for all others.



By November 30, the county elections official shall declare the elected candidate or candidates to all school and special district holding elections in November. This statutory deadline conflicts with the first one.



Within five (5) days after the completion of the official canvass, any voter may request a recount by filing a written request with the Elections official and specifying that candidates and/or measures are to be recounted.

## Final Election Results



## Assuming office

December 4 – Special Districts: Candidates declared elected or appointed take office this date at noon after having taken the oath or posted any bond required by the principal act. §10554

December 4 – School and Community College Districts: Candidates elected to school board take office, though no reference is made to “noon.”

December 7 – State Senate and State Assembly Members take office.

December 8 – Santa Cruz & Watsonville City council members take office.

December 10 – Capitola City council members take office.

December 16 – Scotts Valley City council members take office.

January 3 – Congressional members take office.

January 4 – County Supervisors and Superior Court Judges take office.

January 20 – Inauguration Day. President takes office at noon.

# Outstanding issues



Hotline for voter questions and election worker questions



App to track wait times at voting locations. How to manage lines.



Laws changing: SB 423 (Umberg) and AB 860 (Berman) signed into law:



What will be happening with the virus in October/November. Need flexibility.



Staffing and training of election workers



Establish mechanism for public feedback and suggestions



One place to get latest election news – [VOTESCOUNT.US](https://www.votescount.us)



Funding – How do we pay for this?



Questions?  
Feedback?

