



Planning for Elections and Engagement Panel

Monday, September 14, 2020
6:00 pm

Attendees:

APAPA Tri Valley, Marsha Golangco
CC Young Democrats, Victor B. Tiglao
CCC City Clerks, Margaret Wimberly
CCC District 4, Colleen Awad
Concilio Latino, Consuelo Lara
Contra Costa Labor Council, Joe Summers
Contra Costa Labor Council, Joshua Anijar
Contra Costa Labor Council, Steve Band
Democrats of CCC, Nadine Peyrucain
Democrats of CCC, Renee Zeimer
Democrats of Rossmoor Sheila Riedy
Democrats of Rossmoor, Carol Weed
Ensuring Opportunity, Hector Malvido
Indivisible Re-Sisters, Kristen Lazzara
LoWV Diablo Valley, Ann Flynn
LoWV Diablo Valley, Janet Hoy

LoWV Diablo Valley, Martha Goralka
LoWV Diablo Valley, Shawn Gilbert
LoWV Diablo Valley, Suzan Requa
LoWV West CCC, Madeline Kronenberg
NAACP East County, Velma Wilson
NAACP Richmond, Brandon Evans
NAACP Richmond, Willie Robinson
Public, Diddo Clark
Public, Melody Howe Weintraub
Public, Nancy Kaplan
Richmond Youth, Jamileh Ebrahimi
San Francisco Foundation, Nancy Braxton
San Francisco Foundation, Tessa Callejo
STRONG Collaborative, Mahvash Hassan
Voter's Edge California, Marian Shostrom

Elections Staff:

Debi Cooper, Clerk-Recorder-Registrar
Val Handfield, Deputy Chief Clerk-Recorder
Scott Konopasek, Assistant Registrar
Sara Brady, Elections Services Manager
Sophie Lehman, Elections Services Manager

Eren Mendez, Outreach Coordinator
Jose Gonzalez, Election Day Operations Supervisor
Jessica Datangel, Voter Services Supervisor
Melissa Hickok, Executive Secretary

Scott called the meeting to order with a request for attendees to check in via the Zoom chat function.

Debi opened the meeting with a reassuring message that Contra Costa County is prepared to successfully conduct the upcoming election during this year of uncertainty, and led with a PowerPoint presentation illustrating the plans for November:

- ✓ All voters will receive a ballot by mail
- ✓ 37 secure ballot drop boxes will be open 24/7 October 5th – November 3rd at 8pm
- ✓ 17 early voting sites will be open for 3 days
- ✓ Tracking your ballot
- ✓ About 150 Polling Places open on Election Day for in-person needs
- ✓ Electronic voter check-in
- ✓ Ballots postmarked by Election Day can arrive until November 20th

Ballots: On October 5th, an official ballot including the “I Voted!” sticker is being mailed to every registered voters and should be received by October 19th. If you have not received your ballot by October 19th, please call the Elections Office at 925-335-7800 and request a replacement. Beginning October 5th, ballot requests are filled and mailed out on a daily basis. Ballots can be tracked by registering at <http://wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov>, the Secretary of State’s ballot tracking program.

Voter Information Guide: Each registered voter will receive one (unlike the State’s guide, which is one per household). Driven by district elections instead of at-large, there are 310 separate editions.

Voting by Mail: For permanent vote by mail voters, November 2020 will look no different from past elections; but for about 165,000 voters, this is a brand-new experience. Blue signature cards were mailed to all voters so that we have a current sample in our files for verification purposes.

Drop Boxes: 37 secure outdoor drop boxes will be open 24/7 beginning on October 6th and lasting through 8pm on Election Day. 6 indoor drop boxes are also available during the business hours of the specific location. For addresses and other information, please visit <https://www.cocovote.us/election/presidential-general-election-november-3-2020/#Election>.

Early Voting: In addition to the Elections Office, there will be 17 early voting sites open on the Friday October 30, Saturday October 31, and Monday November 2. Any voter can vote at any early voting site. Locations and hours are available at <https://www.cocovote.us/election/presidential-general-election-november-3-2020/#Election>.

Election Day: There will be 153 Polling Places open on Election Day for in-person services (lost ballot, conditional voter registration, language needs, or accessibility needs). Face covering and social distancing requirements will be enforced. Polling Places have Ballot Marking Devices which have several language options, and also Ballot Translation Guides.

Tally and Canvass: After the election, we have 30 days by law to complete and certify the count. Ballots are received by mail, from an early voting site, from a secure drop box or from a Polling Place. The VBM count will conclude the week following Election Day. We then audit with a hand count a balancing of ballots and signatures, followed by the process of curing signatures. Unmatched signatures go through several layers of review and the voter receives notification and has an opportunity to update their signature.

Questions from Chat:

- **Is there a deadline for registering to track your ballot?** No, but you can sign up now for email or text notifications at <http://wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov>.
- **Where can I find early voting locations?** Early voting site addresses are available online at <https://www.cocovote.us/election/presidential-general-election-november-3-2020/#Election>
- **How do I become a poll worker?** Poll worker applications are found at <https://www.cocoteam.us/PollWorkerReview.aspx>

- **How to sign up to help with ballot extraction?** Send an email to eo@vote.cccounty.us include your name, mailing address, and specify that you are interested in extraction
- **What is the signature curing procedure?** Signatures are reviewed on multiple levels, and if unsigned or unmatched, a notification is sent to the voter and they are given the opportunity to provide their signature.
- **How are you supporting the temporarily sheltered population?** Our Outreach staff is working with sheltering hotels to provide registration and voting information
- **What number do we call if we need assistance on Election Day?** The Elections' phone number (925-335-7800) is posted at polling places and voters are encouraged to call us directly if assistance is needed.
- **Is there anything preventing a unified effort to promote voter registration and census completion?** Census information is included in the Voter Information Guide.
- **Can you use pencil to mark a ballot?** Use blue or black ink; pencil and other colors often are too light to be read by the scanner. But a ballot will not be rejected for using a pencil or other-colored ink.
- **Is it possible to open libraries for online voter registration?**
Libraries are currently closed but staff have registrations they can make available curbside.
- **What texting options are available to voters?** You can text cocoteam to 2Vote for quick links to Contra Costa voter information
- **What outreach is happening to communities with historically low turn-out?** We continue to pursue outreach opportunities for the underrepresented groups in our community.
- **How are we reaching the homeless vote?** As with communities with historically low turn-out, we continue to pursue outreach opportunities for the underrepresented groups in our community, and we welcome assistance with those efforts.
- **Are we planning regular PSAs with key info?** We are planning a digital and TV advertising campaign to air in October.
- **How are we educating new voters about signature requirement?** A notice was sent in August to registered voters who were not previously signed up to vote by mail explaining the process and giving them the opportunity to update the signature on file.
- **Is the Voter Information Guide online and bilingual?** Yes. The VIG is online, accessible, and available in English, Spanish, and Chinese.
- **What if someone registers after the October 19 deadline, how do they get their ballot?** Registering after the deadline requires the voter to register and vote at the same time in person. This can be done at our office, at an early voting site, or at a polling place on Election Day.
- **What is the process for jail inmates to vote?** Inmates can have their ballot sent to the jail or to a family member.

- **Will the County use Next Door for voter registration and other voting reminders (National Voter Registration Day)?** Yes
- **Will kits be available for NVRD?** Not this year due to COVID limitations on in-person gatherings, we encourage groups to share information online and via social media encourage people to register to vote online.

The next meeting is tentatively December 14, 2020