



# POLL WORKER THE PULSE

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY ELECTIONS  
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2 | AUGUST 2018



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## We Did It!

## Another Successful Election!

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your service on Election Day. You made it a tremendous success and it wouldn't have been possible without you. We gave you a lot of new things this election – from a new portal to new equipment – and your effort, patience and understanding on every front made a huge difference.

We also want to commend you for your diligence in combing through the rosters to locate every eligible voter possible. Your efforts reduced the number of provisional ballots. We had to review and process just over 11,000, down from 32,000 in November 2016.

You embraced accessibility with your participation in the APPLE training and we heard wonderful feedback from you about applying what you learned to make your polling place and the voting experience more accessible. Many of you attended a Practice Makes Perfect equipment session. You were able to get your polling places open on time and running smoothly. There were fewer calls to the Command Center on Election Day than in years past.

In the evening, the depots were able to close in a timely manner with the last of the depot trucks back at the elections warehouse by midnight.

Thank you so much for your commitment to voters and the democratic process.

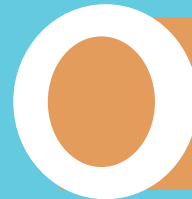
# Contra Costa County

## Primary Election Statistics

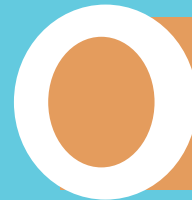
602,171 Registered Voters



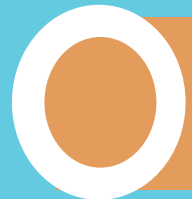
39.79 % Voter Turnout



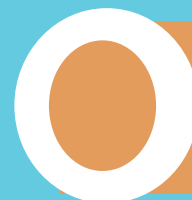
1,322  
Total  
Poll Workers



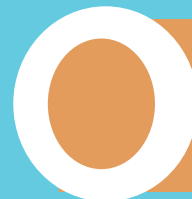
226  
Multilingual  
Poll Workers



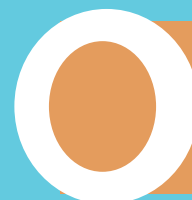
67,773  
Voters Served at  
269 Polling Places



171,855  
Vote-by-Mail  
Voters



11,035  
Provisional  
Ballots Issued



9,992  
Provisional Ballots  
Found Eligible (91%)



# Bits and Pieces...

## and another Great Thing

### Write-ins and the new voting system

If we used our old system this June, we would have had to hand-sort all 239,628 ballots cast (718,884 cards) to find 2,482 eligible write-in candidates to be tallied. But with the new system we avoided that hand-sort.

The beauty of the new equipment is that it creates a digital image when it scans the ballot which allows us to review and tally the write-in votes without sorting all of the paper. This is one of the many advantages that helped us certify 10 days early. Woot!

### Portal Check-in!

Please visit [cocoteam.us](http://cocoteam.us) to review your personal information and make any updates needed.

Once you are in your account:

- Click on the “Home” tab at the top left of the page.
- Click on the “Edit My Personal Information” tab on the left side.
- Review your information and make any updates necessary.
- Click “Save” at the bottom of the page when done.

If you did not receive emails and/or phone blasts for the June 5th election, we may not have your current information. Please contact us immediately at [eo@vote.cccounty.us](mailto:eo@vote.cccounty.us) so we can update your information.

If you were not able to sign into the portal, we will have a terminal available at our office this fall. We’ll be happy to walk you through the process. All you need is an email address.

## keep an eye out for

# What’s Coming Up

### Poll Worker Recruitment

Do you have friends, family members, and/or high school students who are at least 16 and you think would make good poll workers? Now is the time to sign them up! We are looking for poll workers for the November 2018 election and beyond. Direct them to [cocoteam.us](http://cocoteam.us) to complete an application.

### Practice Makes Perfect (PMP)

Hands-on PMP (equipment practice) sessions will return in the fall. Keep your eyes open for the schedule.



### Last Bushel of APPLE Classes for 2018

Missed APPLE? You still have a chance to attend and dive into accessibility. Make sure you get into one before November 6th!

Classes are scheduled in Martinez at 555 Escobar on:

- August 23, 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- August 30, 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- September 6, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- September 20, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- September 27, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- October 4, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Please email us at [eo@vote.cccounty.us](mailto:eo@vote.cccounty.us) to hold a spot. Seats are limited!



## The Canvass Period AKA

### “When do the Checks go Out?”

The election does not end on Election Day, and our office actually gets busier after Election Day as we begin the canvass.

#### What is the canvass?

The canvass is the tallying of all vote-by-mail and qualified provisional ballots as well as the reconciliation of all polling place voting. State law requires an official canvass of all the election results to ensure accuracy. This takes place during the 31 days following an election.

- **Election Day week:**

We must process tens of thousands of vote-by-mail ballots dropped off at the polling places and ballot drop off locations on Election Day. Vote-by-mail ballots that are postmarked on or before Election Day and received within three days following the election are also counted.

Vote-by-mail ballot envelopes are reviewed to verify the voter’s signature. Once the signature is verified, the ballot cards are extracted, tallied, uploaded and added to the vote totals.

We use the rosters to give polling place voters credit for voting.

- **The next week (6-10 days after Election Day):**

Vote-by-mail ballots that are damaged because they are ripped or torn, have coffee or food stains, or a voter has made corrections are remade so they can be run through a scanner to be tallied and added to the results. We received over 5,000 damaged ballot cards.

- **Weeks 2-3 (13-23 days after Election Day):**

Provisional ballots are examined after all vote-by-mail and polling place voters have been given credit for voting. If a voter who cast a provisional ballot is determined to be an eligible voter and has not voted already, their ballot is counted. The process of determining eligibility ensures that every valid vote is counted. Of the over 11,000 received, 91% were found eligible. These results are added to the election totals. Write-ins are also tallied during this time.

- **Week 4 (24-30 days after Election Day):**

After each election a random sampling of 1% of all polling place and vote-by-mail ballots cast are pulled and counted by hand to verify that the scanners correctly read the ballots. The manual hand count is compared to the count produced by the scanners to verify that votes were tabulated correctly.

- **No Later than 31 Days after the Election:**

The final results for the election are certified and sent to the Secretary of State.

#### Payroll

While all of this is going on, we haven’t forgotten about you! We begin processing payroll the day after the election by confirming all poll workers are accounted for, changing addresses as needed, and proofing our reports. We’re making every effort to ensure poll workers are paid in a timely manner.

#### FACT OR FICTION?

Election results are final on election night when reported by the media.

#### FICTION!

Our office counted almost 115,000 vote-by-mail and provisional ballots following election night. Those votes can change who is leading in a race as more votes are counted. The results of the election are not final until certified by elections officials.



*President Truman holding the November 3, 1948 issue of the Chicago Daily Tribune with the incorrect banner headline.*