



POLL WORKER THE PULSE

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY ELECTIONS
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words from our Top Desk

Greetings to the Guardians of Democracy—yes, that would be you.

Our current method of voting is built on the solid foundation you all comprise. The credibility and legitimacy of elections in Contra Costa County is directly a result of your efforts to treat all voters with respect, to make the voting experience as accessible and easy as possible, and to ensure that ballots are accurately issued, secured, safe guarded and transported. As you do this you live the Poll Worker Oath that you take at the beginning of Election Day.

The oath is an important affirmation that we each individually make to be honest, true and faithful in our service to our democratic institutions and to our voters.

We pledge to perform to the best of our ability which means we are trained, prepared, and willing to seek the right answers to things that we may not know.

Take a moment to read and consider your oath.

How well we, collectively, live up to this oath is the measure of legitimacy and credibility of the election, our government and our democratic institutions that preserve the rights and freedoms of all.

California Elections Oath of Office

"I do hereby solemnly affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California, and that I will to the best of my ability, faithfully discharge the duties of the precinct officer for the Tuesday, June 5, 2018 Primary Election."

Scott O. Konopasek, Assistant Registrar of Voters

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Website: www.cocovote.us | Email: eo@vote.cccounty.us | Like us on Facebook | Follow us on Twitter @cocoelections

same web address . . .

But New Experience!

Our website was due for a new look, and without an election in 2017, this was the perfect time to update and improve our web presence. Our goal was to create a site where information is user centric and questions and answers are addressed from a voter's point of view.

We are very excited to deliver a new and redesigned website that is easy to navigate, rich with content for our voters, and organized from their perspective, so they can be informed participants in the electoral process.

For example, the new site has a Voter Information Portal where voters can find personalized information to check their voter registration status, track their vote by mail ballot, find their elected officials, and get their polling place information all at once.



Recognizing the integral role poll workers play in the election process, the new website has a top-level section dedicated exclusively to poll workers. All the information you need will be at your fingertips, from requirements and applications, to tools to work the polls confidently and effectively. The *Poll Worker Pulse* newsletter will also be available online.

Please look for our redesigned website at the beginning of the year.

Visit <http://www.cocovote.us/> and let us know about your experience by sharing your comments using the *Send Us A Message* feature.

We look forward to hearing from you.

keep an eye out for What's Coming Up

We are introducing a brand new training class in January: **Accessible Polling Place Locations and Equipment**, otherwise known as **APPLE**.

Because accessibility is vital to serving our voters, we will be bringing this training to locations near you.

We hope you will attend this dynamic, interactive class. For attending this class, you will receive the new, limited edition **APPLE** pin.



Upcoming Election Dates:

Primary - June 5, 2018

General - November 6, 2018

Classes for the Primary election will be here before you know it. Please make sure we have your current information so you receive the latest and greatest information. Contact us at eo@vote.cccounty.us to let us know if you need to update your information. Remember, **APPLE** classes start in January. Hope to see you there!



top-two primary info...

Traditionally, candidates running for partisan office appear only on their own party ballot in the Primary Election. The top vote getter from each qualified political party and any candidates who qualify using the independent nomination process then move on to the General Election.

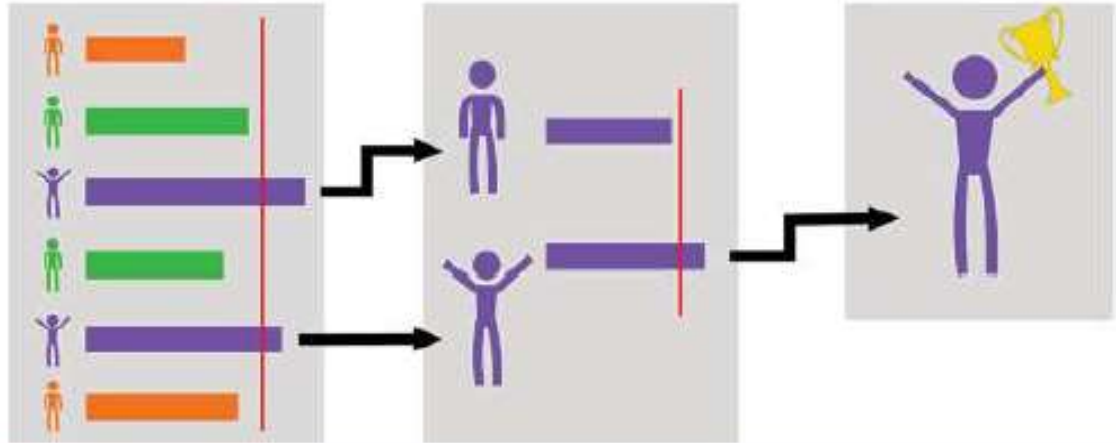
That changed in California on January 1, 2011 when the Top-Two Primary law took effect.

Under the Top-Two Primary all candidates running for state offices, regardless of their party preference, appear on a single combined ballot during the Primary Election. Voters can vote for any candidate from any political party. If the candidate has a political preference, it is indicated by the candidate's name on the ballot.

The two candidates with the most votes, regardless of party preference, will go to a run-off election in the General Election in November.

On the June 5, 2018 ballot, the top-two state offices include:

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- State Treasurer
- State Controller
- State Insurance Commissioner
- State Board of Education
- Attorney General
- State Senator
- State Assembly
- U.S. Congress



california Trivia



What is the California state bird?

- * The Bald Eagle
- * The California Condor
- * The Golden Eagle
- * The California Valley Quail

Where did John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd do their first live gig in 1978 as the Blues Brothers?

- * The Greek
- * The Coliseum
- * The Troubadour
- * The Universal Amphitheatre

Look for Answer Key...

behind the scenes at the Warehouse

The AutoMARK is designed to assist voters with marking their ballot. When the ballot is inserted into the machine, electronic sensors read it and the voter's choices are displayed on the screen. Warehouse staff maintain all the mechanical parts that move the ballot into various positions for it to be marked. It is a mammoth undertaking to clean and adjust every AutoMARK to ensure they are prepared for voters on Election Day. We secure the electronic connections, clean rollers, tighten belts, lubricate bearings, replace failed parts, check audio, calibrate the screen, align the print head, and more. Finally, after it is reassembled, a mechanical test is performed to ensure it is ready for final testing and use on Election Day.





richmond woman Brings Caring Spirit to Help Voters



**744 STUDENTS
REGISTER ON
NATIONAL VOTER
REGISTRATION DAY**

On Tuesday, September 26th, National Voter Registration Day, 744 high school students registered and pre-registered to vote! Our office provided 25 Contra Costa high schools with a registration kit, including voter registration cards, posters, stickers, table decorations, photo props, pens, and more.



This is the third year our office has organized National Voter Registration Day efforts with county high schools, and over 1,800 students have registered or pre-registered as a result. In addition to our collaboration with schools, we hosted a celebration at our office in downtown Martinez, complete with a photo booth, coffee, and snacks. The Board of Supervisors officially recognized National Voter Registration Day at their meeting and encouraged all residents to participate.



Maude DeVictor is anything but shy. Ask the Richmond resident a question and be prepared to hear plenty of interesting stories and her opinions on how things should be.

As a former Navy medic and retired child protection worker she always looks to protect and serve others. "If they see me, they know it's trouble," DeVictor said.

DeVictor, who volunteers for numerous organizations in her community, brings that same caring spirit into her work on

Election Day. The Richmond resident has served as a Contra Costa County poll worker since moving to the East Bay in 2007. "I let my poll workers know that I'm a Veteran, so I might operate a little bit different," said DeVictor, a longtime inspector at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, "We are never out of the military." Her Election Day planning includes calling her poll workers to see if anyone is diabetic and may need her to bring oranges.

Voting has been "just a normal part of life" in DeVictor's family. Her father was a poll worker for years, and she still has a pillowcase-like ballot bag of his from 1934. "It was just like putting salt in the salt shaker," DeVictor said. "It was our modus operandi."

Being a poll worker excites DeVictor, who is up before 5 am on Election Day going to Peet's Coffee for a macchiato and snacks for the long day. "My favorite part is meeting the people and putting on my red, white, and blue outfits," DeVictor said. She also enjoys collecting and wearing the pins the Elections Division passes out, explaining, "It's just like military insignia."

DeVictor says that her experience in interpreting non-verbal communication has heightened her sensitivities to the needs of all who come in to vote, particularly those who may need special assistance. "I'm always alert and looking for those signs," she said.

If you would like more information about Ms. DeVictor, you might want to do a quick Google search or check out the 1986 movie "Unnatural Causes" starring Alfre Woodard as Maude DeVictor. She is credited with being the one (yes, singularly) who exposed the horrific damage of Agent Orange to our Vietnam Veterans, which helped numerous veterans get the compensation they so richly deserved.

If you know someone who should be considered for a Poll Worker Profile, please contact Paul Bugarino at 925-335-7805 or Paul.Bugarino@vote.cccounty.us

Answer Key
California Valley Quail
Universal Amphitheatre