

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

June 6, 2022

**TO:** Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Chair

Supervisor Hilda L. Solis Supervisor Sheila Kuehl Supervisor Janice Hahn Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Dean C. Logan Dean C. Logan

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

# **ELECTION STATUS UPDATE – June 7, 2022 Statewide Direct Primary Election**

This report is to inform your Board of our preparation and operations for the June 7, 2022 Statewide Direct Primary Election. The election status update supports the Department's ongoing commitment to fair, accessible, and transparent election services. There are an estimated 5.7 million registered voters for this election.

## **Vote by Mail**

The Department completed the initial mailing of Vote by Mail (VBM) ballots to all active registered voters on May 9. We mailed VBM ballots to all voters who registered by the close of registration deadline on May 23. The Department encourages VBM as the safest and most convenient method for voting.

A variety of VBM resources are available on our <u>website</u>. Voters may also request VBM ballots and materials in nineteen languages, sign up for <u>"Where's My Ballot"</u> to track their ballot, and request a replacement VBM ballot. The last day for a voter to request a replacement VBM ballot is May 31.

We have received 707,633 VBM ballots as of June 6. Vote by Mail returns have been lower than expected for this election. This downward trend has been observed at the state level as well.

## **Vote by Mail Ballot Return Options**

Voters have three options for returning a VBM ballot:

- (A) Ballot Drop Box: There are 400 Ballot Drop Box locations established for this election. Most locations are accessible 24-hours with some locations limited to regular business hours. Included in every VBM packet is a list of the six (6) nearest Ballot Drop Box locations to that registered voter. Additionally, voters can find a Ballot Drop Box near them by using the locator tool on our website. Voters may return their VBM ballot at any Ballot Drop Box up to 8:00 PM on Election Day. Ballots are retrieved daily by authorized County staff.
- (B) United States Postal Service (USPS): Voters may return their VBM ballot by mail, using the postage-paid return envelope provided in their VBM packet. Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day to qualify for the election. Under a recent revision to the Elections Code, the Department can accept ballots postmarked by Election Day for up to 7 days following the date of the election.
- (C) Vote Center: Voters may drop off their completed ballot at any Vote Center. Vote Centers opened on May 28 and remain open through Election Day. Vote Centers are open from 10:00 AM 7:00 PM daily before Election Day and 7:00 AM 8:00 PM on Election Day (June 7). The Vote Center Locator Tool assists with finding a location and is available on our website.

## **Early Voting and Election Day at Vote Centers**

Voting services are available at the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk headquarters in Norwalk. Voters can vote in-person Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. On Election Day (June 7), voters can vote from 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM.

A total of 642 Vote Centers located across the County are secured and scheduled for this election. The first 120 Vote Centers opened on May 28. An additional 522 Vote Centers opened on June 4. Vote Centers are open from 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM daily before Election Day and 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM on Election Day.

Votes can use the Vote Center Locator Tool to find a Vote Center. The Vote Center Locator Tool is available on our <u>website</u>. A Vote Center Postcard was mailed to every registered voter in the language of their choice. This postcard informs voters of the nearest 11-day Vote Center and the three (3) nearest 4-day Vote Centers. Voters can go to any of the 642 Vote Centers located across the County.

Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) is a service through which any eligible voter can register and vote in the election, even after the official close of registration. CVR is

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available at all Vote Centers and the RR/CC headquarters. Through CVR we can ensure that eligible voters have the opportunity to participate in the election.

There have been 53,8422 voter check-ins at our Vote Centers for the period beginning May 28 through June 6.

## **Security Incidents During the Election**

We observed security incidents at some Vote Centers during this election. None of the issues have interfered with the administration of the election; however, we are tracking them and following up as necessary. We had two incidents of vandalism overnight at two Vote Centers located in two County Parks and Recreation facilities. These incidents resulted in minor damage with no interference with ballots or other sensitive materials. There was a threat made at a Vote Center in the City of Los Angeles on June 5. This incident was reported to the Los Angeles Police Department and a report was filed. The Vote Center was closed safely at the scheduled time, and all election materials were transported without issue. There was a security incident outside of our Vote by Mail operations center and that facility was in a lock down status for a period of time. The incident did not involve any employees and did not impact our operations. As a result, we increased our security presence at that location.

# **Vote Center Contingency Planning**

The RR/CC has developed an extensive and comprehensive contingency plan for this election. The following resources are available to be deployed to deal with a wide range of issues from isolated equipment issues to large-scale outages. These resources are spread across the County to ensure our ability to respond quickly to any emergent situation.

We have extensive technical and power backup teams and resources in place. These teams are critical to ensuring service continuity at our Vote Centers.

- Uninterruptible Power Supply (USP) at every Vote Center to provide short term emergency power
- 5 Backup power quick response teams in coordination with ISD
- 25 Roaming Field Support Technicians
- 5 Equipment Swap Teams
- 5 Pop-Up Teams
  - Additional 10 Flex Vote Centers and 5 Mobile Vote Centers are available on Election Day

Extensive resilience has been built into our Vote Center Staffing Model. This model includes 715 Reservists, fully trained election workers that can be deployed to replace Vote Center Lead, Assistant Lead, or Clerks at any of our Vote Centers. Reservists enable us to maintain the necessary staffing levels needed at our Vote Centers should

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staff not be available. Reservists are recruited from both the County Election Worker Program and the Community Election Worker Program.

This resource has become increasingly important in our ability to overcome staffing challenges related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Deployment of Reservists is done through a rigorous and data-driven methodology. Staffing levels and turnout across our 642 Vote Centers are monitored in real-time as part of this process. We have deployed 126 Reservists so far to fill vacancies that were created before and during the voting period. We will continue to utilize Reservists for future elections and will do everything we can to ensure we are able to recruit at the level needed to support the election.

## **Summit of the Americas Impact**

Our office is monitoring for potential impacts on our operations resulting from the Summit of the Americas taking place from June 6 - 10. The only potential impacts so far are related to road and ramp closures; although we worked with the City of Los Angeles to identify all Vote Centers and Vote by Mail Drop Boxes and there is no disruption anticipated. There are no planned outages or schedule changes to public transit. Public transit routes may be subject to detours for routes impacted by the street and ramp closures. Additional information on transportation impacts caused by the Summit can be found here.

# Flex Vote Centers at Century Women's Detention Center

Our Flex Vote Centers were able to return to the Century Women's Detention Center to provide in-person voting services to incarcerated voters on June 4 and June 5. This marked the first time we were able to return since the onset of the pandemic. Our Flex Vote Centers have all the services available at a Vote Center including Conditional Voter Registration, which was utilized by several voters at the detention center. The service was well received by the voters and the Sheriff's Department. We look forward to continuing and expanding this program for the November Election. The RR/CC has a Vote by Mail service available to all registered voters who are presently incarcerated.

#### **Vote Center Services for Voters Experiencing Homelessness**

The RR/CC continues to provide access to voting services for voters experiencing homelessness. A residential address is not required to register to vote in California, and we have systems in place to ensure access to the ballot regardless of one's housing status. Voters may register at a shelter or other services provider and may also register using cross streets as a geographic reference point. There are currently 7,012 voters registered at either a homeless shelter or cross streets.

Conditional Voter Registration is available to all voters including those without a residential address. Our office has developed a precincting tool that ensures all voters have access to the appropriate federal, state, and local contests.

## Los Angeles County Safe Election Plan at Vote Centers

The Los Angeles County "Safe Election Plan" aligns with California's "Election Administration Guidance under COVID-19." This plan was developed in consultation with relevant health authorities using the best public health information available, including guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and California public health officials.

The following guidelines are implemented at all vote centers:

- Voters are encouraged to wear a face mask inside the Vote Center. Masks are strongly encouraged for all election workers, and higher quality masks such as N95/KN95 masks are provided.
- A Stop Station will be present at the entrance of each Vote Center. Personal
  protective equipment such as masks and hand sanitizer will be available for the
  public.
- Social distancing will be encouraged while in line and in the voting area.
- All Electronic Pollbooks and Ballot Marking Devices will be sanitized after each use.
- Curbside voting will continue to be available for any voter who is unable to enter the Vote Center.

## **Vaccination Mandate Tracking and Enforcement**

In compliance with your Board's COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate, the Department ensures that all community election workers are vaccinated. All community election workers are required to provide proof of vaccination via email at <a href="mailto:ElectionWorkerVerification@rrcc.lacounty.gov">ElectionWorkerVerification@rrcc.lacounty.gov</a> or in person. All other Election Workers for this election are County employees deployed as Disaster Service Workers (DSW) who are fully compliant with the Board's adopted vaccination mandate.

# **Departmental Resources and Contacts**

## **Tools for Voters**

The most important tool for voters is our website <a href="www.lavote.gov">www.lavote.gov</a>. Here they can check if they are registered to vote; check the status of their Vote by Mail Ballot (VBM); find a Vote Center or Ballot Drop Box; access their Interactive Sample Ballot, and follow live election results on Election Night. We encourage you to share these resources with voters who call your office. Key tools for this election include:

Voter Information Page: This can be found on our website under Find

My Election Info. This page helps voters check their registration status, look up their sample ballot, and access other helpful election

information.

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Interactive Sample Ballot: This allows voters to view and mark their

sample ballot utilizing an electronic device. The <a href="Interactive Sample Ballot">Interactive Sample Ballot</a> generates a Poll Pass, which helps expedite the in-person

voting process.

BallotTrax: This is linked on our website under Voting by Mail in

<u>Los Angeles County</u>. It allows voters to track their VBM Ballot. Voters can sign up to be notified when

their ballot is sent, received, and counted.

Replacement Ballot Tool: Voters who damage their VBM Ballot, are traveling,

need a ballot mailed to a temporary mailing address, or who need a replacement ballot for any reason can

do so at: Replacement Vote by Mail Ballot.

## **Contact Information for Voters**

Phone: (800) 815-2666

Email: voterinfo@rrcc.lacounty.gov

Website: www.lavote.gov

# **Resources for Media/Communications Deputies**

Election Results
Fact Sheets
News Releases
Outreach Toolkit

#### **Media/Communications Contact**

Michael Sanchez, Communications Manager 562-462-2648 – office 562-274-3938 – mobile msanchez@rrcc.lacounty.gov

We look forward to working with your offices in our efforts to serve voters and allow them to exercise their fundamental right to vote. If you have any questions, your staff may contact Adrian Avelar, Executive Assistant at (562) 345-8372 or <a href="mailto:aavelar@rrcc.lacounty.gov">aavelar@rrcc.lacounty.gov</a> for any urgent or pressing matters.

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