

LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

DEAN C. LOGAN Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

November 4, 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 – November 8, 2022 General Election**

This report is to inform your Office of our preparation and operations for the November 8, 2022 General Election. The election status update supports the Department's ongoing commitment to fair, accessible, and transparent election services. There are an estimated 5.6 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 October 10. 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 to receive their VBM ballot and materials in 18 different languages, sign up for <u>"Where's My</u> <u>Ballot"</u> to track their ballot, and request a replacement VBM ballot.

We have received 711,398 VBM ballots as of November 3. Vote by Mail returns for the General Election are higher than at the same time in the June Primary Election. However, returns are lower than previous like elections and we are expecting a large influx of returns at the conclusion of the voting period. We are planning accordingly to ensure we have the capacity to process this large influx of returns in a timely manner.

## 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. Voters may return their VBM ballot at any Ballot Drop Box up to 8:00 PM on Election Day. Ballots are retrieved from Ballot Drop Boxes every 24 hours by authorized County staff. A list of the six Ballot Drop Box locations closest to the voter's address is included in the VBM packet. The Ballot Drop Box Locator Tool assists voters with finding a location and is available on our <u>website</u>.
- (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. All VBM ballots returned must be postmarked on or before Election Day to qualify for the election. VBM ballots returned with a postmark on or before Election Day and received up to 7 days following the date of the election are legally valid for the election.
- (C) Vote Center: Voters may return their voted ballot at any Vote Center. Vote Centers are open daily from October 29 through November 8 between 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, and on Election Day, 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM. A postcard listing the Vote Center locations nearest a voter's residence is mailed to every registered voter. The Vote Center Locator Tool assists with finding a location and is available on our <u>website</u>.

## Early Voting and Election Day at Vote Centers

Voting services are available at the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) Headquarters in Norwalk. In-person voting at the RR/CC HQ is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. On Election Day (November 8), those hours are extended to 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM.

A total of 641 Vote Centers located across the County are secured and scheduled for this election. The first 118 Vote Centers opened on Saturday, October 29. On Saturday, November 5, an additional 522 Vote Centers will open. Vote Centers will be open daily from 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM before Election Day and 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM on Election Day. We are conducting a pre-check on November 4 in preparation for the opening of our 4-day Vote Centers. Vote Center Leads and Assistant Leads will perform a walkthrough at each location to ensure all systems are operational.

Voters 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 all

registered voters informing them of the nearest 11-day Vote Center and the three (3) nearest 4-day Vote Centers.

Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) is a service through which any eligible voter can register and vote after the close of registration. CVR is available at all Vote Centers and at the RR/CC HQ. Through CVR, we can ensure that eligible voters have the opportunity to participate in the election.

There have been 21,423 voter check-ins at our Vote Centers for the period beginning October 29 through November 3. We anticipate the traffic at Vote Centers to increase as we open additional Vote Centers and approach Election Day.

## 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 661 Reservists, fully trained election workers that can be deployed to replace Vote Center Leads, Assistant Leads, or Clerks at any of our vote centers. Reservists enable us to maintain the necessary staffing levels needed at our vote centers should staff not be available. Reservists are recruited from both the County Election Worker Program and the Community Election Worker Program.

Deployment of Reservists is done through a rigorous and data-driven methodology. Staffing levels and turnout across our 641 vote centers are monitored in real-time as part of this process. 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.

## Multilingual Resources at Vote Centers

Vote Centers are staffed with bilingual election workers based on language needs and targets for each community. Language targets are established using data from the Federal government, State government, Voter's Choice Act requirements, language agreements, and Departmental policy. We make every effort to recruit election workers who speak the languages targeted for each Vote Center. Despite these best efforts, at times we are unable to recruit and assign a bilingual election worker to a specific Vote Center with targeted language needs. This challenge is compounded by staffing challenges at Vote Centers in hard-to-recruit areas. Multilingual services in 18 additional languages are available via telephone at all Vote Centers. American Sign Language assistance and support are also available at all Vote Centers.

## Voter Education and Outreach Program

The Department launched the Voter Education and Outreach Program in September to reach and engage voters throughout Los Angeles County. We utilized strategic paid information placement and community engagement strategies in this effort. The current topline reporting form the campaign is as follows:

- Number of Digital/Social Media Impressions: 17.5 million
- Broadcast Television Spots: 280 in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Korean
- Broadcast Radio Spots: 768 in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Korean
- Print Ads: 22 in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and Thai

In addition to paid information placement, we have engaged in media and community events to amplify our messaging. Here are key events we would like to highlight:

- Community press event at East LA Library with local and ethnic media to kickoff voter education campaign
- Community press event at Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles to encourage new citizens to vote
- Virtual webinar with Cal State Los Angeles, Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs and League of Women Voters to address voting and election frequently asked questions and encourage young voters to participate
- Virtual forum with KBLA Black Media Collective with Pat Prescott and Dominique DiPrima to engage and encourage Black voters to vote
- Community press event with AltaMed and community partners to highlight our Mobile Vote Center partnership and encourage voter participation in low-propensity areas

Our media and community engagement is set to increase as we open the 4-day Vote Centers and get closer to the completion of the voting period.

## Voting 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 to vote using a homeless shelter address, homeless services provider address, or cross streets as a geographic reference point. There are currently 7,053 voters registered to vote using a homeless shelter address or cross streets.

Conditional Voters Registration is available at all Vote Centers. Our office has developed a precincting tool that ensures all voters can access their ballot.

### Mobile Voting Program

Mobile, Flex, and Pop-Up Vote Centers continue to be deployed for this election. There are 91 confirmed Flex Vote Center events where we will deliver voting services to geographically isolated voters, seniors, voters with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, and underserved communities. There are 45 confirmed Mobile Vote Center events at a mix of large-scale, high-traffic events and locations with essential workers. As of November 3, we have completed 27 Mobile Vote Center events and 52 Flex Vote Center events across the County.

We conducted a Flex Vote Center event at the Pitchess Detention Center in Castaic in partnership with the Sheriff's Department on November 1. We have a Flex Vote Center scheduled at the Century Regional Detention Facility in Lynwood on November 5. These two events serve as a great example of collaboration to reach and engage all voters in Los Angeles County.

### 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 mask inside the Vote Center.
- Masks are strongly encouraged for all election workers, and higher quality masks such as N95/KN95 masks are provided upon request.
- 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 voters and observers.
- Social distancing is encouraged while in line and in the voting area.

- All electronic pollbooks and Ballot Marking Devices are cleaned routinely.
- Curbside voting is available for any voter who is unable to enter the Vote Center.

### Vaccination Mandate Tracking and Enforcement

In compliance with the Los Angeles County 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 through the Election Worker Portal or in person. All other election workers for this election are County employees who are compliant with the Board's adopted vaccination mandate.

#### **Departmental Resources and Contacts**

#### **Tools for Voters**

The most important tool for voters is our website <u>www.lavote.gov</u>. 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 VBM 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 <u>Find</u> <u>My Election Info</u> . This page helps voters check their registration status, look up their sample ballot, and access other helpful election information.
Interactive Sample Ballot:	This allows voters to view and mark their sample ballot utilizing an electronic device. The <u>Interactive Sample Ballot</u> generates a Poll Pass, which helps expedite the in-person voting process.
BallotTrax:	This is linked on our website under <u>Voting by Mail in</u> <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.
Make a Plan to Vote Tool	This tool allows voters to register to vote, check their registration information, track their ballot, and review their voting options in one secure location. After a voter completes their plan, they will receive timely and relevant messages to help them cast their <u>ballot</u> .

## **Contact Information for Voters**

Phone:(800) 815-2666Email:voterinfo@rrcc.lacounty.govWebsite: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 <u>msanchez@rrcc.lacounty.gov</u>

## **Election Contact**

We appreciate the partnership with your office in our efforts to serve voters and allow them to exercise their fundamental right to vote. If you have any questions, please 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.

DCL:AA