



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

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CONNOR B. McCORMACK
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

July 20, 2006

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: Conny McCormack, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

PRELIMINARY ADVISORY: AMENDING CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS FOR JUNE 6, 2006 PRIMARY ELECTION

This is to advise you that late this afternoon I became aware of an error in the vote results of one of our 5,065 precincts for the June 6, 2006 Primary Election. The error did not affect the outcome of any contest on the Primary Election ballot. However, as a result of this discrepancy, our office will re-tabulate the 130 ballots cast in this precinct. Following the re-tabulation, we will send an amended certification of the results to your Board and to the Secretary of State. The date and time of the re-tabulation will be determined tomorrow in order to fully advise interested parties.

The anomaly in the vote results for this one precinct was observed by staff during the conduct of the recount for 30th State Senate District. That recount began on July 17 and was halted on July 18 at the request of the attorney for the candidate who had requested the recount.

This error appears to be the result of misfeeding the ballots for this precinct into the ballot card reader in a backward orientation. This caused the tabulation system to accurately reflect the total number of ballots cast, but failure to read the individual votes for some of the precinct's ballots, i.e. those ballots placed in the reader backwards. A number of procedural steps exist to prevent this type of error from occurring both during initial tabulation as well as review procedures during the post-election canvassing period prior to certification of results. Unfortunately, those follow-up procedures were not properly executed for this election.

While the number of ballots involved is minimal and will not impact the outcome of any contest, I believe it is essential to re-tabulate the ballots from this precinct and then amend the certified election results to accurately reflect the votes cast in this precinct.

I have taken immediate steps to review our current procedures to enhance quality control to ensure that this problem does not recur in future elections. Additional training of staff and documentation for both vote tabulation and post-election canvassing will be completed well in advance of the November General Election.

I sincerely regret that this error occurred. A more complete explanation of the problem, how and when it was detected and steps toward resolution will be forthcoming following a full review by our staff.

c: Secretary of State
County Counsel
CAO