



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

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DEAN C. LOGAN
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk



October 20, 2008

TO: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Dean C. Logan, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

Dean C. Logan

STATUS REPORT 3: THE NOVEMBER 4, 2008 GENERAL ELECTION

Phone System Enhancement Project

We continue to receive an unprecedented number of calls – 12,000 so far this morning - and have made progress with our telephone system enhancement project with full implementation over the weekend. We are conducting AskEd telephone training with ISD staff today and with LA City staff on Wednesday.

Our AskEd Help Desk call system assists the public and RR/CC staff in problem resolution during high call volume periods. It also provides valuable statistics that document the type of problem or inquiry, the time it took to resolve the issue and whether or not it was solved at the “front end” or routed to another area for follow up.

We initially planned to implement the expanded phone banks for Election Day only with ISD-ITS and LA City but due to the sustained high volume of calls we are accelerating implementation of these two phone banks to be in full operation by the end of this week. Respectively, ISD-ITS is providing 30 operators and LA City is providing 20 operators.

An additional 40 RR/CC staff members have been trained and are answering calls today.

Voter Registration, Education and Outreach Efforts

Voter Registration: To date we have 4,195,096 registered voters in Los Angeles County. The following table shows the week's voter registration totals and overall registrations on file.

VOTER REGISTRATION TOTALS BY WEEK November 4, 2008 – Presidential General Election

	Reg. Period Total June 6 - Present	TOTAL REGISTRATIONS
Beginning Total¹ Sept. 29	137,197	4,052,832
Week 1: Oct. 6	195,619	4,111,254
Week 2: Oct. 13	275,821	4,149,229
Week 3: Oct. 20	345,879	4,195,096
Week 4: Oct. 27		
Week 5: Nov. 3		
Total	345,879	4,195,096

Today is the last day to register to vote and the RR/CC hosts the Close of Voter Registration event. We will staff voter registration and information booths throughout the county to allow all eligible citizens the option of registering to vote before the legal cutoff for this election.

¹ Please note reporting dates have been changed from the first report. We will issue Status Reports each Monday including the Monday before the General Election.

The following sites are confirmed registration and drop-off locations for the Midnight Madness event:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2008 – CLOSE OF VOTER REGISTRATION LOCATIONS

RR/CC Headquarters 12400 Imperial Highway, Norwalk	5:00 p.m. - Midnight
Dodger Stadium 1000 Elysian Park Ave. Los Angeles	5:00 p.m. - Midnight
Starbucks – El Monte 9028 Flair Dr., El Monte	5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Magic Johnson Starbucks 5301 W. Centinela Ave., Los Angeles	5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
The Korea Daily 690 Wilshire Place, Los Angeles	5:00 p.m. - Midnight
West Hollywood City Hall 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood	5:00 p.m. - Midnight
Wendy's 17684 Sherman Way, Van Nuys	5:00 p.m. - Midnight
Wendy's 14645 Roscoe Blvd., Panorama City	5:00 p.m. - Midnight
Long Beach City Hall 333 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach	5:00 p.m. - Midnight
Westfield Valencia Town Center 24201 Valencia Blvd., Valencia	4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Wendy's 18507 Devonshire St., Northridge	5:00 p.m. - Midnight
Starbucks - San Dimas 942 W Arrow Hwy., San Dimas	5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
"DROP-OFF ONLY" LOCATIONS	TIME (PM)
Wendy's 8232 De Soto Blvd., Canoga Park,	5:00 p.m. - Midnight
Wendy's 1575 Victory Place, Burbank	5:00 p.m. - Midnight

Promotional information about close of registration events and activities will be posted on our website (www.lavote.net) as they become available.

The RR/CC has developed a contingency plan in anticipation of large numbers of new voter registrations. We incorporate staff from all bureaus within the department and have formed a partnership with LA City to assist in data entry and we will enter all registrations received through the close of registration by Election Day. We are processing an average of 20,000 registrations a day and will use the remaining two weeks before the election to enter or update all voter registrations.

New Web-Based Voter Registration Function

We developed and implemented a new "Registration Status Lookup" function on our web site. Voters can log into the site and enter their last name, date of birth, house number and zip code on the lookup screen to verify whether or not they are properly registered. This valuable service will ease the number of calls and e-mails we are receiving from individuals inquiring as to their registration status. We have also developed and will implement a "robo-call" program the week before Election Day that notifies newly registered voters throughout the County of their voting options, how to access a sample ballot and how to check their polling place location. Additionally, we will continue our call program to voters whose polling places have changed notifying them of their options for confirming their correct polling places.

Voter Registration Integrity:

We have followed national media stories concerning allegedly fraudulent voter registration efforts; specifically those associated with a group called "Acorn". RR/CC records indicate there has been no recent distribution or receipt of voter registration affidavits from this group. We have referred one case of alleged registration irregularity to the District Attorney relating to a change of party transaction during the June 2008 Statewide Direct Primary by the organization Young Political Major (YPM). We continue to monitor registrations and will refer suspicious cases to the District Attorney for review.

Voter Education and Outreach Activities: We are partnered with multiple organizations to provide outreach, registration and education services to Los Angeles County voters and eligible citizens.

Last week, I conducted two interviews with Jacqui Stephens on KJLH Radio; one on October 11 and the other on October 18. I also represented the RR/CC on an "open mic" program on KROQ and Jack FM where we discussed the upcoming November 4 election.

CBS/KCAL will begin running our voter education vignette series on Channels 2 and 9 this week. The 5 vignettes will run in rotation up through Election Day. The vignettes are 30 second spots that highlight Election Day information. The titles of the vignettes are "How to Prepare for Election Day"; "Know How to Find Your Polling Place"; "How to Vote by Mail"; "Know What's Available at Your Polling Place", and "Know What to do at the Polling Place". The vignettes will replace our voter registration spots airing now and will be posted on our web site beginning tomorrow.

In addition, the RR/CC, in conjunction with Univision, sponsored a call-in program at the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) offices last Saturday. We staffed phone banks and took calls from over 1,000 community members seeking information about voter registration and voter education issues.

We extended our PSA outreach efforts to 29 cities throughout Los Angeles County who either broadcast them on their local access television channels or provide a link to our PSA's from their websites.

Please visit our web site at www.lavote.net for recorded PSAs and graphic promotional materials. Log into our new Press Room and click on “PSAs”, “Video Library”, and “Audio” to see and listen to our campaign.)

Vote By Mail, Sample Ballots and Military/Overseas Ballots

The following is a table of our Vote By Mail and Sample Ballot Statistics. These will be updated on a weekly basis.

**VOTE BY MAIL, SAMPLE & MILITARY/OVERSEAS BALLOT REPORTS
November 4, 2008 – Presidential General Election**

	VOTE BY MAIL ²			SAMPLE BALLOT	MILITARY & OVERSEAS BALLOTS		
	Requested	Mailed	Returned	Mailed ³	Requested	Mailed	Returned
Begin Sept. 29	525,831	Begins E-29 (Oct. 6)	N/A	312,742	20,494	17,511	N/A
WEEK 1 Oct. 6	92,056	Begins E-29 (Today)	N/A	3,145,762	2,379	5,722	3,033
WEEK 2 Oct. 13	98,157	642,235	43,848	549,907	592	592	3,033
WEEK 3 Oct. 20	102,253	740,154	145,913	186,685	236	236	4,522
WEEK 4 Oct. 27							
WEEK 5 Nov. 3							
TOTAL	818,297	740,154	145,913	4,195,096	24,061	24,061	4,522

Vote By Mail Ballots Vote by mail mailings began Monday, October 6 and will be mailed through October 28. Ballots must be returned to the RR/CC Headquarters in Norwalk no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Voted ballots may also be turned in at any Los Angeles County polling place on Election Day.

The RR/CC’s new VOTE BY MAIL STATUS FUNCTION is now operable and on our web site located at www.lavote.net. As previously stated, the function allows voters who applied for a Vote By Mail ballot to check the date we processed their Vote By Mail application, the date we mailed their Vote By Mail ballot, the date we received their voted ballot, whether or not the ballot was challenged – and if it was challenged, the reason for the challenge.

² Our Vote By Mail totals include Permanent Vote By Mail voters, declared Vote By Mail precinct voters and Military and Overseas voters.

³ Note that this figure constitutes booklets that are confirmed mailed by the USPS and not ballots that have been picked up from the RR/CC.

Sample Ballots Sample ballot mailing began on September 25 and continues until the weekend before the election. Supplemental mailings began last week. All printed materials are available in English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Tagalog/Filipino, Vietnamese and Japanese. Online services include these languages in addition to Russian, Armenian and Cambodian.

Online Poll Worker Training and Poll Worker Recruitment

Our Poll Worker Training Program is now operable. Although we do not require poll workers to use all aspects of the training on the site, we encourage them to visit it and review the modules before Election Day and each poll worker trainee is assigned a username and password for online access. The online training augments and reinforces the required in-person training work shops.

We have met or exceeded all poll worker recruitment goals for the November election. We are currently conducting training classes and will continue to do so through the week preceding the election. Training schedules and locations are available on our website.

The table below tracks the number of recruited poll workers.

POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT BY WEEK⁴
November 4, 2008 – Presidential General Election
Goal: 26,760 (optimum staffing level; exceeds legal requirement)⁵

	Inspectors	Clerks	Coordinators	NVC Directors
Beginning Total Sept. 29	4,380	17,154	670	228
Week 1 Oct. 6	7	2,185	30 Goal Achieved	40 Goal Achieved
Week 2 Oct. 13	7 Goal Achieved	1,931 Goal Exceeded		5 Goal Exceeded
Week 3 Oct. 20				
Week 4 Oct. 27				
Total	4,394	22,687	700	273

Braille Institute Voter Education Site

Our Voter Education and Outreach Information program begins at the Braille Institute on Wednesday, October 22 and continues through October 31. Visitors to the site have access to multilingual voter education materials, Vote By Mail application packets and accessible voting machine demonstrations. Voters can also check their polling place locations and their registration status and ask questions of our trained staff members.

⁴ Figures represent *confirmed* student, County and regular Inspectors, Coordinators, NVC Directors and Clerks.

⁵ Any poll workers not assigned are placed in our reserve program and are placed based on available positions.

Results Reporting

We are expecting record high voter turnout for this election. Anticipated long lines at the polls and increased ballot volume will impact timeframes for reporting Election Night results. We are focused on careful transfer and ballot tally operations so that the results we do issue will be accurate and as timely as possible. Information provided to candidates and media in advance of the election will address this issue. We will be issuing a historical Election Night reporting analysis to your Board and to the media that shows ballot processing and reporting times in past Presidential Primary and General elections.

Election Operations Center (EOC) Press Conference and Open House

On Thursday, October 23, the RR/CC will conduct a pre-election press conference and an EOC Open House Dedication ceremony. The press conference begins at 1:30 PM and highlights Election Day plans, voter education and outreach efforts, a voter equipment demonstration and other election-related topics. It is followed at 3:00 by the EOC dedication ceremony. Speakers at the event include Supervisor Gloria Molina, CEO Bill Fujioka, Laura Zucker, Executive Director of the LA City Arts Council, Rebeca Méndez, the artist who created the installation art work, and Michael Lehrer, the architect for the space.

Poll Worker Recognition Event

The Board of Supervisors will honor 14 election volunteers at the Board meeting on October 21. Honorees include poll workers, multilingual poll workers, a county poll worker, and a volunteer deputy voter registrar who has been registering voters every week for the past thirty five years.

Board of Supervisor Staff Training

On Thursday, October 30, RR/CC staff will conduct an Election Day Training seminar for BOS staff members. Topics include: voter registration and polling place lookup functions; VBM tracking function; a clarification of the RR/CC's and SOS's electioneering policies and a phone list of RR/CC contacts for Board staff members. All interested BOS staff members are encouraged to attend.