



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK**

12400 IMPERIAL HWY. – P.O. BOX 1024, NORWALK, CALIFORNIA 90651-1024/(562) 462-2716

**CONNY B. McCORMACK**  
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

November 3, 2006

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: Conny B. McCormack, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

**FIFTH & FINAL WEEKLY STATUS REPORT: NOVEMBER 7, 2006 ELECTION**

**Absentee and Touchscreen Early Voting**

We have mailed over 692,000 absentee ballots for this election, the second highest in our history. Touchscreen Early Voting closes today at 16 satellite sites. It continues through the weekend and Monday and Tuesday at our Norwalk headquarters. To date approximately 18,000 voters have cast ballots via touchscreen equipment for this election.

**Responding to Voters' Calls to Your Offices**

Typically most callers inquire "where do I go to vote?" We appreciate that your staffs are always so helpful and use our website [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net) to look up individual caller's polling places. The website is interactive; typing in the voter's address results in access to the needed information and a map to the location. In addition to this website feature, voters may call 800-815-2666 to access the polling locations automatically by keying in zip code and other information. In addition to the 196 lines on this automated phone system, approximately 200 elections staff respond to voters' calls personally on election day.

**Election Results**

On election night, election results will be continuously updated on our website [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net). The first report will be posted shortly after 8 p.m. and will include the count of those absentee ballots received, processed and signature checked by our office through Monday's mail. Several hundred thousand additional absentee ballots typically arrive in Tuesday's mail or are turned in at polling places during voting hours. These are processed in the days following the election. The reasons for this are outlined in a letter we send to each candidate and campaign prior to each election (attached).

The new InkaVote Plus voting equipment will check each ballot for errors at the precinct level but will not be used for ballot tabulation for this election. Ballot

counting will occur centrally at our Norwalk headquarters as in past elections as part of the County's adopted approach to phasing-in new voting equipment and procedures in multiple steps in order to manage change successfully.

The voted ballots from the 5,028 voting precincts are taken by the precinct inspectors to their designated check-in-centers after the close of the polls and after the numerous required close down procedures are completed. Then Sheriff's deputies transport the voted ballots from each of the 63 check-in-centers countywide via Sheriffs' vehicles and helicopter. Ballots typically begin arriving in Norwalk beginning at about 10 p.m. and continue into the early hours on Wednesday. Our goal has always been to process up to 50% of the precinct ballots by midnight and to finish the unofficial count by 3 a.m.

As in past elections, additional ballot counting of those absentee ballots, as well as provisional ballots cast at the polling locations by those voters whose names are not on the list and whose eligibility must first be signature verified and opened prior to counting their ballots, will be counted throughout the election canvassing period. The first post-election day update of the counting and reporting of these additional absentee and provisional ballots will take place on Friday afternoon, November 10. Subsequent ballot counting occurs each Tuesday and Friday afternoon throughout the remainder of November.

Please call me if you have any questions regarding this report or any other election preparation activity.

#### Attachments

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel

**NOVEMBER 7, 2006 GUBERNATORIAL GENERAL ELECTION**  
**STATUS OF EVENTS PERFORMED**  
WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 3, 2006

	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>SCHEDULED COMPLETION</u>	<u>ACTUAL COMPLETION</u>
2.	<u>Recruit and Appoint Precinct Officers</u>  This election involves 5,028 precincts requiring the recruitment of approximately 27,000 pollworkers. This event is proceeding as scheduled.	11/06/2006	
3.	<u>Updated Registration Records</u>  The November 3, 2006 update of Los Angeles County's registration records totals 3,914,138 registered voters. Voter registration closed on October 23, 2006. This event has been completed.	10/23/2006	10/23/2006
4.	<u>Testing of Election Night Data Processing Hardware and Programs</u>  Testing of election night tally programs is in progress. This event is proceeding as scheduled.	11/06/2006	
5.	<u>Mail Sample Ballots</u>  The initial sample ballot mailing to over 3.8 million registered voters began on September 28, 2006 and continues through October 28, 2006. Supplemental sample ballot mailing (to persons registering or re-registering to vote up until the October 23 deadline) will occur throughout October. This event has been completed.	10/28/2006	10/28/2006
6.	<u>Election Supplies and Vote Recorders Assembled</u>  Vote Recorder packaging began on October 20, 2006. Supply Box processing began on October 25, 2006. Both events have been completed.	10/25/2006	10/25/2006
7.	<u>Election Supplies and Equipment Picked-Up by Inspectors</u>  Booths and supplies were scheduled for pick-up from October 28 – 29, 2006. This event has been completed.	10/29/2006	10/29/2006



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October 18, 2006

TO: ALL CANDIDATES – November 7, 2006 General Election

FROM: Conny B. McCormack, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk *Cmc*

**INCOMPLETE BALLOT COUNTING ELECTION NIGHT**

Candidates are frequently surprised on the day after a major election when they learn that there are several hundred thousand ballots countywide remaining to be counted. Statewide, typically 10% of ballots cast are not able to be included in the election night tally. This memo is provided as a courtesy to explain the logistics of election night ballot counting, and follow-up ballot tabulation, which occurs in the days/weeks following the election. The law allows 28 days after the election to complete the ballot tally and the official audit of the election, known as the Canvass. When the Canvass is completed, the official results are certified.

There are three categories of ballots which cannot be processed on Election Night:

- Absentee ballots (those turned in at the voting locations and those received by mail shortly before or on election day)
- Provisional ballots voted at the polls
- Write-in ballots

NOTE: All valid ballots in the above categories are always counted prior to official results certification.

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS TURNED IN AT THE POLLING LOCATIONS**

Many absentee voters wait until the last minute to make their voting choices and then drop off their absentee ballots at a polling place on election day. We receive these ballots very late on election night. All absentee ballots must be pre-processed before they are counted - this includes verifying every absentee voter's signature prior to opening the absentee ballot envelopes to remove the ballots in preparation for counting.

**PROVISIONAL BALLOTS**

Provisional ballots are voted at the polls when a voter's registration is in question, or when our records indicate the voter was already sent an absentee ballot. Provisional ballots are sealed in special envelopes at the polls and must be individually researched and verified at the Registrar's Office before ballots are counted or rejected in accordance with election laws.

## WRITE-IN BALLOTS

All ballots containing write-in votes must be set aside for manual review of each individual ballot. When a voter chooses to vote for a write-in candidate whose name is not printed on the ballot, **every race and measure** on that ballot cannot be counted on election night. Each ballot containing a write-in vote must be individually reviewed to determine whether or not the write-in vote is for a qualified write-in candidate and whether or not the voter overvoted (i.e. voted for a candidate on the ballot and also voted for a write-in candidate for the same office). When an overvote occurs, neither vote can be counted for that one office, although the rest of the ballot selections will be counted. Due to the individual scrutiny involved, no portion of any ballot containing a write-in vote is counted on election night. **Vote tallies for write-in candidates are not available until the conclusion of the official canvass.**

## SUMMARY

Supplemental ballot counting of absentee, provisional and write-in ballots occurs in sequential order during the days/weeks following the election before certification of official results (i.e. all absentee ballots must be verified and cleared prior to verifying provisional ballots in order to insure there are no duplicates among these categories). Based on past trends, the number of ballots remaining to be counted after election night is anticipated to exceed 200,000 countywide for this election. These ballots are not segregated by district prior to counting. Therefore, the number of outstanding ballots for any specific electoral district will be unknown until the computer tallies these ballots. Our staff will be working double shifts to prepare all outstanding ballots for tabulation.

California law permits 28 days to complete the final, official canvass and certify the results of the election. This provision of the law recognizes the complexity of completing the ballot count and conducting a thorough audit of the election results to ensure accuracy. Part of the canvass process is a legally required manual recount of the votes cast for all candidates and measures on the ballots in 1% of the 5,028 voting precincts. This manual process verifies the accuracy of the computer count.

Supplemental ballot counting will take place at 2 p.m. every Friday and Tuesday throughout the canvass period. Therefore, the first supplemental count will be held on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. We anticipate the majority of the outstanding absentee ballots will be included by the Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> update. However, due to the extra research required to validate provisional ballots, these ballots are usually the last to be tallied prior to the completion of the official canvass (which must be completed by December 5, 2006).

Candidates and members of the general public are invited to observe supplemental ballot counting and the manual tally of ballots from the randomly selected 1% of the voting precincts. After election night, the schedule of supplemental ballot counting will also be posted on the entrance door of our office in Norwalk.

We realize it is difficult for candidates/campaigns involved in close races to wait days and sometimes weeks to know whether or not they won or lost the election. The processes described above are utilized to ensure that every legally-cast vote is counted and included in the official final election returns. This issue paper clarifies the reasons for the time required to finalize the ballot tally prior to the official certification of election results.

c: Political Party Chairpersons









LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK




**MILESTONE STATUS REPORT OF KEY EVENTS**

November 7, 2006 – Gubernatorial General Election

WEEK ENDING



EVENT	09/08	09/15	09/22	09/29	10/06	10/13	10/20	10/27	11/03	11/09
1. AUTHORIZE SAMPLE BALLOT FOR PRINTING.				 09/16						
2. RECRUIT AND APPOINT PRECINCT OFFICERS.										11/06
3. UPDATE REGISTRATION RECORDS.								10/23		
4. TESTING OF ELECTION NIGHT DATA PROCESSING HARDWARE AND PROGRAMS.										 11/06
5. MAIL SAMPLE BALLOTS.										10/28
6. PRECINCT SUPPLIES AND VOTE RECORDERS ASSEMBLED.									10/25	
7. BOOTH AND SUPPLIES PICKED-UP BY PRECINCT INSPECTORS.										10/29

 SCHEDULE COMPLETION DATE  
 RESCHEDULE COMPLETION DATE  
 COMPLETION DATE