

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

385



FROM: Registrar of Voters

SUBMITTAL DATE:
December 11, 2007

SUBJECT: November 6, 2007 Consolidated Uniform District Election Law (UDEL) Election Summary Report

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors receive and file the November 6, 2007 Consolidated UDEL Election Summary Report.

BACKGROUND: The November 6, 2007 Consolidated UDEL Election was Riverside County's 40th successful election using electronic voting equipment. The Registrar of Voters deployed 2,885 voting units to 577 polling places across the county for the election. Paper ballots were also available at each polling place. About 60% of the County's voters were eligible to cast a ballot in the election; 23% of those turned out to vote--45% in person and 55% by absentee ballot.

In accordance with the Secretary of State's recertification of Sequoia's voting system, only one electronic voting unit will be placed at each polling place for use by disabled voters during the February 5, 2008 Presidential Primary Election. All other voters will be provided a paper ballot.

The attached report presents a summary of the conduct of the November 6, 2007 election and updates the Board on plans for the February 5, 2008 Presidential Primary Election.

Attachment: November 6, 2007 Consolidated UDEL Election Summary Report

Barbara Dunmore

Barbara Dunmore
Registrar of Voters

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-----|
| FINANCIAL DATA | Current F.Y. Total Cost: | \$ N/A | In Current Year Budget: | N/A |
| | Current F.Y. Net County Cost: | \$ N/A | Budget Adjustment: | N/A |
| | Annual Net County Cost: | \$ N/A | For Fiscal Year: | N/A |

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| SOURCE OF FUNDS: | Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Requires 4/5 Vote | <input type="checkbox"/> |

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY *Jennifer L. Sargent*
Jennifer L. Sargent

County Executive Office Signature

- Dep't Recomm.: Consent Policy
- Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District: ALL

Agenda Number:

3-72

Consolidated Uniform District Election Law (UDEL) Election

The UDEL election is primarily for special districts and school districts to hold elections for governing board seats. Four cities (Blythe, Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs, and Norco) also hold their council elections in odd-numbered Novembers and the City of Riverside run-off elections were consolidated with the election. In addition, three cities (Perris, Palm Springs, and Desert Hot Springs) placed measures on the ballot as well as Valley Health System and Alvord and Jurupa Unified School Districts. Overall, 35 contests containing 126 candidates (and four qualified write-in candidates) were arranged on 57 different ballot types.

Approximately 60% (440,530) of Riverside County voters were eligible to cast ballots in the Consolidated UDEL Election; 23% of those voters voted. Of those who voted, 55% cast an absentee ballot and 45% voted in person at a polling place.

The November 6, 2007 Consolidated UDEL Election Summary highlights aspects of the election and presents a primer for the February 5, 2008 Presidential Primary Election.

Polling Place Voting

Across the county, 577 polling places opened on Election Day for voting. Each polling place was equipped with 5 touch screen voting units and 6 VeriVote printers. Each voting unit is programmed with an English and Spanish ballot specific to its assigned precinct. One of the five voting units is additionally programmed with an audio ballot in both English and Spanish. Some polling places housed multiple voting precincts. Each voting precinct is assigned up to 4 poll workers (one more than the minimum required by law) based on the number of registered voters in the precinct. A total of 2,268 poll workers volunteered to serve in the election.

Polling place turnout ranged from zero voters showing up to cast a ballot at precinct 38067 in Temecula to a high of 244 voters showing up to cast a ballot at precinct 37040 in Hemet. Fewer than 20 voters showed up at 130 precincts across the county. The average number of voters per polling place was 63.

Table 1: Voter Turnout by Number of Precincts

| Voter Turnout | Precincts | Percentage |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| 200 to 244 | 7 | 1% |
| 150 to 199 | 34 | 6% |
| 100 to 149 | 92 | 16% |
| 50 to 99 | 141 | 24% |
| 21 to 49 | 173 | 30% |
| <20 | 130 | 23% |

With the short ballot lengths and the low voter turnout changing of the voting unit printer paper during the day was not required. In addition, wait lines for voting did not form. At the close of polls, poll workers placed the sixth VeriVote printer provided sequentially onto each voting unit and printed out the results for posting outside the precinct. All VeriVote printers were returned to the Registrar of Voters office on Election Night remaining unopened by the poll workers (with the exception of the sixth VeriVote printer). The precinct inspector was paid an additional \$10 stipend for repacking the printers in the tub and taking them to the assigned collection site.

Paper Ballots

Two 11 x 17 inch posters (one in English and one in Spanish) were provided to each polling place to post stating "Don't want to use a voting unit? Paper ballots gladly provided upon request" (see Attachment A). Of the voters who cast ballots at the polls, less than 1% (289 voters) requested and cast paper ballots (153 were regular paper ballots and 136 were paper provisional ballots).

Voting booths borrowed from Los Angeles County were set up in each polling place to provide paper ballot voters with a private area to mark their ballots.

Provisional Ballots

Provisional ballots are offered to voters whose names do not appear on the precinct roster or voters who want to vote and were issued an absentee ballot but cannot surrender it at the polling place. Provisional ballots are not counted until the voter's registration status is confirmed, their signature validated, and it is verified that the voter has not previously cast a ballot in the election. 427 electronic and 153 paper provisional ballots were cast at the polls. Of those, 379 (89%) and 130 (78%), respectively, were counted.

Absentee Voting

The first day to request an absentee ballot was October 8th. Voters requesting an absentee ballot were mailed the County's new *Optech* ballot. The *Optech* ballot is counted by the Sequoia 400C optical scan units. Your honorable Board approved the loan of two 400C units from Sequoia to the County for use in the UDEL Election. See Table 2 for the breakdown of paper/absentee ballots issued and returned.

Return Ballot Envelope

The new *Optech* ballots were mailed to voters without a secrecy sleeve to place the ballot in before mailing it back to the Registrar of Voters. Secrecy sleeves, while not required by California election law, were used with the County's prior Mark-A-Vote ballots to hold the required #2 pencil in place during mailing. Since the *Optech* ballot can be marked with any writing instrument, the purpose of the secrecy sleeve was eliminated. Voters concerned about the secrecy of their ballots were instructed to back fold the single-sided ballots before placing them in

the mail stream. Providing secrecy sleeves to all absentee voters in a countywide election costs a minimum of \$45,000.

Table 2: Number of Paper/Absentee Ballots Issued and Returned by Category

| | Mode of Issuance of Paper/Absentee Ballots | | | | TOTAL |
|------------------|--|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|
| | Single Request | Military & Overseas | Permanent Absentee | Mail Precincts | |
| Issued | 16,620 | 1,408 | 98,999 | 27,165 | 144,192 |
| Returned | 12,167 | 119 | 44,923 | 7,114 | 64,323 |
| Percent Returned | 73% | 8.5% | 45% | 26% | 45% |

Duplicated Ballots

Paper ballots that are torn, bent, or otherwise defective are to be corrected in order that every vote cast by the voter is counted by the optical scanner. The first time use of the *Optech* ballot resulted in some voters removing (i.e. cutting off) the masthead of the ballot and others trimming off the bottom excess blank portion before returning it. True duplicates of these ballots were made, labeled "duplicate" and counted by the optical scanner in lieu of the defective ballot.

The Secretary of State's Uniform Vote Counting Standards were used to determine if there was a clear indication on a ballot that the voter made a definite choice. This was particularly important, again, given the first time use of the *Optech* ballot. The *Optech* ballots voting position target requires the head and tail of an arrow be connected with a single line to indicate the voter's selection. In instances where the voter's selection could be determined in accordance with the Standards, but was unreadable by the optical scanner, a true duplicate of the ballot was made. A total of 3,825 ballots (approximately 6% of paper ballots) were duplicated in the election.

Challenged Ballots

State law requires the Registrar of Voters to compare the required absentee voter's signature on the outside of the ballot return envelope to the signature appearing on the voter's affidavit of registration. The signatures of 233 voters were challenged (i.e. rejected) and the ballots not opened or counted. A post-election letter is sent to the voter informing them that their signature was challenged and provides a voter registration affidavit for the voter to complete and update their signature. Table 3 provides the number of challenged ballots in all categories.

Table 3: Number and Reasons for Challenged Absentee Ballots

| Reason ballot was challenged | Number |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Signature did not match | 233 |
| No signature on return envelope | 171 |
| Empty absentee envelope | 9 |
| "Deceased" on return envelope | 32 |
| Received after Election Day | 3024 |
| TOTAL | 3469 |

The Registrar of Voters embarked on an educational campaign to inform voters that their ballots must be received by the close of polls on Election Day in order to be counted in the election. Voters were cautioned that mailing ballots later than 5 days prior to Election Day may not reach the Registrar of Voters office before the deadline. Options presented were dropping off the ballot at a Riverside County polling place on Election Day, at the Registrar of Voters office during business hours, or in our 24-hour drop box located outside our main entrance.

The Registrar of Voters travels to the central distribution post office in San Bernardino that services the entire county prior to 8 p.m. on Election Night to pick up absentee ballots in the mail stream before the close of polls.

Collection Centers

Collection centers are centralized locations across the county where poll workers return voted ballots and elections supplies on Election Night. After all polling places report to their assigned collection center, a U-Haul truck staffed by election workers transports the voted ballots and supplies to the central counting location in Riverside. In some outlying areas, a sedan is also provided to facilitate an interim transport of voted ballots back to the central counting location before all polling places report. The goal of this approach is to provide county areas further from the central counting location updates comparable to other county areas.

Sixteen collection centers were established in city and county government facilities across the county (see Attachment A) and staffed by 171 volunteers. Poll workers transported supplies (i.e., ballot box, voting booth, and VeriVote printer tub) and voted ballots to their assigned collection center. All collection center parking lots were well lit or provided with portable halogen lights. A work area was cordoned off to facilitate the safe unloading of supplies from poll worker vehicles to U-Haul trucks.

The sealed clear-vinyl pouches containing the five vote results cartridges from the voting units and red transport bag containing voted paper ballots and rosters were carried by election workers to the entry way of the collection facility. There

a table was set up in the doorway staffed by two volunteers who accepted the ballots and scanned the bar code on the vinyl pouch. Some poll workers reverted to the prior practice of placing the vote results cartridges in the red transport bag. Extra seals were provided to collection center personnel for instances where it was necessary to break a seal, replace a broken seal, or seal an unsealed bag. Seals used by collection center staffs were accounted for by serial number and obtaining the initials of the staff and the inspector (see Attachment B for example).

A uniformed officer was at each site with the exception of Desert Hot Springs and Rubidoux where none was available due to the late request. Their purpose was to provide security for election workers and the public and enforce work area boundaries established for orderly work flow and observer safety.

A Sheriff's deputy transported the ballots from the Blythe collection center to the Indio remote transmission site for processing.

Remote Transmission Site

The Indio remote transmission site is used to securely transmit vote data from the eastern portion of the county to the central counting location in Riverside. The transmission facilitates timely updates for desert communities. The transmission site has been used successfully since June 2006.

The transmission site was successfully tested twice (Oct. 10th and Nov. 1st) prior to Election Day. On Election Day at 6:30 p.m., the site was successfully tested again. At 7:30 p.m., the Riverside County Information Technology (RCIT) department closed off all access through CoRNet except for emergency services and the ROV. At 9:00 p.m., as data was readied for transmission, the transmission site was unable to access the central counting site. Troubleshooting efforts were unsuccessful and at 11:00 p.m. it was determined that the most secure method of processing the vote cartridges was to drive them to the central counting site. While this action delayed the results for the eastern portion of the county, it preserved the integrity of the votes cast.

In accordance with the Secretary of State's August 3, 2007 recertification directives, paper ballots will be the primary medium for casting ballots in future elections; therefore, it will not be feasible to use the transmission site.

Election Night Vote Tallying and Semi-Official Results Posting

The first semi-official results were posted at 8:14 p.m. on Election Night. The results included all absentee ballots received by the close of business November 5th and all ballots cast during early voting in the Registrar's office. The final semi-official results were posted at 1:30 a.m. on November 7th. See Table 4 for posting times.

Table 4: Election Night Semi-Official Results Posting by Ballots Tabulated

| Time of Posting | Ballots Tabulated | Cumulative Progression |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 8:14 p.m. | 57,921 | |
| 9:08 p.m. | 57,981 | <1% |
| 9:50 p.m. | 59,220 | 3.6% |
| 10:13 p.m. | 62,844 | 13.6% |
| 10:43 p.m. | 65,145 | 20% |
| 11:29 p.m. | 71,597 | 38% |
| 12:17 a.m. | 77,550 | 54% |
| 12:55 a.m. | 88,515 | 84% |
| 1:39 a.m. | 94,203 | 100% |

Paper ballots cast at the polls were tallied on Election Night as they were received at the Registrar of Voters office.

Pre-Election

Public Logic and Accuracy Testing

Logic and accuracy (L&A) testing is designed to test that the electronic vote tabulating equipment is programmed to accurately count votes cast in every contest and for every candidate. Public L&A is conducted on a sample of early voting units and the paper ballot optical scanners prior to each election. The tests, conducted on October 9th, confirmed that both mediums of tabulating ballots were performing with 100% accuracy.

Electronic Voting Units

Public L&A testing is conducted on early voting units that contain all ballot types, contests, and candidates. Three voting units were used—one for English, one for Spanish, and one for audio/manual voting.

An automated vote simulation script is initiated on the English and Spanish units to cast a pattern of votes in every contest and for every candidate. A total of 600 ballots were cast (300 on each unit). Observers were offered the opportunity to mark paper test ballots. The observers' selections were then entered into the third (audio/manual) unit by making selections on the touch screen or using the audio function to cast the ballot. Ballots (audio and manual) were cast in both English and Spanish.

Paper/Absentee Optical Scanners

Public L&A testing of the optical scanners utilizes ballot pre-marked according to a script. The script insures that every contest and every candidate receives votes and produces a patterned outcome. The scanners are also tested for recognizing over votes (voting for more than the allowable number of selections

in a contest) and under votes (voting for fewer than the allowable number of selections in a contest).

The two optical scanners loaned to the County by Sequoia were used. The L&A test for absentee ballots were conducted on one optical scanner and the mail ballots on the other. In addition, observers were offered the opportunity to mark paper ballots and they were tabulated by the optical scanner.

Warehouse Logic and Accuracy Testing

All electronic voting units are subjected to L&A testing before being deployed to polling site for Election Day use. Polling place voting units are programmed with the specific ballot for their assigned precinct. Once the voting unit is tested and it is confirmed that it is programmed correctly and accurately recording votes, the unit is sealed and readied for deployment to the polling place.

Paper/Absentee Ballot Counting

Election law allows absentee ballot envelopes to be processed (e.g., signature verification, voter history applied, etc.) beginning 29 days prior to Election Day. In addition absentee ballots may be processed (e.g. envelope opened and ballot removed, duplication of damaged ballots, and machine reading of ballots, etc.) beginning on the 7th business day prior to the election. All paper and absentee ballots were counted on the two 400C optical scan units located in the Registrar of Voters Community Room.

Voting Unit Delivery

Voting units are delivered to polling places no earlier than 7 days prior to Election Day. This is three days closer to Election Day than the Secretary of State's "no earlier than 10 day" directive issued in August 2007 and effective beginning February 2008.

As an added security measure, your Board was apprized that voting units would be placed in single-use tamper evident bags (i.e., evidence bag) prior to leaving the Registrar of Voters office. Evidence bags are flat to securely seal all contents inside. A bag large enough to accommodate a voting unit resulted in excess material that made the unit very hard to grasp and handle. To avoid injury to a poll worker or damage to equipment, the voting units were shrink-wrapped instead. A sealed tub of six VeriVote printers were delivered along with the voting units to polling sites.

Voting Unit Interface Button

Prior to the November 7, 2006 *Gubernatorial* General Election, there was significant publicity about the voting unit interface button located on the back of Sequoia voting units. While the California Secretary of State made no mention of the interface button in her top-to-bottom review report, the Registrar purchased and applied a cover to each voting unit interface button. The covers can facilitate

a serialized zip-tight seal for added security that was not used in the election. Please see Table 5 for Election Day use of the interface button.

Table 5: Election Day Use of Interface Button by Type of Action

| Action | # of Times | Percent |
|------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Adjust LCD Contrast | 244 | 57% |
| Calibrate Touch Screen | 154 | 36% |
| Cancel Activation | 28 | 6.5% |
| Begin Audio | 1 | <1% |
| Manual Activation | 1 | <1% |
| TOTAL | 428 | 100% |

The manual activation occurred at the voting precinct at Agua Caliente Elementary School in Cathedral City. The precinct had a total of 20 ballots cast, 3 of which were on the voting unit that recorded a manual activation.

Post-Election Canvass

The official canvass of the election begins no later than the Thursday following the election and includes:

- Inspecting all election materials and supplies returned by poll workers;
- Reconciling the number of voter signatures on the roster to ballots cast;
- Reconciling the number of ballots counted, spoiled, canceled, or invalidated with the number of ballots cast;
- Processing and counting absentee ballots;
- Researching, processing, and counting valid provisional ballots;
- Conducting a public manual tally of all ballot cast in 1% of the precincts; and
- Certification of the election results.

Absentee Ballots

Approximately 6,500 absentee ballots arrived in the mail on Election Day (including those picked up by staff at the post office by 8 p.m.) or were dropped off at polling place and remained to be processed and counted during the canvass. Additional paper and absentee ballots were located during the inspection of election materials and required processing and counting.

Provisional Ballots

Five hundred eighty (580) provisional ballots required research during the canvass to verify the voter's eligibility to vote in the election. Researching provisional ballots can take from 5 minutes to upwards of 2 or more hours per voter. All other types of voted ballots (e.g., polling place, absentee, etc.) must be accounted for and credited to the appropriate voter before provisional research may begin in order to ascertain if the provisional voter has previously cast a

ballot in the election. Of the 580 provisional ballots cast, 509 were counted as valid ballots in the election.



One-Percent Manual Tally

In accordance with Elections Code §15360, one percent of the precincts were chosen at random and were manually tallied in public view. For each contest not included in the precincts randomly selected, another precinct including the contest is selected at the discretion of the Registrar and counted publicly until all contests are covered. Seventeen precincts were manually tallied. The manual tally of precincts began within two hours of randomly selecting the precincts and the entire manual tally process spanned two days.

Post Election Semi-Official Results Updates

Four post-election results updates were produced and posted prior to the final official results certified by the Registrar of Voters on November 16th. The first update was generated on November 7th at 5:04 p.m. and included absentee ballots and mail ballots where the envelope was processed (i.e., signature verified) on Election Day, but time did not permit the ballot to be removed or counted. The second update was generated on November 9th and by the November 14th update, nearly all absentee ballots were counted. Valid provisional ballots were counted and included in the November 15th update and the final results were certified the next day. Please see Diagram 1 below.

Diagram 1: Post-Election Results Updates

| November 2007 | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Election Day  | 7 Update #1 Absent/Mail Ballots | 8 | 9 Update #2 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Veteran's Day  | 13 | 14 Update #3 | 15 Update #4 | 16 Election Certified | 17 |

Close Contests

The final semi-official results posted on Election Night revealed 7 close contests across the county. Three of the contests were separated by 10 or fewer votes; five were separated by fewer than 50 votes; and all were separated by less than 105 votes.

Table 6: Close Contests by Vote Difference on Election Night and Final Results

| Contest | Vote Difference | |
|---|-----------------|-------|
| | Election Night | Final |
| Riverside City Council Member – Ward 1 | 7 | 7 |
| Gov. Bd., Palo Verde Community College, TA1 | 8 | 11 |
| Dir., Jurupa Community Services District – ST | 10 | 30 |
| Riverside City Council Member – Ward 7 | 28 | 13 |
| Blythe City Council Member | 49 | 50 |
| Dir., Mission Springs Water District | 53 | 72 |
| Palm Springs City Council Member | 104 | 76 |

At the time of the Final results, 3 contests were separated by 13 or fewer votes.

The Registrar of Voters office treats all jurisdictions throughout the county equally with respect to ballot counting and release of election results. City Clerks are their city's election official and are provided information regarding their city's elections for release to the press at their discretion. However, requests to withhold election results from the voters who cast the ballots while a city clerk contacts "their" candidates with the results first is not accommodated by the Registrar's office. City Clerks with elections on the ballot were sent Email notifications when a results update was expected to be posted to the county's website. Once an update is produced, the hard copy is photocopied and distributed to observers in the Community Room while a web file is generated. Generally, photocopies are handed to observers concurrently with placement of the results on the web.

Certification of Results

California law requires election officials to certify election results for school districts, community college districts, special districts or county board of education by the last Monday before the last Friday in an odd-year November (i.e., November 26, 2007). The Registrar of Voters certified all contests in the election on November 16th.

Recounts

Any voter may file for a recount within 5 days of the certification of the election and the recount must commence no later than 7 days after receipt of the request. Three recount requests were filed for the November 6, 2007 election—City of Riverside Council Wards 1 and 7 and City of Palm Springs City Council Contest.

Full recounts of Wards 1 and 7 were completed without overturning the results. The Palm Springs City Council recount was halted by the candidate calling the recount after 2 days of recounting.

Presidential Primary Election – February 5, 2008

The Secretary of State's recertification conditions for use of a Sequoia voting system are initially applicable in the Presidential Primary election. This section is provided to update the Board on plans for conducting the election and changes that will be necessary to comply with the Secretary of State's conditions.

One Electronic Voting Unit per Precinct

Condition 1 of the Secretary's recertification states that only one voting unit per precinct is permissible to provide accessible balloting to voters with disabilities in compliance with the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The condition further states that if one voter casts a ballot on the device, poll workers are to ensure that at least five persons voluntarily vote on the unit to preserve voter privacy. Furthermore, Condition 21 requires a 100% manual tally of all votes cast on a voting unit during Election Day.

In compliance with the above conditions, one voting unit will be placed in each precinct. Voters requesting to use the unit will be informed that they are for use by voters with disabilities. If a voter states they have a disability or otherwise express a desire to use the voting unit, they will be issued an activation card to cast their ballot on the unit.

Precinct Posting

Condition 15 of the Secretary's recertification requires the votes recorded and tabulated on a voting unit to be posted outside the precinct after the close of polls. With so few votes expected to be cast on the voting units, protection of voter privacy is of concern especially in a primary election when minority party results will be included. Moreover, the Secretary of State has not issued guidance on precinct posting if fewer than 5 voters voluntarily cast their ballots on the voting unit.

The value of posting precinct result for the few voters who will opt to use the voting unit is questionable. Especially since those votes will be combined with the results of all paper ballots cast at the polls on Election Day and presented in a consolidated report.

The Registrar plans to engage in discussion with the Secretary regarding posting the number of total ballots cast (paper and voting unit) at a polling place, as opposed to results from the voting unit. This approach will provide observers with an absolute number of ballots that can be compared with the Statement of Vote to insure that every ballot cast at the polling place was counted.

Paper Ballots at Polling Places

Voters will be given a paper ballot at the polling place to record their votes. Each polling place will have 7 different ballot styles—6 partisan and 1 non-partisan. Voters registered with a qualified political party (i.e., partisan) must vote that party's ballot. Voters not affiliated with a qualified political party have the option

of voting a non-partisan ballot or requesting a Democratic or American Independent ballot.

Instructions on how to mark the new *Optech* paper ballot are included in the Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet mailed to every registered voter. In addition, instructions will be displayed in the voting booth, on the secrecy sleeve given to the voter with the ballot, on the ballot, and a video demonstration is available on our website at www.voteinfo.net.

The County will comply with federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Section 301 requirements of providing the voter a "second chance" to verify and correct votes selected and notify the voter if more than or fewer than the maximum number of selections have been made by establishing a voter education program and providing the voter with instructions on how to correct the ballot before it is cast.

Bilingual Ballots

Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act requires the County to provide voting materials in English and Spanish. Previously, the County met the requirement for ballots by providing the language option of English or Spanish on voting units. Since paper ballots will be the primary method of voting in the February, the ballots will be bilingual to satisfy the minority language requirement. Additionally, voting units will still provide the language option.

Single Card Ballot

A single card (10"x17") three-column double-sided ballot will be used for the February election. The number of contests on the ballots range from 8 (non-partisan ballot) to 12 (partisan ballot containing Wildomar Cityhood questions). Reusable secrecy sleeves will be provided to voters place their voted ballots in prior to depositing them in the ballot box.

Voting Booths

The Board approved \$800,000 for the purchase of voting booths as part of the First Quarter Budget Report on October 30, 2007. The requested amount was based on 5 new voting booths for each of 800 polling places at a cost of \$200 each. The Registrar was able to buy 5,000 used voting booths from Los Angeles County (the same booths used in the November UDEL) for \$13.50 each. Minor modifications to the booths are required, but will not exceed \$5 per booth. None of the booths acquired from Los Angeles are disabled accessible; and therefore, one new accessible booth per polling place was purchased for a total cost of \$163,000. The Registrar will work with the County Executive Office on the appropriate handling of the excess funds appropriated.

Vote-by-Mail Ballots

Assembly Bill 1243 (Chapter 507, Statutes of 2007) changed the name of absentee voter and permanent absentee voter to vote-by-mail voter. The first day to mail vote-by-mail ballots is 29 days prior to Election Day. To ensure secrecy of the double-sided ballot, the inside of the return absentee envelope has been tinted red.

Early Voting

Condition 2 of the Secretary's recertification requires a 100% manual tally of all votes cast on early voting units. The County has conducted and grown a very successful early voting program using electronic voting units over the past 7 years. Early voting sites are set up for 10 days in three regional malls prior to the election and the county's 32-foot votemobile (i.e., R.O.V.E.R.) is used to offer early voting to distant and rural areas (such as Blythe), mail ballot precincts, colleges, senior apartment complexes, etc. In November 2006, the Registrar partnered with the Riverside County Transportation Authority (RCTC) to park R.O.V.E.R. at metrolink stations in the evening to offer early voting to commuters. Up to 28,000 ballots have been cast (collectively) during a single early voting period. A 100% manual tally of early voting ballots cannot be accomplished in the 28-day period for canvassing the election. Therefore, the only early voting site in the County for the February election will be the Registrar of Voters office where paper ballots will be provided to voters to cast their ballots prior to Election Day. A voting unit will be available for voters with disabilities.

Riverside is a commuter county and many of our voters are not present in the county on Election Day. The Registrar has notified all non-permanent absentee voters that the early voting program at the malls and on R.O.V.E.R. will no longer be available and informed them of the option of becoming a permanent absentee voter. Since the mailing of those notifications, 47,000 voters have opted to become permanent absentee voters.

Ballot Counting

The six 400C optical scan units have been set up in the ballot counting room. Absentee ballot processing will begin 11 days prior to Election Day. All ballots cast at the polls will be counted on Election Night. Relay teams are being established to facilitate progressive updates for remote areas of the county. It is expected that the final tally on Election Night will take longer with paper ballots than with the prior electronic vote results cartridges.

Don't want to use a voting unit?

**Paper
ballots
gladly
provided
upon
request.**







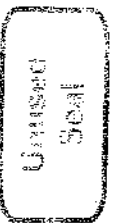




Collection Center Replacement Seal Log November 6, 2007 Consolidated Election

Collection Center Staff, should you need to replace a seal on the Official Returns Envelope, complete the following information. Be sure to return into the bag provided all broken seals.



| Red Seal | Replacement Seal Number | Voting Precinct | Replacement Reason(s) | Collection Center Staff Initials | Inspector Initials |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| | 0028166 | 21852 | un able to seal clear bag | RM | |
| | 0028655 | 21811 | bag not sealed | MM | |
| | 0028308 | 21871 | Clear bag not sealed | MM | |

Collection Center: Glen Avon Library

| Red Seal | Replacement Seal Number | Voting Precinct | Replacement Reason(s) | Collection Center Staff Initials | Inspector Initials |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
|  | 0028496 | 21818 | Clear bag not sealed | MM |  |
|  | 0029645 | 21819 | Clear bag not sealed | MM |  |
|  | 0028407 | 21-822 | Clear bag messy (1) amt, Resealed | B |  |
|  | [Blacked out] | [Blacked out] | [Blacked out] | [Blacked out] | [Blacked out] |
|  | [Blacked out] | [Blacked out] | [Blacked out] | [Blacked out] | [Blacked out] |
|  | [Blacked out] | [Blacked out] | [Blacked out] | [Blacked out] | [Blacked out] |