

County of Santa Clara

Registrar of Voters

1555 Berger Drive, Building 2
San Jose, California 95112
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 611360 San Jose, CA 95161-1360
(408) 299-VOTE (8683) (866) 430-VOTE (8683) FA X (408) 998-7314
www.sccvote.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 23, 2009

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Media Officer
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TUESDAY IS DEADLINE TO REQUEST VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT FOR NOVEMBER 3RD CONSOLIDATED ELECTIONS

Santa Clara County has 216,466 voters who are eligible to participate in the November 3rd Consolidated Elections. Of these voters, more than 154,000 or 72% have been issued a mail ballot.

There is still time for voters to request a Vote by Mail ballot. The deadline to do so is 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 27th (postmarks are not accepted).

Vote by Mail applications are available on the back cover of the Sample Ballot & Voter Information Pamphlet and online at www.sccvote.org. Voters can also sign up to Vote by Mail permanently and automatically receive their ballots by mail before every election.

Voters are encouraged to complete and return their ballots as soon as possible. To date, only 17% of those issued have been returned. Vote by Mail ballots received early are the first to be tallied on Election Night.

Completing Vote by Mail Ballots

Santa Clara County uses paper optical scan ballots to conduct voting by mail. Voters complete their ballots by connecting the arrow next to their selection with a single, unbroken line. Voters can only use blue or black ink on their ballots and should not use other colors or felt pens. Voters should also be careful not to make any stray or extraneous marks, including their name or initials, on their ballot.

Returning Vote by Mail Ballots

Voters must sign the Vote by Mail return envelope for their votes will not be counted. Signatures are used to verify the voter's identity and protect against voting fraud.

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Vote by Mail voters who will be returning their ballots in a blue return envelope will need to apply 44 cents postage. Voters who are returning their ballots in a green return envelope are in a mail ballot precinct and do not need to pay postage.

All completed Vote by Mail ballots must be received by the Registrar of Voters no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day, November 3rd (postmarks not accepted).

Vote by Mail ballots can be returned by mail or in person at the Registrar of Voters' Office. For voters' convenience, ballots may be dropped at any of the City Clerk Offices in the county or at the Santa Clara County Government Center at 70 W. Hedding Street, San Jose, during normal business hours or at the white 24-hour drop box located near the flag pole outside the Registrar's Office. Vote by Mail ballots can also be returned at any Santa Clara County polling place on Election Day. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A full list of ballot drop-off locations is available at www.sccvote.org.

Early and Weekend Voting

After the October 27th deadline, ballots can only be obtained at the Registrar of Voters' Office. The Registrar of Voters' Office is open for Early Voting during normal business hours, Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekend Voting is also available on Saturday, October 31st from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Website

Voters can track the status of their Vote by Mail ballots online at the Registrar of Voters' website, www.sccvote.org, to verify if their returned ballots are received and counted.

Voters can also visit the Registrar's website to find their assigned polling place, check their voter registration status, and download forms like the Voter Registration Form and Vote by Mail Application.

For more information, contact the Registrar of Voters' Office at:

Toll Free:	(866) 430-VOTE [8683]	Spanish:	(408) 282-3095
English:	(408) 299-VOTE [8683]	Vietnamese:	(408) 282-3097
TTY:	(408) 288-9820	Chinese:	(408) 282-3086
Online:	www.sccvote.org	Tagalog:	(408) 535-3916