November Election is over, but the Counting Continues

Overall, Election Day, November 8th went along smoothly, all locations opened and closed on time. The Elections Department was quiet, issuing less than 90 ballots throughout the day. Most voters stopped in to drop off voted ballots. Election workers in the field reported a similarly quiet day.

First Report
The first report, reflecting 18,228 mail ballots (from 16,926 vote by mail and 1,301 mail ballot precinct voters) that had been received and verified up to Friday, November 4th, was released at 8:22 p.m., just after the Department learned there were no voters remaining in any precinct who had not finished marking their ballot. The last precincts were logged in at the Department at 10:30 p.m., but may have arrived earlier had the battery for the truck not died. We must note that, Santa saved the day! Yes, Santa, also known as Eugene Doherty, who is a long-time Field Inspector, learned of the stalled truck and quickly jumped into action getting the truck going before the staff could arrive with jumper cables. Yes, not only does he oversee multiple precincts, he fixes trucks! Thanks Gene!

Semi-Final Report
The semi-final report reflected 22,721 ballots cast for a heartbreaking 17.88% voter turnout (out of 127,091 eligible voters). However, the official canvass of the vote will reflect a small increase. There are just over 8,000 ballots left to count after Election Day. The majority are vote by mail ballots received in the mail and dropped at the polls on
Election Day (7,460), as well as 474 provisional ballots. The remaining ballots (120) are both vote by mail and polling place ballots that require review for possible duplication, if damaged, to be counted. In the end, the turnout may be approximately 24%.

**Canvass of the Vote**

In odd-numbered years, the deadline to canvass the vote is shortened from 28 days to the “Monday before the last Friday of the month,” which for this year is Monday, November 21st – giving the Department just 13 days to finish, which will require staff to work on the holiday in order to complete the canvass of the vote in time. During the canvass, the Department will:

- Scan all roster indexes to capture voter history
- Process all remaining vote by mail and provisional ballots
- Review, duplicate and remake otherwise unreadable ballots to capture voter intent
- Reconcile returns from all precincts
- Conduct the required manual tally of results, including meeting any increased post-election manual tally requirements for close contests
- Process payroll for all election officers and field inspectors
- Prepare certificates of election for all candidates and local governing bodies for adoption
- Package and seal all returns for storage and retention for six months

**Election Result Updates Schedule**

The Department has a general Results Reporting Schedule and plans to release updates by the end of the day each Friday until complete.

The Department will randomly select precincts and begin the manual tally process the day after the election. This is a bit earlier than typical, due to the very short canvass deadline. For a schedule of the official canvass and observation of activities, visit the Department’s website and select the link for “Latest News and Postings.”

**Thank You!**

Once again we’d like to say **THANK YOU** to all of those who helped out during the November election. We cannot succeed without you! Payroll can take up to six weeks to process so your patience is appreciated. Remember, you will not receive a separate check for your duties; your pay will appear in your bi-weekly County paycheck.

We would also like to give a “holler” to Ana Galvez, a volunteer through the County Election Official Program from the District Attorney’s Office and lead inspector at Everett Alvarez High School. She was the first to return her precinct materials to the Department’s dock for processing! Nice job!!
Public Art Exhibit Opens at the Government Center

The Monterey County Government Center in Salinas will get a make-over next week, when new artwork will go up on the walls of the building.

The exhibition is a partnership with the Arts Council for Monterey County, now in its 6th year. More than 40 fine art paintings and photographs of Monterey County scenes will be featured in the hallways of all three floors of the building. In addition, children’s artwork will be displayed in the Monterey Room on the second floor. The new artwork will be installed next week, with an opening planned for November 16th.

County staff may see some familiar names on walls - several county employees are among the artists whose work was selected by a jury to be part of the exhibition.

Congratulations to Ma Mon, Auditor Controller’s Office; Jaime Ayala, Contracts and Purchasing Division, Administration; and Robin Sue Kimball, Health Department.