

# NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino  
[www.sbcounty.gov](http://www.sbcounty.gov)



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
**AT YOUR SERVICE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2, 2010

For more information, contact  
David Wert, Public Information Officer  
(909) 387-4717  
[dwert@sbcounty.gov](mailto:dwert@sbcounty.gov)

---

## Midday ballot collection pilot program canceled

A pilot program aimed at speeding up the vote counting in future elections was called off today before it was launched amid concern expressed by the California Secretary of State's office that the program might not be allowed under the State Election Code.

County attorneys had examined the Election Code and determined the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters could collect full ballot boxes before polling places close in order to get an early jump on processing ballots. The registrar had planned on collecting ballots from 18 of the county's 501 polling places to test the procedure for future elections.

County Counsel relied upon a provision of the code that states, "If ballots are counted by means of electronic, electromechanical, or punchcard device, the elections official may provide for early tabulation."

"We will not argue with the Secretary of State's office on Election Day in defense of a pilot program," said San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters. Kari Verjil. "We will conduct today's election as we always have and re-examine the possibility of midday collections and processing prior to a future election."

Traditionally, ballots are delivered to the Registrar of Voters after the polling places close. Ballots are two cards, front and back, require hand processing to tear off stubs, sort, and bundle into batches before scanning through vote counting machines. Currently, manual processes begin after 9:30 p.m. on election night. Processing requires hours of manual labor and require hundreds of staff.

"The news media and candidates have been frustrated by how long it has taken to produce election results since the Secretary of State decertified electronic voting. Collecting and processing ballots midday is the only thing that will speed up the process," Verjil said Monday in announcing the program.