

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
www.sbcounty.gov



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
AT YOUR SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 1, 2010

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

Early collection pilot program aims to speed up vote count

In an effort to speed up vote counting in future elections, the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters will conduct a pilot program during Tuesday's election in which ballots will be collected from selected polling places midday and processed.

Traditionally, ballots are returned to the Registrar of Voters after the polling places close and then are delivered to the registrar's office in San Bernardino for processing and counting. 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," said San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters Kari Verjil.

For this election, the registrar will conduct midday collections at 18 of the county's 501 polling places. The pilot locations will be at polling places where turnout is expected to be high. The county is not expecting the pilot program to have a sizable impact on this election. However, if the program is successful, it will be expanded for future elections.

Security measures are in place for the midday retrieval and delivery of ballot boxes to the Registrar of Voters. A sheriff's deputy will be on-site to guard the ballots while the manual processing begins.

In an attempt to speed up results for this election, the registrar has expanded the fleet of vehicles that will shuttle ballot boxes from the western and desert portions of the county after the polls close.