

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS INTRODUCES IMPROVEMENTS FOR NOV. 8 ELECTION**  
*Targeted changes aim for voter convenience, accuracy and efficiency, tax savings*

Election Day is November 8, and the Elections Office of the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters is introducing a number of improvements to provide the public with better service at their polling places, speed up the vote count, and reduce the burden to taxpayers.

Voters will still have three options for casting a ballot. They can choose to visit the polling place listed on the back cover of their sample ballot pamphlet, mail or drop off their vote-by-mail ballot, or visit the Elections Office in San Bernardino to cast their vote early.

The most significant change will involve the consolidation of polling places. Rather than continue to fund and operate polling places that consistently serve very few voters, the registrar is creating multi-precinct polling places with new procedures designed to speed up service to poll voters, better staffing, improved parking and accessibility, and - for the first time ever - the availability of bilingual services at all locations.

Consolidating polling places makes sense in light of turnout patterns in recent elections. In 2009, the average turnout at the county's 245 polling places was 45 voters at each location. In fact, there were 35 locations that had fewer than 10 voters all day and almost 100 locations that had 20 or fewer voters in 13 hours.

"I want to provide every possible convenience to voters during the election," said San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters Michael Scarpello. "By significantly increasing the ease of voting by mail, including more local drop-off locations in every voting community, and by improving the quality of polling places throughout the county, we are making the voting experience faster and more convenient. I am confident voters will see the benefits of the adjustment we are making at the polling places and will appreciate overall improved service."

While voters may find that the polling place to which they are assigned has changed, and that the distance may be slightly farther, the registrar is making every effort to ensure that no voter will be burdened with having to travel an extreme distance to their polling place.

In consolidating polling places for this year's election, the following was considered:

- Voters generally will not have to cross barriers such as freeways, train tracks or city boundaries to reach their polling places.
- Polling places are in easy to locate, well-known and well-maintained facilities that have adequate and ADA-accessible parking and are located on main thoroughfares.
- The number of poll workers at any polling place is directly tied to the expected turnout at the polling place.

The total savings in rent, delivery fees, field personnel, ballots, supplies, and poll workers is expected to exceed \$100,000 for this election. Scarpello believes that more savings for taxpayers can be realized in future elections.

The registrar has also made it a priority to make voting by mail easier and more convenient for those who would rather vote in the comfort of their own homes than wait for Election Day and travel to a polling place. More mail ballot drop-off locations have been established for those who prefer to drop-off their ballot in person rather than pay postage. Many city clerk's offices and local libraries will host these drop-off sites.

Early voting began October 11<sup>th</sup> and will continue through Election Day. Voters may visit the Elections Office in San Bernardino to cast their ballot in-person before Election Day, weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. as well as Saturday, November 5, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### **Key Dates and Information**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Event:</b>
October 12 – 14	Sample ballots mailed to voters within districts with contests on ballot
October 11 – November 7	Early voting at the Elections Office in San Bernardino
October 15	Mail ballots sent to vote-by-mail voters
October 24	Last day to register to vote in this election
November 1	Last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot
November 8	<b>ELECTION DAY</b>
November 8	Deadline for mail ballots – 8 p.m. Ballots must be received at the Elections Office by 8:00 pm on Election Day in order to be accepted. Ballots received after 8 p.m. must be rejected. A ballot postmarked by 8 p.m., but not received, must be rejected.

### **Contests on the Ballot**

City of Hesperia

- Measure F

Chaffey Community College District

- Governing Board Member, Full Term

Baker Valley Unified School District

- Governing Board Member, Full Term

San Bernardino City Unified School District

- Governing Board Member, Full Term

City of San Bernardino

- City Attorney, Full Term
- City Clerk, Full Term
- City Treasurer, Full Term
- Council Member, Third Ward, Full Term
- Council Member, Fifth Ward, Full Term
- Council Member, Sixth Ward, Full Term
- Council Member, Seventh Ward, Full Term

Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District

- Director, Full Term
- Measure G

Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency

- Director, Short Term

## Return of Vote-By-Mail Ballots

- Voters may mail their ballots via the U.S. Postal Service by November 3. Ballots must be received at the Elections Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day in order to be accepted. Ballots received after 8 p.m. must be rejected. A ballot postmarked by 8 p.m. on Election Day, but not received in the Elections Office, must be rejected.
- Voters may drop off their ballots at the following locations:

Elections Office of the Registrar of Voters  
777 E. Rialto Ave.  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

**City Clerks** in the following cities during regular business hours:  
Chino Hills, Fontana, Hesperia, Highland, Montclair, Rancho Cucamonga,  
Rialto, Upland.

**San Bernardino County Libraries** during regular business hours; Chino Branch Library, Chino Hills Branch Library, Summit Branch Library (Fontana), Fontana Lewis Library & Technology Center, Kaiser Branch Library (Fontana), Hesperia Branch Library, Highland Library & Learning Center, Montclair Branch Library, Phelan Memorial Library, Rialto Branch Library

- At any polling place within the county on Election Day, until 8 p.m.

For more information about this election, please call (800) 881-VOTE (8683) or visit the Elections Office of the Registrar of Voters website at [www.sbcrov.com](http://www.sbcrov.com).