



DEAN C. LOGAN
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2, 2008

CONTACT: Marcia Ventura (562) 462-2726 or
Eileen Shea (562) 462-2648

REGISTRAR REASSURES VOTERS OF BALLOT AVAILABILITY

Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean Logan tonight reassured L.A. County voters that the county has planned for record turnout and is equipping polls with sufficient numbers of ballots and a contingency plan to ensure all voters are served on Tuesday. Logan's statement comes in response to a letter received Sunday evening from an advocacy group called "Work the Vote Los Angeles" expressing concerns about adequate ballot supply.

As the largest jurisdiction in the nation with over 4.3 million registered voters, Los Angeles County begins preparing for a major election approximately one year in advance of Election Day. Ballot quantities are determined based on many factors including voting trends and voter registration numbers. Ballots are ordered several months before an election. The ballot card order is an intricate process that requires significant lead time to properly identify quantities for each polling place, printing, quality control and distribution to poll workers.

"Our ballot order was prepared with record voter participation in mind," said Logan. "We have closely monitored voter registration activity since the ballot order was placed and in those precincts where there was significant growth, we ordered additional ballots." County elections officials have also tracked vote by mail and early voting activities to gauge the impact on precinct turnout and ballot supply. "The significant numbers of voters voting through the mail or in our early voting program is a factor in estimating the number of voters who will visit their polling place on Election Day."

In the event of a ballot shortage, the county has contingency plans that include the delivery of additional ballots to the polls and the use of emergency ballot supplies. Poll workers are trained to contact roaming coordinators and/or other designated County personnel in the event they believe ballot card supplies are low. Coordinators are provided with additional ballots for distribution to polling

MORE

places. Regional distribution sites are located throughout the County with additional ballots and other Election Day supplies to reduce wait times for access to additional materials.

If needed, a contingency plan on file with the Secretary of State permits poll workers to issue emergency/demonstration ballots that are already at the polls for voting purposes.

Emergency/demonstration ballots are generic ballots that are not coded, which allows them to be used at any polling place if necessary. During the required 28-day post-election canvass, County staff will properly account for emergency/demonstration ballots to ensure they are counted in the corresponding precinct where they were cast.

Due to the historic nature of this election, Los Angeles County has already seen unprecedented interest during the early voting period that began on October 6th. A record 1 million plus voters have requested vote by mail ballots and approximately 50% of those voters have already returned their ballots. Furthermore, over 20,000 voters have opted to take advantage of the County's early voting program and all indications are that Election Day will exceed prior voter turnout records.

"Los Angeles County is committed to ensuring that all voters are able to cast their vote on Election Day," said Logan, "and several fail-safe processes are in place to make sure that everyone's voice is heard."

For further information, please visit www.lavote.net or call (800) 815-2666.

#