

LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

DEAN C. LOGAN Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

October 31, 2024

TO: Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, Chair Supervisor Hilda L. Solis Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell Supervisor Janice Hahn Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Dean C. Logan C. Logan Registrar-Recorder/County Clork

ELECTION STATUS UPDATE – NOVEMBER 5, 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

This report is to inform your Board of our preparation and operations for the November 5, 2024 Presidential General Election. The election status update supports the Department's ongoing commitment to fair, accessible, and transparent election services.

Vote by Mail

As of October 31st, the Department has issued 5,783,181 ballots, and 1,124,865 have been returned. This observed rate of return continues to be lower than what was observed in other similar elections such as the November 2020 Presidential Election and September 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election. While we have noted a recent uptick, it remains unclear if this trend is the result of a lower turnout in this election or a shift in voter behavior. Possible changes in voter behavior are returning ballots closer to Election Day or shifting from Vote by Mail (VBM) to in-person voting. The Department continues to monitor the situation and prepare to ensure smooth operations and timely results throughout the election.

Voters continue to return ballots through the Ballot Drop Boxes (501,694) and the United States Postal Service (583,967). In addition, voters are now returning their ballots to the 122 Vote Centers (36,472) that are open. The Department encourages Vote by Mail as a safe and convenient method for voting. Voters are strongly encouraged to return VBM ballots early. We anticipate that any VBM ballots received at the Ballot Processing Center by November 1st will be processed in time to be tallied on Election Night (November 5th). The Department will process ballots received after November 1st as quickly as possible, with the goal of maximizing the number of ballots included in the election results reported on Election Night. Preparations have been made to process the significant volume of Vote by Mail ballots we anticipate receiving on Election Day.

A variety of VBM resources are available on our <u>website</u>. Voters can request their VBM ballot and materials in 19 languages. The <u>"Where's My Ballot?"</u> tool is available and allows voters to track their ballot and request a replacement VBM ballot.

Vote Centers

Voting services are available at the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) Headquarters in Norwalk, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. On Election Day (November 5th), those hours are extended to 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM. As of October 21st, there have been 305 voters checked in at the RR/CC Headquarters Vote Center.

A total of 648 Vote Centers located across the County are secured and scheduled for this election. The first 122 Vote Centers opened on Saturday, October 26^{th} . On Saturday, November 2^{nd} , an additional 526 Vote Centers will open. Vote Centers will open daily from 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM before Election Day and 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM on Election Day. The <u>Vote Center Locator Tool</u> provides assistance to voters in finding a location of their preference, driving directions, and a wait time indicator.

Vote Center postcards were mailed to every registered voter, listing the nearest 11-day location and the three nearest 4-day locations to each voter's residence. The postcard also included information on how voters can expedite their in-person experience using the Quick Check-In Code provided in the Sample Ballot or the Poll Pass and includes information on options for returning VBM ballots. The distribution of the Vote Center postcard mailing was completed on October 21st.

International Election Observation

As the largest and most diverse election jurisdiction in the United States, Los Angeles County is frequently the subject of election observation. As the only jurisdiction currently using a publicly owned and operated voting system, the international community is interested in observing elections in Los Angeles County. There are multiple international groups in Los Angeles to observe the November Presidential General Election. The groups include a delegation from Transparencia Electoral, an international organization that works on voting and democracy issues in the Americas. The delegation will primarily consist of observers from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and Ecuador.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is conducting short term and long-term observation missions in Los Angeles County. My office met with the longterm observers at the Los Angeles County Ballot Processing Center for an interview and a tour of our facilities. The short-term mission will visit Vote Centers in Los Angeles County on Election Day. The OSCE mission consists of observers from Luxembourg, Belgium, Albania, Croatia, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Georgia, Tajikistan, and the United Kingdom.

Los Angeles Dodgers Championship Parade Impact

The Los Angeles Dodgers are scheduled to hold their World Series Championship parade and celebration on Friday, November 1st beginning at 11:00 AM. The parade route will begin at the Gloria Molina Grand Park and continue through Downtown Los Angeles. There are multiple road closures scheduled for this parade which will impact access to services in the area. The parade path will directly impact one Vote Center, located at the Music Center

and two Ballot Drop Boxes, located at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration and the Los Angeles Central Library. There are two additional Ballot Drop Boxes at the Little Tokyo Branch Library and Chinatown Branch Library, located near the celebration and may be impacted.

The Ballot Drop Boxes and Vote Center will remain open during the Dodger's Championship parade and celebration. Any voters in the area will have the opportunity to vote or drop off their ballots. We have made arrangements to ensure our staffing and operations are prepared to provide election services during the event.

The Department is working closely with the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, and the Dodgers to minimize the impact on our operations. Our social media teams will communicate to voters about the potential impact to services and to provide critical information.

Voting in Jails

The in-person Voting in Jails program is underway at all LA County jail facilities for this election. The program is conducted leveraging our Flex Vote Centers. The program is operated in partnership with the Sheriff's Department and has expanded with each election. Through this program, the RR/CC brings the full range of voting options and services provided by our Vote Centers into each jail facility. This includes the Electronic Pollbook, Ballot Marking Device (with language and accessibility features), and Conditional Voter Registration services. This a unique program that reflects your Board's vision on equity and care first and the Department's commitment to removing barriers and increasing voting access for all eligible voters in Los Angeles County.

An interview with ABC7 was conducted on Thursday, October 31, 2024, at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility. The interview was in partnership with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and featured myself and Paula L. Tokar, Assistant Sheriff Custody Operations. The interview highlighted the Voting in Jails program and raised awareness of the importance of voting for justice-involved individuals.

Mobile Voting Program

Mobile and Flex Vote Centers have been deployed across the County. There are 90 scheduled Flex Vote Center events, where we will deliver voting services to geographically isolated voters, seniors, voters with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, justice-involved, and underserved communities. There are 45 scheduled Mobile Vote Center events at a mix of large-scale, high-traffic events and locations with essential workers.

The Department has five Pop Up Vote Center teams stationed across the County for contingency purposes. These teams allow us to respond to emergencies at Vote Centers and quickly restore voting services. Mobile and Flex Vote Center resources serve as contingency teams on Election Day, increasing our contingency resources to twenty teams. Contingency teams are deployed as needed to assist with various issues such as power outages, equipment failure, staffing challenges, and expanding capacity at high turnout Vote Centers.

Election Observer Program

The Department conducts an extensive *Election Observer Program* as part of our commitment to open and transparent elections. The Election Observer Program provides an opportunity for public observation of critical election processes to maintain integrity, encourage participation, and build voter confidence. Election Observers are provided access to Vote Centers, Check-in Centers, and the Ballot Processing Center to observe voting and election procedures. Some observable activities occurring at the Ballot Processing Center are:

- Logic and accuracy testing of the voting system to conduct a central count of Vote by Mail (VBM) and in-person ballots.
- VBM operations (incoming ballots, Automated signature verification, data processing, ballot extraction, remakes, Ballot preparation for tally)
- · Processing provisional and conditional ballots received at the Vote Center
- Ballot transportation and delivery at a Check-in Center.
- Ballot intake, preparation, and storage.
- Vote tally and reporting on Election Night.

The Election Observer Program at the Ballot Processing Center runs from October 7th to November 29th, the tentative date for the completion of the post-election canvass. Election observers are encouraged to check the public schedule of events on LAVOTE.GOV and must comply with all Election Observer Panel Plan Rules and Guidelines.

The Department held an orientation for election observers on October 18, 2024, providing comprehensive training on their rights, how to escalate issues during the election process, and the proper channels for reporting concerns. The orientation also included an open Q&A session to address any questions from community organizations interested in observing the upcoming election. This ensures a transparent and secure voting process while enhancing community trust.

A variety of Election Observer resources and tools are available on our website:

Public Observation Landing Page Election Observer Panel Plan Observation Rules and Guidelines Observation Schedule of Events

Language Access

Multilingual election workers are a critical component of the Department's in-language access to voting services. These workers are provided in addition to the in-language Ballot Marking Device experience, in-language VBM ballot experience, and multilingual hotline that can be accessed at any Vote Center for assistance in any of our supported languages. Internal recruitment targets are set using a data-driven process that takes Census data and information modeled off a surname survey conducted by Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California. The Department assigns multilingual election workers where their skills are most needed based on the needs of the community.

The Department developed and executed a comprehensive language recruitment plan for the election. This plan included a dedicated election worker recruitment outreach team that attended events in communities to identify and recruit election workers. In addition, the Department leveraged social media outreach, Next Door posts, and marketing materials developed for and shared with our partners. The Language Access Advisory Committee is assisting with the recruitment of election workers, and a subcommittee focused on multilingual recruitment has been created.

Election worker recruitment targets have been met or exceeded for 14 of the 18 supported languages (not including English). The recruitment status is as follows:

Khmer	Japanese	Thai	Gujurati
63 recruited of	84 recruited of	98 recruited of	178 recruited of
164 targeted	169 targeted	164 targeted	183 targeted
38.4%	49.7%	59.8%	97.3%

The recruitment of Gujurati speaking election workers is near completion. The recruitment of Khmer, Japanese, and Thai speaking election workers is a priority. The Department is focusing ongoing efforts to conduct targeted outreach in our highest need languages. We are engaging local ethnic media partners to assist in our recruitment efforts for highest need languages such as AAPI languages. This recruitment sprint will continue as we head into the voting period.

The Department is piloting the use of a real-time interpretation device to supplement our multilingual capabilities at Vote Centers. This device will allow our Election Workers to assist voters in 82 different languages. The pilot will take place at ten Vote Centers for the election. The Vote Center locations were selected by identifying locations with the greatest demand for language access based on our data-driven multilingual election worker targeting. This device augments our multilingual hotline or the multilingual election worker program. The effectiveness of the pilot will be determined via a survey for voters and election workers as well as an analysis of the data captured by the device. The Department's Language Accessibility Advisory Committee has been briefed on the pilot and will be involved in the evaluation.

Executive Dashboard

The attached Executive Dashboard (Attachment I) contains critical updates on election preparation activities. This dashboard will be included with all future status updates and will evolve over time to reflect operational priorities.

Departmental Contacts

Contact Information for Voters

Phone:(800) 815-2666Email:voterinfo@rrcc.lacounty.govWebsite:lavote.gov

Resources for Media/Communications Deputies <u>Election Results</u> <u>Fact Sheets</u> <u>Press Releases</u> <u>Outreach Toolkit</u>

Media/Communications Contact Michael Sanchez, Communications Manager 562-462-2648 – office 562-274-3938 – mobile msanchez@rrcc.lacounty.gov

Election Contacts

We appreciate the partnership with your offices in our efforts to serve voters and allow them to exercise their fundamental right to vote. Your respective offices have been provided with a dedicated contact to assist in responding to election-related inquiries.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 462-2716 or email <u>dlogan@rrcc.lacounty.gov</u>. Your staff may also contact Adrian Avelar, Executive Assistant at (562) 345-8372 or email <u>aavelar@rrcc.lcounty.gov</u> for any urgent or pressing matters.

DCL:JG AA:cc

Attachment

c: Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

NOVEMBER PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION STATUS UPDATE DASHBOARD 3



Vote Centers

- 648 total Vote Centers available for the November General Election
 - 122 Vote Centers opened on Saturday, October 26th
 - 526 Vote Centers scheduled to open on Saturday, November 2nd
- 82,028 Voter Check-ins
- 36,472 Ballots dropped off



Vote by Mail

- 5,783,181 Vote by Mail Ballots Issued
- 1,124,865 Vote by Mail Ballots Returned



Ballot Drop Boxes

- 426 Ballot Drop Boxes
 - Opened on October 3rd
 - Ballots are retrieved daily at all locations
- 501,694 ballots received

Language Access

Nearly 404,000 VBM Ballots issued in a language other than English.

Languages	Voters Requesting Materials	Languages	Voters Requesting Materials
Spanish	278,308	Russian	1,551
Chinese	51,716	Khmer	1,481
Korean	39,856	Hindi	639
Vietnamese	13,777	Bengali	423
Tagalog	5,642	Burmese	261
Japanese	3,169	Indonesian	196
Thai	3,159	Gujarati	192
Armenian	2,212	Telugu	72
Farsi	1,980	Mongolian	47