

LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

March 4, 2024

TO: Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, Chair

Supervisor Hilda L. Solis Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell Supervisor Janice Hahn Supervisor Kathryn Barger

C: Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Dean C. Logan Seau C. Logan

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

STATUS UPDATE - MARCH 5, 2024 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

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

Vote by Mail

As of March 3rd, the Department has issued 5.7 million ballots, and 516,476 have been returned. Voters are returning their ballots through our Ballot Drop Boxes and the United States Postal Service. The Department encourages VBM as the safest and most convenient method for voting.

A variety of VBM resources are available on our <u>website</u>. Voters may request to receive their VBM ballot and materials in 19 languages. Voters can also sign up for <u>"Where's My Ballot?"</u> to track their ballot and request a replacement VBM ballot.

Vote Centers

In-person voting services are available at the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) Headquarters, in Norwalk, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM. On Election Day (March 5^{th}), those hours are extended to 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM.

On Saturday, March 2nd, 525 Vote Centers opened bringing the total number of Vote Center to 644. Vote Centers are open daily from 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM before Election Day and 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM on Election Day. The Vote Center Locator Tool provides assistance to voters

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in finding a location of their preference, driving directions, and a wait time indicator. As of March 3rd, there have been 39,398 check-ins across our Vote Centers.

A Vote Center postcard mailing was 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 includes 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.

Voter Turnout

We have noted a slower rate of VBM return and fewer check-ins at Vote Centers for this election compared to similar elections. Like other critical services that the County provides, equity, availability, and accessibility remain paramount in our voting model. While we would like to see a higher turnout, we understand that there are a variety of factors that influence the participation levels. The tables below include the overall turnout and by Supervisorial District as of March 3rd.

Method	Votes
Vote Centers	39,398
Vote by Mail	516,476
Total	555,874 (9.83% turnout)

Method	First District Votes	Second District Votes	Third District Votes	Fourth District Votes	Fifth District Votes
Vote					
Centers	5,746	5,208	9,316	7,966	11,162
Vote by					
Mail	75,469	86,028	125,246	101,545	128,188
	81,215		134,562	109,511	139,350
Total	(7.92%)	91,236 (8.39%)	(11.15%)	(9.26%)	(12.09%)

Election Results Reporting

The election tally will begin on March 5th at 8:00 PM at the Ballot Processing Center in the City of Industry. The schedule for election night is as follows:

- Begin Ballot Tabulation: March 5th, 8:00 PM
- Vote by Mail ballots cast before Election Day: 8:15 PM 8:30 PM
- Vote Center ballots cast before Election Day: 8:30 PM 8:45 PM
- Vote Center ballots cast on Election Day: 9:30 PM TBD

The remaining ballots will be processed and tallied during the Official Canvass Period. These subsequent election results will include VBM ballots returned on or postmarked by Election Day.

The post-Election Day results schedule is as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Thursday		Friday
-	-	March 6	March 7	March 8
March 11	March 12	March 13	March 14	March 15
March 18	March 19	-	-	March 22
				March 29
-	March 26	-	-	(If needed)

Election results updates may take place over the weekend if required. The election is expected to be certified on March 29th.

Services for Military Voters and Overseas Citizens

The Department operates multiple programs aimed towards engaging our active service military, veterans, military families, and overseas citizens. Eligible voters can access voting via a Vote by Mail ballot and expanded return options. These ballots are sent earlier to ensure timely delivery and can be returned by mail, fax, or electronically using the Remote Accessible Vote by Mail system.

The Department is proud to collaborate with the *Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs*, as well as *We the Veterans* to engage veterans as Election Workers. Veterans and their families bring a valuable skill set that resonates with the tasks performed at the Vote Center. There have been 262 Veterans and 583 family members recruited to serve as Election Workers for the March Presidential Primary Election. This program has been a great success, and the Department will continue to work towards expanding it for the General Election in November.

Mobile Voting Program

Mobile, Flex, and Pop-Up Vote Centers are deployed across the County in each countywide election. Flex Vote Centers deliver voting services to geographically isolated voters, seniors, voters with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, justice-involved, and underserved communities. Mobile Vote Centers are deployed to a mix of large-scale, high-traffic events and locations with essential workers. There have been 88 Flex Vote and 45 Mobile Vote Center events for the March Presidential Primary Election.

Five Pop Up Vote Center teams are located across the County for contingency purposes. Mobile and Flex Vote Center teams will serve as contingency resources on Election Day, increasing our Election Day response resources to twenty teams. These resources allow us to respond to emergencies at our Vote Centers and restore voting services. Contingency teams are deployed on an as-needed basis to assist with various issues such as equipment failure, staffing challenges, and expanding capacity at high turnout Vote Centers.

Voting in Jails

The *Voting in Jails Program* brought in-person voting to all LA County jail facilities for the March Presidential Primary Election. This program was conducted leveraging our Flex Vote Centers in partnership with the Sheriff's Department. The full range of voting options and services provided by our Vote Centers were available. This includes the Electronic Pollbook, Ballot Marking Device (with language and accessibility features), Presidential Primary Ballot Crossover, and Conditional Voter Registration services. Over the course of the program there were 198 voters who participated in the election. This is an important program that allows the Department to remove barriers and increase voting access for eligible voters in Los Angeles County.

Saturday 2/24/2024	Sunday 2/25/2024	Monday 2/26/2024	Tuesday 2/27/2024
Century Regional Detention Facility Voting: 8 AM - 12 PM 70 Voters	Pitchess Detention Center Voting: 10 AM - 2 PM 31 Voters	Men's Central Jail Voting: 8 AM - 12 PM 8 Voters	Men's Central Jail Voting: 8 AM - 12 PM 25 Voters
			Pitchess Detention Center Voting: 10 AM - 2 PM 13 Voters

Wednesday 2/28/2024	Thursday 2/29/2024	Friday 3/1/2024
	Twin Towers	Twin Towers
Men's Central Jail	Correctional Facility	Correctional Facility
Voting: 8 AM - 12 PM	Voting: 8 AM - 12 PM	Voting: 8 AM - 12 PM
21 Voters	23 Voters	7 Voters

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 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 vote tabulation system used 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 voter registration ballots received at Vote Centers.

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- Ballot transportation and delivery at a Check-in Center.
- Ballot intake, preparation, and storage.
- Vote tally and reporting on Election Night.
- Post election canvassing and retention of election materials.

The Election Observer Program at the Ballot Processing Center started on February 11th and runs through March 29th. 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*.

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) 815-2666

Email: voterinfo@rrcc.lacounty.gov

Website: <u>lavote.gov</u>

Resources for Media/Communications Deputies

Election Results
Fact Sheets
Press Releases
Outreach Toolkit

Media/Communications Contact

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

Election Contact

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 resolving any issues.

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.lacounty.gov</u>.

DCL:JG AA:cc

Attachment

EXECUTIVE DASHBOARD PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION STATUS UPDATE



Vote Centers as of 3/3/24

- 644 Vote Centers open across the County
- 39,398 voters checked in at a Vote Center



Vote by Mail as of 3/3/24

- 5,701,697 Vote by Mail ballots issued
- 516,476 Vote by Mail ballots returned



Return Sources

- Approximately 329,459 via the United States Postal Service
- Approximately 166,519 returned to secure Ballot Drop Boxes
- Approximately 20,499 returned to Vote Centers



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Vote by Mail	75,469	86,028	125,246	101,545	128,188
Total	81,215 (7.92%)	91,236 (8.39%)	134,562 (11.15%)	109,511 (9.26%)	139,350 (12.09%)