

# County of Santa Clara

## Registrar of Voters

1555 Berger Drive, Building 2  
San Jose, California 95112  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1147, San Jose, CA 95108  
(408) 299-VOTE (8683) (866) 430-VOTE (8683) FAX (408) 998-7314  
www.sccvote.org



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 5, 2007

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Media Officer  
(408) 282-3008

## **REGISTRAR ENCOURAGES VOTING BY MAIL IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Office began mailing Permanent Vote by Mail Applications to approximately 300,000 registered voters this week.

The mailing is part of the Registrar's ongoing campaign to increase voters' awareness of the Permanent Vote by Mail Program, formerly called Permanent Absentee Voting. Since 2002 the number of voters registered as Permanent Vote by Mail in the county has grown from just 9,000 to over 364,000. The Registrar's Office expects that this number will continue to grow as more voters learn about it. The county's goal is to have 500,000 Permanent Vote by Mail voters by next year's November Presidential General Election.

The Registrar's Office previously sent similar mailings in April and September 2007. Since the beginning of this campaign, over 130,000 voters have signed up to Vote by Mail permanently.

Voting by Mail's popularity is due largely to its convenience and security. It allows voters to cast their ballots from the comfort of home whenever it fits their busy schedules. It also gives voters the security of knowing that all Vote by Mail return envelopes are signature-verified to protect the integrity of the election.

### **How Voting by Mail Works**

Vote by Mail ballots are usually mailed about four weeks before Election Day, giving voters ample time to review all election materials and make their choices.

Ballots are marked by completing the arrow next to a voter's selection with a single, unbroken line. Voters should remember to use blue or black ink and read all instructions carefully before marking the ballot.

Once the ballot is completed, it is sealed in the provided return envelope, which must be signed by the voter. Signatures are required so the Registrar's Officer can check the

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validity of the ballot. Signed envelopes are separated from ballots before they are counted to protect voters' privacy.

Ballots can be returned by mail, in person at the Registrar's Office, or at any Santa Clara County polling place on Election Day. All ballots must be received by the Registrar's Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day (postmarks not accepted).

## **How to Apply**

Permanent Vote by Mail is an option available to all registered voters, and signing up is easy.

Voters who receive the Permanent Vote by Mail Application in the mail only have to sign the postage-paid reply card and drop it in the mail. The application is being sent to all registered voters who do not currently have Permanent Vote by Mail status.

The Permanent Vote by Mail Application is also available online at [www.sccvote.org](http://www.sccvote.org) or from the Registrar's Office, 1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, San Jose.

For more information, contact the Registrar of Voters' Office at:

Toll Free: (866) 430-VOTE [8683]	Spanish: (408) 282-3095
English: (408) 299-VOTE [8683]	Vietnamese: (408) 282-3097
TTY: (408) 288-9820	Chinese: (408) 282-3086
Online: <a href="http://www.sccvote.org">www.sccvote.org</a>	Tagalog: (408) 535-3916

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