



REBECCA MARTINEZ

COUNTY CLERK - RECORDER AND REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Strong Voter Turnout; Ballot Counting Continues

New Voting System Leads to Improved Turnout, Ballot Printer Acknowledges Mistake

Madera, CA – The Madera County Elections Department is continuing to process ballots and is calling the midterm turnout an overwhelming success.

“My hope has always been to increase turnout,” explained County Registrar Rebecca Martinez. “Implementing the Voter’s Choice Act and making the voting process more convenient, more accessible, and more efficient has proven to yield the results we were hoping for. All Madera County voters should be proud, I know that I am proud of them!”

With just over 1,500 ballots remaining to be counted, Madera County turnout is already at 65%, over 13% higher than the last midterm election in 2014. According to data provided on the Registrar’s website, 65% turnout will make this midterm turnout higher than any midterm in the last 20 years, as far back as online records go.

“The team has done a magnificent job from the very beginning,” stated Martinez. “Our cadre of Vote Center workers, the team at my office, County employees and the support we received from our vote center hosts was simply remarkable.”

Madera County did discover a mistake was made by the County’s contracted ballot printer. Approximately 400 voters in the Madera area were sent ballots that included an extra local contest. After receiving a call from a concerned voter the Friday before Election Day, the Elections Department immediately notified the ballot printer and officials began looking into the issue. The contracted ballot printer, ProVote Solutions of Porterville, CA confirmed that they were able to identify both the mistake and the remedy to prevent it from happening again.

“Voters who voted at a Vote Center received the correct ballot,” explained Stephanie Sibley, the Elections Division Manager. “We were able to isolate most of the returned vote by mail ballots and correct the error. Approximately 183 incorrect ballots were counted.”

The Elections Department conducted extensive research while carefully maintaining the integrity of the process and was able to determine the complete number of ballots affected. Once the research was complete they began notifying affected candidates. In all but one contest the issue did not impact the outcome of the election based on the election results so far. Madera Unified School District Trustee Area 5 remains a very close contest and both candidates have been briefed by the Registrar of Voters on the matter.

The next update of election results is scheduled to be completed by 5:00pm on Friday, November 16th. The results are posted on the Elections website at www.votemadera.com.

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