

1 SHARON L. ANDERSON (SBN 94814)
County Counsel
2 THOMAS L. GEIGER (SBN 199729)
Supervising Deputy County Counsel
3 COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA
651 Pine Street, 9th Floor
4 Martinez, California 94553
Telephone: (925) 335-1800
5 Facsimile: (925) 646-1078

6 Attorneys for
Contra Costa County Registrar of Voters Stephen Weir

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K. JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA, CALIF.
FILED BY: COUNTY CLERK

7
8 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
9 COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA

10
11 JOYCE ELLIS,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 STEPHEN L. WEIR, et al.,

15 Defendants.

Case No. C 10-03265

**DECLARATION OF
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR OF
VOTERS CANDY LOPEZ**

Date: Nov. 5, 2010

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Dept.: 60

16
17
18
19 I, Candy Lopez, declare:

20 1. I am the Assistant Registrar of Voters for Contra Costa County. In this
21 capacity, I am responsible for directing all activities of the Elections Division of the Office
22 of the Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder.

23 2. The processing of vote by mail ballots is part of the official canvass for the
24 November 2, 2010 election in Contra Costa County. (See Elec. Code, § 15301.)

25 3. The official canvass began Wednesday, November 3, 2010. For state or
26 statewide elections, the result of the canvass is a report of voting results to the Secretary of
27 State. The canvass must be continued daily, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excepted, for
28 not less than six hours each day until completed.

1 4. The official canvass includes many steps which must be completed in
2 accordance with Elections Code 15372. The Elections Official is required by law to certify
3 the election results to the governing body within 28 days of the election.

4 5. The official canvass steps are specified in Elections Code section 15302.
5 These steps include the following tasks:

- 6 (a) An inspection of all materials and supplies returned by poll workers.
- 7 (b) A reconciliation of the number of signatures on the roster with the number of
8 ballots recorded on the ballot statement.
- 9 (c) In the event of a discrepancy in the reconciliation required by subdivision (b),
10 the number of ballots received from each polling place shall be reconciled with
11 the number of ballots cast, as indicated on the ballot statement.
- 12 (d) A reconciliation of the number of ballots counted, spoiled, canceled, or
13 invalidated due to identifying marks, overvotes, or as otherwise provided by
14 statute, with the number of votes recorded, including vote by mail and provisional
15 ballots, by the vote counting system.
- 16 (e) Processing and counting any valid vote by mail and provisional ballots not
17 included in the semifinal official canvass.
- 18 (f) Counting any valid write-in votes.
- 19 (g) Reproducing any damaged ballots, if necessary.
- 20 (h) Reporting final results to the governing board and the Secretary of State, as
21 required.

22 6. As provided by Elections Code section 15320, vote by mail ballots and mail
23 ballot precinct ballots returned to the elections office and to the polls on Election Day that
24 are not included in the semifinal official canvass phase of the election must be processed
25 and counted during the official canvass.

26 7. As part of the vote by mail ballot processing, elections workers compare
27 voter signatures on vote by mail return envelopes with voter signatures on file on voter
28 registration cards. Each voter signature on a vote by mail return envelope appears on a

1 computer screen at the same time as the voter's voter registration signature. Line crew
2 election workers compare the signatures, and indicate if the two signatures compare.

3 8. Election observers are allowed to observe this procedure. While observing
4 this procedure, elections observers must follow the vote by mail ballot processing observer
5 guidelines. These guidelines are contained in the Contra Costa County Election Observer
6 Plan. A true and correct copy of the Contra Costa County Election Observer Plan is
7 attached as Exhibit A.

8 9. If a line crew election worker challenges a signature comparison, a challenge
9 code is entered into the computer, and the vote by mail envelope is challenged. A three-
10 person challenge review board, comprised of elections office supervisors, specialist and
11 technical level staff, compares the signatures. The result of the review is that if two or
12 more members of the challenge review board agree with the challenge it is allowed (i.e., the
13 vote is not counted). If a majority of the challenge board does not agree with the challenge,
14 it is denied (i.e., the vote is counted).

15 10. In the November 2, 2010 election, there were approximately 195,000 vote
16 by mail ballots cast. As of 1:30 p.m. Friday, November 5, 2010, approximately 5,000
17 signatures on vote by mail ballots remained to be compared to voter signatures on voter
18 registration cards.

19 11. The processing of all vote by mail ballots is a critical step that must be
20 completed before the voting credit (i.e., whether a person voted) can be finished. These
21 two steps (vote by mail processing and voting credit) must be finished before provisional
22 ballots can be processed. Provisional processing is a lengthy process because whether or
23 not each ballot can be counted must be individually evaluated. This sometimes requiring
24 lengthy file searches. Each provisional ballot evaluation can take from two minutes to
25 twenty minutes to process. It is estimated that there are 11,000 provisional ballots to
26 process. In past statewide general elections it has taken us down to the last few days of the
27 canvass to complete the processing of the provisional ballots and prepare them for
28

1 tabulation. Processing provisional ballots must be completed before write-ins can be
2 processed and the final reconciliation can be completed.

3 12. Stopping or delaying or postponing any part of the process would interfere
4 with the election official's ability to complete the official canvass in the time allotted by
5 law, and would constitute irreparable harm to the elections official.

6 13. If called upon to testify as a witness, I can competently testify to the matters
7 stated herein on my own personal knowledge.

8 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
9 foregoing is true and correct.

10 Executed November 5, 2010, at Martinez, California.

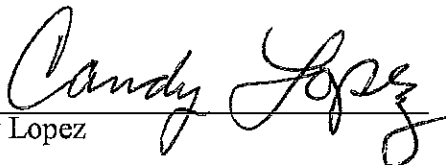
11
12 
13 Candy Lopez

EXHIBIT A

Contra Costa County Election Observer Plan

Name of county: **Contra Costa County**
Name of contact: **Candy Lopez, Assistant County Registrar**
Phone: **(925) 335-7808**
Date of plan: **10-8-10**
Voting systems used by the county: **ES&S M100, M650 & AutoMARK
M100s precinct counters for precinct voting at the polls;
AutoMARK accessibility ballot marking devices at the polls;
M650s for counting Vote by Mail ballots, provisional ballots and any
precinct ballots to be recounted as part of the canvass.**

Purpose - Public observation and input assists in ensuring the integrity of the election process. All aspects of preparation for and conducting an election may be observed and Contra Costa County actively seeks input at every election in order to help improve service and confidence. Several code and voting system provisions require notice of the opportunity for observation of various aspects of the election process.

Opportunities, Public Notice & Invitations

Central Count & Election Night: Elections Code § 12109 provides in part that whenever ballots at any election are to be tabulated at a central place, the election official shall give notice by publication or posting at least 10 days before the election.

Elections Code § 15204 specifies in part that all proceedings at the central counting place shall be open to the view of the public with certain restrictions, one being that access to the area where electronic data processing equipment is being operated may be restricted to persons authorized by the elections official.

1. Between E-60 and E-32, Contra Costa Elections Office publishes a combined Notice of Central Count Accumulation and Commencement of Absentee Processing.
2. A copy of the above publication and a letter of invitation to observe are sent to the Chairperson the Grand Jury, the Chairpersons of each County Central Committee of a qualified party and our English and Spanish Media Contacts. A sample copy of the letter and the publication is attached (Attachment 1 & 1.5). A second letter is sent to our English and Spanish Media Contacts when we send out press packets for the election. A sample copy of that letter is also attached (Attachment 2).
3. Results accumulation activities take place inside of security rooms or cages. Activities may be observed through the room windows or the wire mesh of the caged area. Entrance into these secure areas is limited to persons authorized by the Registrar of Voters.

Main Office: Anyone wanting to observe at our main office must sign in and wear a visitor badge; these individuals will be escorted to an area that will allow them to observe the election activities.

Warehouse: An election night observation area is fenced off within the facility. Anyone can enter the building through the designated public observation entrance and watch the activities from behind a barrier. Restrictions are for both security and safety reasons, as there are vans entering and leaving the building, as well as voting equipment, pallets and carts of materials being moved. Escorted tours behind the barrier will be provided upon request.

During statewide elections, Sheriff's Deputies are present at both the main office and the warehouse to assure rules and limitations are observed.

Canvass & 1% Manual Tally:

Canvass Observer rules are posted. A copy of the poster is attached. (Attachment 3) A press release is sent and posted at least one week before the date that precincts will be randomly selected for the 1% manual tally. A copy of the release is attached. (Attachment 4)

Vote by Mail: Election Code § 15104 provides in part that the elections official shall notify observers and the public at least 48 hours in advance of the dates, times and places where Vote by Mail ballots will be processed and counted.

1. Between E-60 and E-32, Contra Costa Elections publishes a combined Notice of Central Count Accumulation and Commencement of Absentee Processing.
2. The published Notice is also posted in the main office lobby.
3. Vote by Mail ballot processing and counting take place in our main office. Anyone wanting to observe must sign in and wear a visitor badge, these individuals will be escorted to an area that will allow them to observe whether individuals handling absentee ballots are following established procedures. All observers of Vote by Mail ballot processing are given a copy of the Vote by Mail Observer Guidelines at the time they sign in at the front counter. A copy of the guidelines is attached (Attachment 5).

Polling Place: While there are no specific code sections requiring notification of the right to observe there are a number of sections that specifically refer to activities being observed.

- Neither the ballot containers nor the voting booths shall be hidden from the view of those present (EC 14211).
- Before receiving any ballots, the precinct board, in the presence of any persons assembled at the polling place, shall open, exhibit and close the ballot container or containers. Thereafter, the ballot container or containers shall not be removed from the polling place or presence of the bystanders... (EC 14215).
- Only voters engaged in voting and persons authorized by the precinct board to keep order may be permitted within the voting booth area (EC 14221).

- Immediately upon the closing of the polls and before any voted ballot is taken from any of the ballot containers, the precinct board shall, in the presence of all persons in the room who may desire to observe them... (EC 14403).
 1. Precinct Election Officers are instructed to accommodate observers as long as they do not interfere with the board or the voting process.
 2. Poll Watcher (observer) rules are posted at each polling place. Two large 11 x 17" posters, one in English and one in Spanish are provided in the precinct supplies. Smaller copies of those posters are attached (Attachment 6).
 3. A supply of "We Want to Know What You Think" postage paid postcards (English & Spanish) is provided to each polling place. The Precinct Election Officers are instructed to place these cards on the roster sign-in table. A copy of the postcard wording is attached (Attachment 7 & 7.5).
 4. Since 2004 our office has surveyed election officers who serve during statewide elections to obtain as much input as possible regarding the Election Day experience.

Preparation of Tabulating Devices: No specific code section requires notification of the right to observe the preparation and operation of the tabulation devices and their programming and testing. However, Elections Code § 15004 specifically provides that the central committees of qualified parties may employ, and have specialists or engineers in attendance during the preparation and operation of tabulation devices, their programming and testing.

1. The Elections Manager in consultation with the Assistant Registrar of Voters, sets the time period for the official Logic and Accuracy testing of the ballot tabulation program and the programming and testing of the tabulation devices and related equipment prior to an election.
2. A press release is issued to give public notice of the start of official Logic and Accuracy Testing. A copy of the release is attached. (Attachment 8)
3. The Assistant Registrar will accommodate requests by the Central Committees, the Grand Jury, News Media, Candidates and the general public to observe these processes. The number of individuals provided an escort behind barriers may be limited to prevent interference with the process and to preserve the security of election records.
4. Either the Registrar, Assistant Registrar or Election Services Manager will be available during the preparation, programming and testing of tabulation devices and other related election equipment, to explain the process and answer observer questions.

General Rules for Observers

Observers may:

- Observe the proceedings at the polls, including the opening and closing procedures.
- Obtain information from the precinct index that is posted near the entrance.
- Make notes and watch all procedures.
- View all activities at the central counting site on Election Day.
- View the canvass of the vote activities following the election.
- View absentee and provisional ballot processing.
- Ask questions of staff at the polls.
- Ask questions of supervisors at the central counting site.

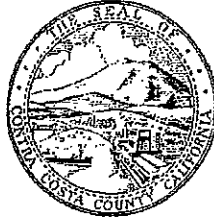
Observers are responsible for:

- Checking in at each site, whether polling place or central counting site.
- Wearing an identification badge.
- Maintaining a professional manner while observing the election processes.
- Ensuring they do not interfere with the elections process.

Observers may not:

- Interfere in any way with the conduct of the election.
- Touch any voting materials or equipment or sit at the official worktables.
- Converse with voters (within 100 feet of the entrance to a polling place) regarding the casting of a vote, or speak to a voter regarding his or her qualifications to vote.
- Display any election material or wear campaign badges, buttons or apparel.
- Wear the uniform of a peace officer, a private guard, or security personnel.
- Use cellular phones, pagers, or two-way radios inside the polling place and/or within 100 feet of the entrance to the polling place.
- Talk to central counting site workers while they are processing ballots.
- Use office computers, telephones or other non-public facilities at polling places or the central counting site.
- Touch election personnel.
- Eat or drink in the polls or the central counting site.
- Assist in operations at any polling place.
- Photograph, video tape, or otherwise record a voter entering or exiting a polling place.

STEPHEN L. WEIR
COUNTY CLERK



CANDY LOPEZ
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
REGISTRATION-ELECTION DEPARTMENT
555 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA 94553
FAX (925) 335-7836
www.cocovote.us

September 13, 2010

«NAME_1_», «TITLE»
«ORGANIZATION»
«ADDRESS_1»
«ADDRESS_2»

Dear «NAME_1_»:

This is to notify you in accordance with Elections Code 15104 of the dates, times and place where ballots cast for the November 2, 2010 Gubernatorial General Election will be opened, processed and counted. The opening, processing and counting of ballots both prior to and after the election shall be open to public observation. Your agency is invited to observe. Observers will be required to show identification and sign in on a log sheet. While inside the office the observer will be required to wear a "Visitor" badge. When leaving the viewing area the observer must sign out. If they wish to return later they will again be required to show identification and go through the sign-in process.

Additionally, all election night activities are open to observation. Enclosed is a copy of the "Notice of Designation of Central Counting Place" and "Notice of Absentee Ballot Processing".

To obtain election night results you may call (925) 335-7874 beginning at 8:00 p.m. or you may access the Election Department's web site at www.cocovote.us.

Sincerely,
STEPHEN L. WEIR,
COUNTY CLERK

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Candy Lopez".

Candy Lopez
Assistant County Registrar

CL:jm

Enclosure

Attachment 1

**NOTICE OF CENTRAL COUNT
ACCUMULATION AND COMMENCEMENT OF
ABSENTEE BALLOT PROCESSING**

As per Elections Code 12109, notice is hereby given that at the General Election to be held on November 2, 2010, all voted ballots will be counted on ES&S M100 precinct counters at each polling location and the results will be accumulated on the Contra Costa Registrar of Voters computer after the polling locations close on Election Day. Said computer is located in the Contra Costa County Elections Division at 555 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA.

The polling locations will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

As per Elections Code 15104, the Registrar of Voters also, hereby notifies all interested organizations that the verifying of signatures on absent voter ballots cast for the General Election will commence on October 4, 2010, or at any time thereafter in the County Registrar of Voters Elections Office, 555 Escobar Street, Martinez, California. On October 22, 2010, or at any time thereafter, the opening and processing of absentee ballots will commence. This process will continue until all election results are tabulated and the election is certified.

Any member of the county grand jury, and any other interested organization, shall be permitted to observe and challenge the manner in which the absent voter ballots are handled, from the processing of ballot return envelopes through the opening, counting and disposition of the ballots.

To register as an observer, call the Elections Office at (925) 335-7800.

Dated: September 10, 2010

STEPHEN L. WEIR
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Rosa M. Mena
Elections Deputy

NOTA:

Si desea obtener la versión en Español de este aviso legal, puede solicitar una copia de la misma llamando al Departamento de Elecciones, (925) 335-7800.

STEPHEN L. WEIR
COUNTY CLERK



CANDY LOPEZ
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
REGISTRATION-ELECTION DEPARTMENT
555 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA 94553-1140
(925) 335-7800 FAX (925) 335-7836
www.cocovote.us

October 4, 2010

«TITLE»
«ORGANIZATION»
«ADDRESS_1»
«ADDRESS_2»

Dear Publisher :

The Contra Costa County Elections Office is conducting the November 2, 2010 Gubernatorial General Election.

Enclosed are:

1. A survey & service request form.
2. A sample of the Election Night Summary Report showing how many precincts will be reporting in each contest.
3. A set of Voter Pamphlet Booklets on CD.
4. A representative set of Sample Ballots

Observing the Process

On election night you or a staff person from your agency is invited to observe the vote by mail uploading process at the Elections Office at 555 Escobar St. in Martinez. You may also observe any part of the absentee ballot process from issuing ballots, to checking signatures, sorting envelopes into precincts, opening envelopes (starting approximately 7 business days before the election), preparing the ballots for counting and then reading the ballots into the election tabulation system. All absentee ballot activities will be performed in the Elections Office at 555 Escobar Street in Martinez.

On election night precinct results will be uploaded at the Elections Warehouse at 610 Marina Vista, Martinez.

Logic and accuracy testing of voting equipment is also open to observation. Logic and accuracy activities will be performed both in the Elections Office at 555 Escobar St. in Martinez and at the Elections Warehouse at 610 Marina vista in Martinez. Testing will begin Tuesday, October 12, 2010 and continue through approximately Thursday, October 21, 2010.

Attachment 2

If you are interested in observing any part of the process or sending a reporter to observe we will be glad to accommodate you. All observers will be asked to show identification, sign an observer log and wear either their press ID or a "Visitor" badge while in the Elections office.

Election Night Results

1. As summary reports are prepared on election night, copies will be available at the front counter, 555 Escobar St, Martinez.
2. Shortly after 8:00 p.m. we will post election night results to our website at www.cocovote.us. As a backup we will e-mail a copy of the results file to anyone who requests that service on the attached form (results will only be e-mailed if the website is experiencing problems on election night).
3. We will fax results on a limited basis.

Please complete the enclosed Press Survey & Service Request form and fax to (925) 335-7836 or return by mail by October 25 to help our office plan to meet your needs.

Phones

We have found that most press personnel are now using cellular phones for their election night reporting. Press phones will not be provided.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please feel free to call Candy Lopez, Assistant County Registrar at (925) 335-7808.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN L. WEIR
COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER



Candy Lopez
Assistant County Registrar

CL:jm

Enclosure

CANVASS OBSERVERS

- Interested parties may observe that the Election Official is following proper procedures. The Election Official shall determine the number and placement of observers.
- Observers shall not touch or handle any ballots, envelopes, containers or equipment. No observers shall interfere with the orderly process of the canvass.
- Except to challenge a canvass procedure, observers shall not carry on conversations with each other or election personnel or make disruptive comments while in the observation or canvass work areas.
- Procedure challenges shall immediately be brought to the attention of the Supervisor of that canvass area. The Supervisor will immediately report the challenge to the Election Official.
- Observers shall not assist in the operations of the canvass.
- The Election Official will determine and establish a reasonable observation distance.
- Failure to follow observer rules will be reported to the Election Official, who will determine appropriate action.
- Observers shall not enter inside the area where processing and counting of ballots takes place.
- Observers will be permitted access to a designated observation area, sufficiently close to enable them to observe and challenge whether individuals handling ballots are following established procedures.
- Observers shall sign in and wear an identification badge provided by the Elections Office at all times while within the designated observation area.

**PRESS RELEASE
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY ELECTIONS DIVISION**

555 Escobar St., Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 335-7800

FOR RELEASE OCTOBER 22, 2010

DATE: 10/15/2010
CONTACT: Candy Lopez, Assistant County Registrar
PHONE: (925) 335-7800

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY TO COMMENCE SELECTION OF VOTING PRECINCTS FOR
THE CANVASS 1% MANUAL TALLY FOR THE NOVEMBER 2, 2010 GUBERNATORIAL
GENERAL ELECTION**

On Thursday, November 4, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. the Contra Costa County Elections Division located at 555 Escobar Street in Martinez will commence random selection of the voting precincts to be included in the 1% manual tally required by Elections code 15360 as part of the Official Canvass for the November 2, 2010 Gubernatorial General Election. The 1% manual tally will commence shortly thereafter.

Interested persons, who would like to observe this process, may call (925) 335-7800 or go to the Elections Office located at 555 Escobar Street in Martinez for more information.

Observers will be asked to show picture identification and sign in to be admitted to the selection and tally area.

END

**CONTRA COSTA ELECTIONS DIVISION
"VOTE-BY-MAIL" BALLOT PROCESSING
OBSERVER GUIDELINES**

GENERAL RULES

1. No "Vote-by-Mail" ballot processing observer shall interfere with the orderly processing of mail ballot return envelopes or ballot processing/counting. Observers shall not touch or handle the ballots [Elections Code §15104, subd. (e)]. Observers shall not enter inside the area where the processing of mail ballot return envelopes and the processing/counting of mail ballots takes place.
2. "Vote-by-Mail" ballot processing observers will be permitted access to a designated observation area, sufficiently close to enable them to observe and challenge whether individuals handling absentee ballots are following established procedures [Elections Code §15104, subd. (d)].
3. "Vote-by-Mail" ballot processing observers shall sign in and wear an identification badge provided by the Elections Office at all times while within the designated observation area.
4. "Vote-by-Mail" ballot processing observers, while within the designated observation area **shall not**:
 - carry on conversations with each other
 - engage in loud talking or arguing or make disruptive comments or noises, including sighs or gasps."Vote-by-Mail" ballot processing observers who violate these rules will receive one warning. If the behavior continues after one warning, the violator(s) will be required to depart the designated observation area and will not be permitted to return that day.
5. "Vote-by-Mail" ballot processing observers shall not talk to or question members of the Elections Office staff while they are working.
6. Cell phones, must be on vibrate or turned off, while observers are within the building.
7. Questions or challenges regarding the handling of "Vote-by-Mail" ballots shall be addressed only to the Elections Processing Supervisor – Registration and Mail Ballot Division, the Elections Manager, the Assistant County Registrar or the County Clerk.

BALLOT HANDLING CHALLENGES

1. Any member of the county grand jury, and at least one member each of the Republican county central committee, the Democratic county central committee, and

"VOTE-BY-MAIL" BALLOT PROCESSING OBSERVER GUIDELINES

of any other party with a candidate on the ballot, and any other interested organization, shall be permitted to observe and challenge the manner in which the "Vote-by-Mail" ballots are handled, from the processing of the mail ballot return envelopes through the counting and disposition of the ballots [Elections Code §15104, subd. (b)].

2. "Vote-by-Mail" ballot processing observers may not challenge signatures on mail ballot return envelopes. Only the elections official shall perform signature comparison, in accordance with Division 3 of the California Elections Code.
3. "Vote-by-Mail" ballot processing observers may challenge whether the individuals handling mail ballots are following established procedures. Established procedures of the Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder include the following:
 - a. **Verifying signatures and addresses by comparing them to voter registration information**

ESTABLISHED PROCEDURE: In Contra Costa County, the address comparison is completed while the absentee application is being processed [Elections Code §3009, subd. (a)]. Signature comparison is done at the time a return batch is processed and the return status is entered into the voters record. A return status code on the list of absentee voters indicates that the record was processed.

- b. **Duplicating accurately any damaged or defective ballots**

ESTABLISHED PROCEDURE: Two Election Officials must work together on this process:

- One worker watches and proofs, as the second worker transfers the exact votes from the original to the duplicate ballot.
- The workers write the **precinct number, date, duplication cross-reference sequence number and both workers' initials** on the original/old ballot as well as on the duplicated/new ballot.
- The original/old ballot is placed in an "Archived Originals" manila precinct envelope and the duplicate/new ballot is placed in a "Duplicate" manila precinct envelope.
- "Duplicate" envelopes are placed in a "To Be Processed" box.
- The scanner operator processing duplicate ballots will place a 650 scanner number sticker, operator's initials and the processing date on the envelope after scanning.

"VOTE-BY-MAIL" BALLOT PROCESSING OBSERVER GUIDELINES

c. Securing "Vote-by-Mail" ballots to prevent tampering before counting.

ESTABLISHED PROCEDURE: Returned "Vote-by-Mail" ballots are kept in secure storage areas when not being worked on by the elections office staff. Persons other than Elections Office personnel are not allowed access to the secure storage area unless escorted by Elections Office personnel. All secure storage areas are within buildings which are alarmed when staff is not present. Two or more election staff members must be present in any work area when ballots are being handled. No containers with ballots shall be left unattended unless they are locked in the secure storage area.

VOTER CHALLENGES

1. Prior to processing and opening "Vote-by-Mail" ballot return/identification envelopes, the election official shall make available a list of "Vote-by-Mail" voters for public inspection, from which challenges may be presented. All challenges shall be made prior to the opening of the identification envelope of the challenged "Vote-by-Mail" voter [Elections Code §15105].
2. Challenges may be made for the same reasons as those made against a voter at a polling place [Elections Code §§14240, subd. (a); 15105]:
 - a. That the voter is not the person whose name appears on the index.
 - b. That the voter is not a resident of the precinct.
 - c. That the voter is not a citizen of the United States.
 - d. That the voter has [already] voted [in the election].
 - e. That the voter is presently on parole for conviction of a felony.
3. In addition, a challenge may be entered on the grounds that the ballot was not received within the time provided by [the California Elections] code or that a person is imprisoned for conviction of a felony [Elections Code §15105].
4. If [the elections official] receives, by mail or otherwise, any document or list concerning the residence or other voting qualifications of any person or persons, with the express or implied suggestion, request or demand that the person or persons be challenged, the [election official] shall first determine whether the document or list is accompanied by evidence constituting probable cause to justify or substantiate a challenge [Elections Code §14240, subd. (c)].
5. Because the voter is not present, the challenger shall have the burden of establishing extraordinary proof of the validity of the challenge at the time the challenge is made [Elections Code §15106].

POLL WATCHERS

(Sections 14221, 14223, 18370, 18502 Elections Code)

- Please be courteous to our board members as they are working a very long day and doing their very best.
- Remain quiet and do not disturb board members or voters.
- Allow the board reasonable space.

You may observe:

- "Combined Roster Index" at the convenience of the board
- Procedure for opening the polls
- Voting procedure during the day
- Closing procedure

You may NOT:

- Interfere with the board or the voting process
- Touch any voting materials (ballots, roster, etc.)
- Sit at the table
- Discuss any ballot or political issue
- Be in the area where the voters are casting their ballots
- Intimidate or impede board members or voters

OBSERVADORES DE CASILLA

(Secciones 14221, 14223, 18370, 18502 Códigos Electorales)

- Favor de ser cordial con los trabajadores ya que están trabajando un día muy largo y haciendo lo mejor.
- Mantenga silencio y no distraiga a los trabajadores o a los votantes.
- Deje suficiente espacio para los trabajadores.

Usted puede observar:

- "La Lista de Votantes" a conveniencia de la mesa directiva
- Procedimientos al abrir las casillas
- Procedimientos de votación durante el día
- Procedimientos de cierre

Usted NO puede:

- Interferir con los trabajadores en el proceso de votación
- Tocar ningún material de votación (balotas, listas, etc.)
- Sentarse en la mesa
- Discutir temas políticos o de la balota
- Estar en el área donde los votantes están votando
- Intimidar o impedir a los trabajadores o votantes

WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

We take elections and the process of voting very seriously. That is why we have created this questionnaire, so that you, the voter, can give us your feedback on the election process in Contra Costa County.

Please take a few moments to fill out this questionnaire and simply drop it in the mailbox . . . We will do the rest. Your comments and suggestions are important to us. Our goal is to give you better service

Please note that the poll workers are your neighbors. They work long, hard hours to protect the integrity of our election process. If you have had a positive experience at your poll, please let us know!

Rate the following by circling the appropriate number:		poor		good		excellent
Convenience and accessibility of your polling location:	1	2	3	4	5	
Convenience and helpfulness of the polling place workers:	1	2	3	4	5	
Overall confidence in the manner elections are conducted in this county:	1	2	3	4	5	
Were there enough voting devices and booths at your polling location?	Yes	No				
Have you ever contacted the Election Office directly?	Yes	No				
If yes, how would you describe the service?	1	2	3	4	5	

Comments & Suggestions for your voting precinct # _____

What can we do to improve our service?

Would you be willing to help by serving on a precinct board as an Election Officer? Yes No Do you have space for a Polling Place? Yes No
 If **Yes** to either question, please **print** your name, address & telephone number so we are able to contact you.

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QUEREMOS SABER QUE ES LO QUE UD. PIENSA

Las elecciones y el proceso para votar son muy importantes para nosotros. Es por ello que hemos creado este cuestionario, para que usted, votante, pueda darnos su opinión sobre el proceso electoral en Contra Costa County.

Por favor tómese unos minutos para llenar este cuestionario y simplemente déjelo en el buzón del correo . . . Nosotros haremos el resto. Sus comentarios y sugerencias son muy importantes para nosotros. Nuestra meta es brindarle un mejor servicio

Por favor, tome nota que los trabajadores electorales, son sus vecinos. Ellos trabajan horas arduas y largas para proteger la integridad del proceso electoral. ¡Si usted tuvo una buena experiencia en su centro electoral, por favor háganoslo saber!

Evalúe las opciones descritas líneas abajo, marque un círculo en el número apropiado:	malo		bueno		excelente
	1	2	3	4	5
Conveniencia y accesibilidad de su centro electoral:	1	2	3	4	5
Conveniencia y cortesía de los trabajadores electorales:	1	2	3	4	5
En general evalúe la confianza que Ud. tiene en la forma como se realizan las elecciones en este país:	1	2	3	4	5
¿En su centro electoral habian suficientes casillas y material electoral?				Si	No
¿Alguna vez se ha contactado directamente con el Departamento de Elecciones?				Si	No
¿Si es sí, como calificaría la atención?	1	2	3	4	5

Comentarios & Sugerencias para su centro electoral # _____.

¿Que podemos hacer para mejorar nuestro servicio?

¿Estaría dispuesto a ayudarnos sirviendo como miembro de una mesa electoral? Sí No ¿Cuenta con algún lugar que pueda ser usado como Centro Electoral? Sí No Si dijo Sí a cualquiera de las dos preguntas, por favor escriba con letra de imprenta su nombre, dirección y teléfono para que podamos contactarnos con usted.

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PRESS RELEASE
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY ELECTIONS DIVISION

555 Escobar St, Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 335-7800

FOR RELEASE OCTOBER 5

DATE: 9/28/2010
CONTACT: Candy Lopez, Assistant County Registrar
PHONE: (925) 335-7800

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY PREPARATION & TESTING OF VOTING EQUIPMENT FOR
THE NOVEMBER 2, 2010 GUBERNATORIAL GENERAL ELECTION**

On Tuesday, October 12, 2010 the Contra Costa County Elections Division will commence, at 9:00 a.m., the preparation and testing of the voting equipment to be used in the November 2, 2010 Gubernatorial General Election. Testing will continue through Thursday, October 21, 2010.

Interested persons, who would like to observe this process may call (925) 335-7800 or go to the Elections Office located at 555 Escobar Street in Martinez for more information.

Observers will be asked to show picture identification and sign in to be admitted to the testing observation area.

END