

MONTEREY COUNTY ELECTIONS

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Salinas, May 10, 2016

I am responding to your email, dated May 4, 2016, and received by the County's Elections Department on May 4, 2016.

You requested files and documents relating to the upcoming June 7, 2016 Presidential Primary Election. You also made a request on behalf of your organization to monitor the elections process. The precise nature of your requests are not clear to myself and our Elections Department staff, as the requests appear to be based upon your experience in San Diego County. Not all counties use the same tabulation systems, and to the extent that California law allows counties leeway, different elections officials use different procedures. I will, however, attempt to answer your letter as completely as I can.

California law provides representatives of your organization the right to observe our Election Day procedures and vote tabulation. Please consult the following resource for more information: <http://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/pdfs/observation-rights-responsibilities.pdf>

With respect to your request for records, to the extent that we understand the request, the records you seek do not yet exist, and will not exist until after the election. Pursuant to the California Public Records Act, Government Code section 6250, et seq., with certain exceptions, public records are open to inspection after they come into existence. Upon receipt of a request to inspect records, an agency has at least ten days to determine if the records exist, and if so, to determine whether the records are subject to disclosure.

Monterey County uses the tally process described in Elections Code section 15360, subdivision (a)(1). The tabulation system used by the County does not generate files in ".CSV" format, but instead generate reports in PDF format. Prior to selecting precincts for the 1 percent manual tally, a precinct report is generated in PDF format, generally the day after the election. We use these reports to compare it to the results of the 1 percent tally. The random selection of precincts and 1% tally usually starts a week after Election Day.

I hope this information has been helpful to you. Thank you for your commitment to the democratic process.

Claudio Valenzuela
Monterey County Registrar of Voters