

September 6, 2016

Dear Mr. Mark Church

Chief Elections Officer & Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder
San Mateo County

555 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063-1665
Phone: (650) 363-4988

I am writing to you as your constituent as well as a volunteer for Citizens' Oversight (www.CitizensOversight.org). I am very interested in the workings of elections here in San Mateo Co. I have been a poll worker here for over a decade and a public election observer for almost 15 years, including the election this last June.

Mr. Ray Lutz from Citizens' Oversight wrote to you and other California Registrars earlier this year asking each of you to commit to following the CA Elections Code during the upcoming November 2016 General Election. I believe that this is a reasonable request and, in fact, is a duty of your position as Registrar.

The reason this request is so important is that many Election Departments, including this County's, did not follow the Code last June. So I am asking you to commit to the following for the November, 2016 election within 10 days of the receipt of this letter.

1. Count the votes on all the validated ballots before starting the 1% manual audit,
2. Audit all the validated ballots,
3. Publish the following data prior to starting the public audit:
 - a. The semi-official vote count for each candidate and measure for each precinct separately for each ballot class: VBM, paper at the polls, eSlate at the polls, early voting on paper, early voting on an eSlate, provisional and overseas / military ballots.
 - b. The documents you create that enable the rolls of the dice (random number generator) to be converted to precinct numbers.

This is important because it is the only way that the public can verify that all precincts have an equal chance of being selected.

(over)

- c. A list showing the number of registered voters and votes cast in each precinct broken down as in 3.a above.

This information will allow the public observers to determine if any class of ballots shows unusual patterns of voting that might need further scrutiny to detect counting error or fraud, which is the purpose of the audit.

The Elections Code has a flaw in my opinion in that it asks that one percent of precincts be audited rather than one percent of the voted ballots. It is possible that one percent of the precincts would contain a very small number of ballots and from a limited number of ballot classes such that the public would have no confidence that any errors would be discovered. This is what happened in June this year. Your staff agreed to select additional precincts to correct this lack of ballots problem and I much appreciate their willingness to correct this deficiency.

I therefore implore you to develop a procedure to add additional precincts to the audit so that all classes of ballot and at least one percent of all the validated ballots be included.

I would be very happy to answer any questions, in person or by email.

Yours,

Dennis Paull
229 Correas St
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

650-712-0498

Additional co-signers of this letter:

Dorothy Dillon

Moss Beach, CA 94038

Carol Ehrle LoPatin
1763 Eisenhower St.
San Mateo, CA 94403

Dan Haggerty
154 Madrid
El Granada, CA 94018

Elsa Schafer
2821 St. James Road
Belmont, CA 94002

Thomas "Gus" Peterson
116 Los Banos Ave.
Moss Beach, CA, 94038