



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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Post-Election Canvass Under Way in California Counties

SACRAMENTO – After each statewide election, county elections officials must complete vote counting and ensure every eligible ballot is counted accurately within 28 days. For the November 2, 2010, Statewide General Election, this post-election canvass period will conclude November 30.

“Election Day has come and gone, but for elections officials across California who must provide complete and accurate results, the election truly does not end until November 30,” said California Secretary of State Debra Bowen, the state’s chief elections officer.

Secretary Bowen is continuing her practice of asking all county elections officials to report the number of unprocessed ballots they have on hand so she can provide a statewide tally to the public. The numbers of ballots left to count – as voluntarily reported by counties – are at <http://vote.sos.ca.gov/vote-by-mail/>.

Election results continue to be available at <http://vote.sos.ca.gov>.

County elections officials must provide their certified results to the Secretary of State by December 3. The Secretary of State then has seven days to review the material, compile the 58 reports, and clear up any reporting discrepancies before certifying the complete election results on December 10.

Many state and federal laws and mandates must be followed during this official canvass period before the election results can be certified. County elections officials must, among other things:

- Audit all materials returned from the polls to ensure all ballots – voted, un-voted, spoiled, provisional, vote-by-mail, surrendered vote-by-mail – are accounted for
- Ensure the signature on each vote-by-mail ballot envelope matches the signature on the voter’s original voter registration card
- Research all voters who cast provisional ballots to ensure each person was registered to vote and did not vote more than once
- Remake ballots that machines cannot tabulate because of wrinkles, smudges or other damage
- Hand-count votes for qualified write-in candidates
- Sort all vote-by-mail ballots by precinct so they can be manually audited
- Manually audit 100 percent of the ballots from one percent of the precincts in the county to ensure the results are accurate, according to state elections law

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- Manually audit 100 percent of the voter verified paper audit trail to ensure votes cast on direct recording electronic machines were tabulated accurately, according to voting system use procedures
- Audit all voting equipment to ensure it was properly secured and was not tampered with
- Investigate any voter who voted more than once

For more details on the election reporting process, visit the Secretary of State's Frequently Asked Questions web page at <http://vote.sos.ca.gov/faqs>.

To sign up for election news and trivia via Twitter, go to <http://twitter.com/CASOSvote>.

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