

Pollworker Post

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

WINTER 2011



Election Day Recap

The November 8th Mayoral Election was an historic moment for San Francisco, in which voters elected the city's first Chinese-American Mayor. Nearly 200,000 San Francisco voters cast ballots in the Election; about a 42% turnout. While turnout was on the low side for a Mayoral Election, our pollworker staff did an excellent job providing assistance to voters. Our Election Center team reported a record low number of in-field issues, meaning your attention to detail and expert knowledge of Election procedures was impressively demonstrated!

By The Numbers

Early Voting

Nearly 4,000 people voted early at City Hall, where voters can visit the Department of Elections' early voting station to cast a ballot up to 29 days before Election Day!

Vote-by-Mail

We are continually seeing voters opt for the Vote-by-Mail ballot in lieu of traveling to a physical polling place on Election Day. Over 112,000 voters mailed in or dropped off a Vote by Mail

ballot. Nearly 75% of the total ballots cast were VBM ballots! This is up from the November 2010 Election when a little over 50% of voters cast VBM ballots.

Polling Places

406 Polling Places were utilized on November 8th. Over 95% of them were accessible to voters with disabilities!

Pollworkers

1,862 Pollworkers worked this Election; although most were returning pollworkers, we would like to recognize the 56 new pollworkers who volunteered their time. Thanks for joining the team and doing a great job. We hope your service becomes a lasting tradition!

The High School pollworker program recruited 737 students for Election day from schools throughout the city.

Language Assistance

In-person language assistance was provided to voters via 84 Russian-speaking pollworkers, 222 Spanish-speaking pollworkers, and over 1,000 Chinese-speaking pollworkers.

Next year will be a very busy year for the Department of Elections. While a Presidential Election always means high voter turnout, California has moved its primary back to June, instead of February where it was set during the 2008 Presidential Cycle, but there is one other change to the primary in California.

“Top-Two” Primary

On June 8, 2010 California voters approved Proposition 14, which created the “Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act.”

With the exception of federal offices like the President, and partisan county-central-committee offices, any “partisan” offices, which are nominated via a partisan primary, such as the office of Governor and state representatives, are now considered “voter-nominated” offices. As a result, all candidates running in a primary election, regardless of party preference, will appear on the same ballot and voters can vote for *any* candidate, regardless of the voter’s party affiliation. The top two *overall* vote-getters, **not** the

top vote-getter from each party, will move on to the General Election in November. The new system is fundamentally different because it allows for the possibility of “single-party” general Elections, where two candidates of the same party run against each other instead of two candidates of opposing parties.

To clarify, Federal offices are **not** affected by this new law. There will still be a primary for each presidential candidate in 2012. For the June Election, the only state offices affected by the new law are State Assembly and State Senate. It will be interesting to observe the results of this new, voter-mandated primary system!

We are excited to work with you in the important year ahead. Availability letters for the June 5 Primary Election will be mailed out in March. From all of us at the Department of Elections; we wish you and your family a Happy Holiday season and a wonderful New Year!

Did You Know?

- ◆ There is no provision for the role of political parties in the United States Constitution.
- ◆ National party conventions for Presidential nomination did not begin until 1832.
- ◆ 1912 was the first time an incumbent president was challenged in a primary by a member of his own party, when President William Howard Taft was challenged by former president Theodore Roosevelt.
- ◆ There have been 5 instances since WWII in which an

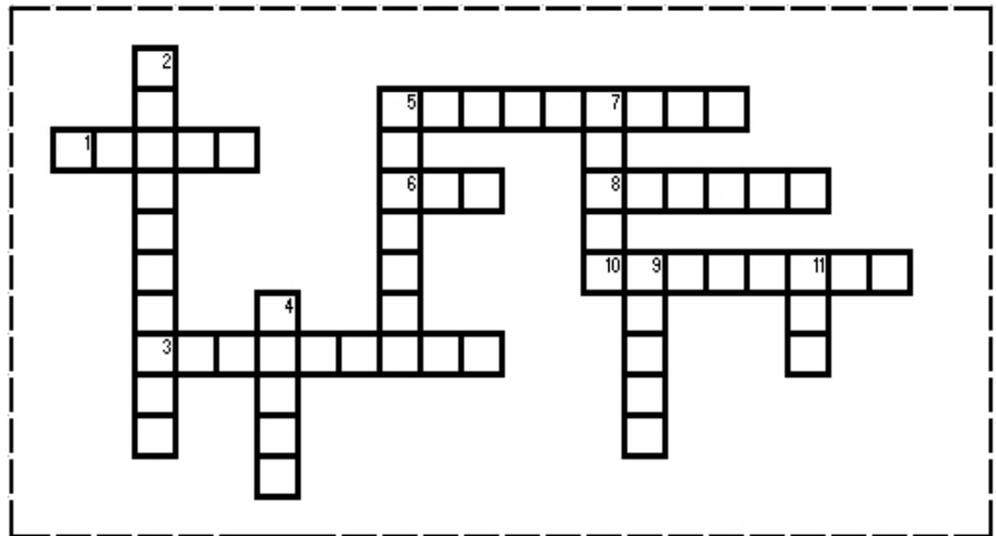
incumbent president was challenged by his own party, in 1952, 1968, 1976, 1980, and 1992. In every instance, the incumbent won the primary nomination, but *lost* the general election.

- ◆ No president in the post-WWII era who was challenged in his own party during the primary has been re-elected.
- ◆ Nearly 2.5 billion dollars were spent campaigning by Presidential candidates in 2008, making it the most expensive election in United States History; twice as expensive as the 2004 election.

POLLWORKER CROSSWORD

Across:

1. The name of every Standard _____ is listed in the Roster.
3. To prepare an Edge voter card, use the Card _____
5. Every polling place is staffed with one _____.
6. Pollworker must arrive by _____AM on election Day.
8. Completed vote-by-mail and provisional envelopes go in the _____.
10. A voter can only vote a _____ ballot at their home polling place.



Down:

2. Voters can surrender their _____ Ballot at any polling place on Election Day.
4. F.E.D. stands for _____ Election Deputy
5. Only standard ballots should be fed into the _____ machine.
7. Always closely follow the procedures listed on each of your Job _____.
9. The Voter Roster, Ballots, and other important Election Day materials are displayed on the Election _____.
11. If the Insight machine does not accept a ballot, you can always place it in the _____ bin.