

POLLWORKER POST

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Yes, indeed! Another successful Election facilitated by Pollworkers!

We've all recovered from the hectic pace of the 2008 Elections, and now looking back at this past November election we would like to say: "No doubt about it, first team honors go to you, our Pollworkers". Once again, you represented the City & County of San Francisco proudly during this historic election. With high voter turnout, complex procedures and additional security, everyone had extra challenges. However, through it all, you were up to the task and proved that no challenge was too great.

When Election Day finally came, over 195,000 voters turned out at the polls to cast ballots! Needless to say, it was a busy day. But you maintained an impressive equanimity while assisting the multitude of voters.

It was your dedication and knowledge, your willingness to get up before the crack of dawn, your friendly smile at the end of an interminable day that made voting a positive experience for San Franciscans on Tuesday, November 4, 2008. Thank you for a job well done!

Your Feedback on Training!



After each election we diligently read the feedback that you submit to us. Your ideas and suggestions are then taken into consideration when planning election day processes and training curriculums for subsequent elections.

After compiling your comments on the training that you attended prior to working the polls on November 4th, we are happy to share with you that the vast majority of pollworkers mentioned that it was the best training class they ever attended! Here are some quotes from your feedback forms:

All parts of the class are useful. Explained the duties very well. –New Clerks

Excellent presentation! Great information and hands-on! Instilled confidence & skills. –Experienced Clerks

Very easy to understand and very effective! PowerPoint and [training manual] booklet comprehensive!
–New Inspectors

Lesson was sharply and thoroughly delivered. Fantastic! Went through every area from beginning to end clearly. –Experienced Inspectors

But as all of us know "the road to success is always under construction". And for the upcoming elections we are planning to supplement in-person training with video segments focusing on various aspects of the Election Day process. The video segments will be available on the Department's website and on DVDs. This project is currently being developed, so please stay tuned as we will let you know once these videos become available.

Election by the Numbers!

**ELECTION
2008**



Overall Voter Participation

On Election Day, there were 477, 651 registered voters in San Francisco. 388,112 (81%) cast their ballots in the November election. This was the fourth highest voter turnout in a presidential election in San Francisco since 1960. The highest voter turnout presidential elections were: 1960 (86.08%) Kennedy vs. Nixon, 1964 (85.03%) Johnson vs. Goldwater, 1968 (82.02%) Nixon vs. Humphrey.

Early Voting

19,518 voters (4% of all registered voters) voted early at City Hall during the four weeks preceding the election. The highest number ever!

Vote-By-Mail Voting

We mailed 217,194 vote-by-mail ballots and of those 178,585 (82%) were voted and returned. Another record number in San Francisco's history!

Polling Places

561 polling places were located. 541 (96%) were accessible to voters with disabilities- 172 accessible polling places more than we had just four years ago.

Pollworkers

3,053 pollworkers worked the polls. The team consisted of 1,508 new workers and 1,545 workers who had at least one election under their belts.

Student Pollworkers

1,281 students worked the polls; they comprised 42% of the overall pollworker force on Election Day. 42 San Francisco public and private schools contributed to this great participation with Galileo Academy of Science & Technology High School alone providing 190 students.

In-field support personnel

119 people (72 Field Election Deputies (FEDs) and 47 voting equipment specialists) monitored and provided procedural and technical support to 561 polling places on Election Day.

Election Center

The Election Center, staffed with 40 Department's personnel, provided effective resolutions to various Election Day situations that were called in by pollworkers, voters, campaigns etc. 1,149 calls came into the Election Center and in a matter of minutes staff was able to resolve the issues.

Test yourself: Do you know presidential quotes?

- a) "And so my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."
- b) "Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?"
- c) "The only man who makes no mistake is the man who does nothing."
- d) "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

a) John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1961-1963), b) Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865), c) Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909), d) Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1933-1945).

We hope that you enjoyed our newsletter. If you would like us to cover a particular topic in the next edition, please send your ideas to pollworker.training@sfgov.org

All of us in the Department of Elections, wish you a Festive Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year!