



Pollworker Post

Department of Elections Newsletter for Pollworkers, V- 06.03.08

Election Season is Here!

Thank you for signing up to work in the upcoming June 3, 2008 election. It is now only 40 days away and our Department is busy working on the things that need to be done before each election – finding 561 polling places; testing and readying 1150 voting machines; proofing and printing ballots; starting early voting in City Hall; and, of course, recruiting and educating 2,900 pollworkers.

This newsletter seeks to expand your knowledge and understanding of provisional voting. We hope that you will find it both useful to you as a pollworker and as a voter.

Reasons for Voting Provisionally

- The voter's name is not in the Roster because s/he a) is in the wrong polling place; b) moved but did not re-register under her/his new address; c) registered after the registration deadline;
- The voter registered to vote by mail but did not provide a California driver's license number or California Identification number and therefore is listed in the Pink Provisional Roster;
- The voter applied to become a vote-by-mail voter and therefore is listed in the Roster with "Vote-By-Mail Ballot Issued" on the signature line, but is unable to exchange the ballot s/he received in the mail for the one to vote at the polling place;
- The voter requests to vote a ballot of a different party than the one listed next to her/his name in the Roster of Voters (applies to primary elections only).

Counting Provisional Ballots

- A provisional ballot **is counted if** it is cast by a registered voter in the precinct s/he is registered to vote in.
- A provisional ballot **is partially counted if** it is cast by a registered voter outside of
 - a) the precinct s/he is registered to vote in. In this case, only contests and measures for which the voter is eligible to vote will be counted. That is why it is important that the pollworkers offer to redirect voters to their home precincts before issuing a provisional ballot;
 - b) the party s/he is registered with (applies to primary elections only). In this case, only nonpartisan contests and measures will be counted. The voter may change a party affiliation by filling out a new Voter Registration Card but the change will take effect for the next election;

A Brief History and Definition of Provisional Voting

Although provisional ballots had previously been used in about half the states in America before the passage of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, at least eighteen states had no provisional voting procedures.

The November 2004 Presidential Election was the first election in which all states were required by federal law to allow every person who showed up at the polls (and who claimed to be eligible and registered to vote) to cast a provisional ballot.

According to the Election Assistance Commission's survey, approximately 1.9 million voters cast provisional ballots in the 2004 Presidential election. Of those, about 1.2 million—or 64.5%—were counted. As you can see, some of these voters would have been turned away from the polls if there was no provisional voting.

A provisional ballot is a safeguard to ensure that a person whose name does not appear in the Roster but who is registered and eligible to vote will not be prevented from voting.

▪ A provisional ballot **is not counted if**

- a) a person who cast the provisional ballot is not a registered voter. In this case, the Department of Elections will send that person a Voter Registration Card and a note explaining registration rules. Once the Department receives a completed Voter Registration Card, that person becomes an eligible voter;
- b) the voter already voted and returned her/his vote-by-mail ballot. Nobody is allowed to vote twice in the same election!
- c) the voter DID NOT a) provide a complete name or residential address; b) sign or date the envelope; c) seal the envelope; d) provide ID required by HAVA;
- d) the voter PROVIDED a) a PO Box or mailing address instead of residential address; b) a signature that does not match a signature on her/his Voter Registration Card.

Was my Provisional Ballot Counted?

Voters may call 1-866-325-9163 or visit the Department's Web site www.sfelections.org/pv 40 days after the election. They have to provide the number printed on their provisional receipt. That is why it is important that the pollworkers remove the receipt located on the back of the envelope, give it to the voter and remind him/her to use it to check the status of the ballot.

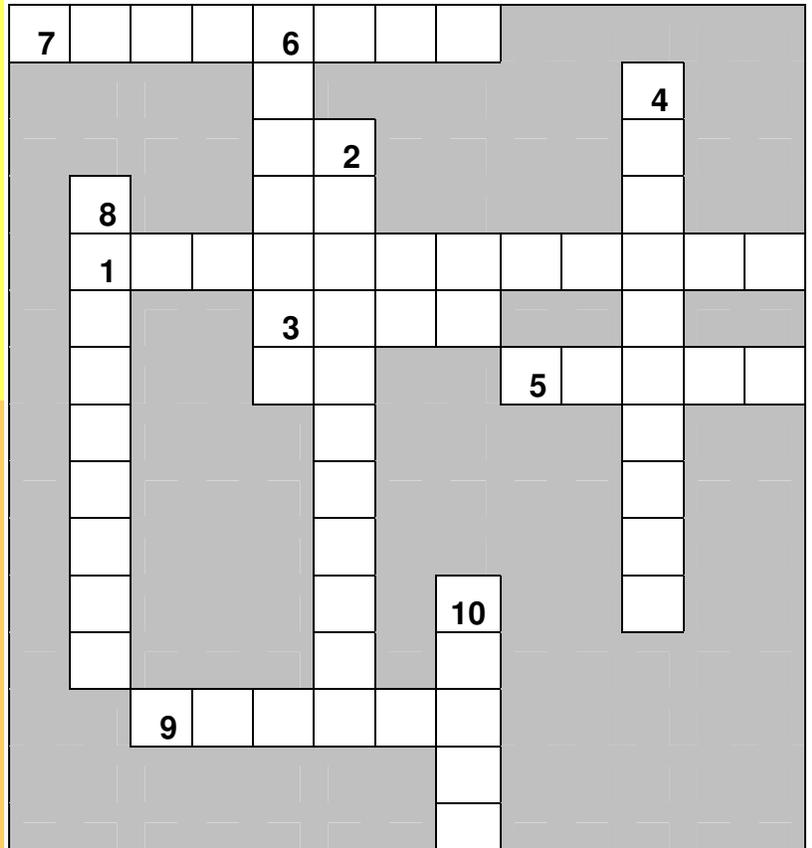
Test your knowledge with this crossword puzzle!

Across

- 1. The voter's signature on the provisional envelope must appear to be the same as the signature on her/his Voter _____ Card.
- 3. Color of the provisional envelope.
- 5. For provisional ballot to be counted, the voter shall not have already _____ in the election wherein s/he cast the provisional ballot.
- 7. If voter's name is not found in the Roster, pollworkers must offer to _____ voter to home precinct before conducting provisional voting.
- 9. Provisional voters can find out if her/his _____ was counted by visiting the Department of Elections Web site or calling the Department.

Down

- 2. The voter must provide her/his _____ address on the provisional envelope.
- 4. The provisional voter must be _____ in the county in which s/he casts the provisional ballot.
- 6. Pollworker must give voter the _____ located on the back of the provisional envelope to be used to check the status of their ballot.
- 8. Provisional voting exists to ensure that a person whose name is not in the Roster will not be _____ from voting.
- 10. Provisional ballots are verified and counted by the Department _____ the Election Day.



Questions? Interested in knowing more?

If you have any questions regarding the information we covered in this newsletter, please call 415-554-5350 to speak with a trainer, or email us at clerk.training@sfgov.org

We are looking forward to seeing you in one of our training classes!