

# VOTING IS YOUR RIGHT!

## Election Guide For Voters With Specific Needs



Los Angeles County REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK  
12400 Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650

# VOTING RIGHTS

## FOR VOTERS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

### WHAT IS THE LAW ?

Four federal laws are of special importance to disabled and elderly voters who have specific needs.

★ **Voting Rights Act of 1965** – Any voter requiring assistance may receive it from a person of the voter’s choice, other than the voter’s employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter’s union.

★ **Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act, 1984** – Promotes the fundamental right to vote by requiring “access for elderly and disabled individuals to registration facilities and polling places in federal elections”.

★ **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)** – Requires public entities to provide program access, reasonable modification of policy, and auxiliary aids and services where necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits of service, program or activity conducted by a public entity.

★ **Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA)** – New federal legislation enabling greater opportunity for access and participation in the election process, including provisions regarding accessible voting technologies in polling places by 2006.

## **WHAT IS OUR GOAL?**

100% participation of eligible voters in all elections, 100% polling place accessibility, and options for all voters who seek independent and private voting.

In compliance with Federal and State laws, we provide services to voters with disabilities including:

- ◆ Accessible polling places
- ◆ Wheelchair-accessible voting booths
- ◆ Magnifying devices at polling places
- ◆ Marking device with enlarged ball for ease of grasp
- ◆ TDD services for the deaf and hard of hearing
- ◆ Cassette tapes with State and County measures
- ◆ Absentee/vote-by-mail voting options
- ◆ Pollworker assistance at any step of the voting process
- ◆ Voter outreach presentations and demonstrations
- ◆ Cassette tapes, CD's with County sample ballot

## **ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY**

The Los Angeles County Voting Accessibility Advisory Consultant assists the Department in providing information about voter registration and election matters to senior citizens and those with disabilities. Our consultant is Gordon W. Anthony, Senior Deputy for the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Program for Los Angeles County, who advises the Department on ways to make the election process more accessible to all citizens in the County. He can be contacted at **(213) 202-5826**. You may also contact Julia Keh, the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) Coordinator at **(562) 462-2754**.

## **PRE-ELECTION DAY SERVICES**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Information regarding voter registration and elections is available from the RR/CC. The office is located at 12400 Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650. Citizens can contact the office for information by calling **(562) 466-1310** or toll free **(800) 815-2666**. Information about our services can also be found on the RR/CC web site [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net). The office is open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday except for holidays. Our mailing address is RR/CC, P.O. Box 90450, Los Angeles, CA 90030- 0450.

### **TDD Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

A text typewriter TDD is available to take calls from any citizen that is hard of hearing. The TDD number for hard of hearing voters who would like to serve as pollworkers is **(562) 462-2259**.

## **Cassette Tape Recording**

Cassette tape recordings of the information printed in ballot pamphlets for State Propositions and County measures for primary and general elections are available upon request. The tapes are available approximately four weeks before the election and may be obtained from the RR/CC Election Information Section in Norwalk at **(562) 466-1310**, from city and county libraries and the Braille Institute (See Voters with Vision Impairments Section).

## **EARLY VOTING OPTIONS**

### **▪ Absentee Ballot**

Any registered voter may apply for a vote-by-mail ballot (also called absentee ballot). Sample ballot pamphlets contain an application on the back cover. You may also write to RR/CC, Document Receipt, P.O. Box 30450, Los Angeles, CA 90030-0450 or Fax (562) 462-2354.

If applying via letter, provide your home address and the address where the absentee ballot is to be sent. **It is important that you include your signature.**

Vote-by-mail applications must be submitted for each election and **received** by the RR/CC not later than **7 days prior to the election**. An individual application or letter request is needed for each person requesting a mail ballot for each election.

### **▪ Permanent Absentee Voting**

California State law provides that any voter may apply for permanent absent voter status. Permanent absent voters no longer have to apply for future elections. A ballot is automatically mailed for each election. For additional information or to request

an application for Permanent Absent Voter status, please call (562) 466-1323 or write the RR/CC office: RR/CC. P.O. Box 30450, Los Angeles, CA 90030-0450.

- **Emergency Absentee Voter Ballots**

If in the seven days prior to the election you find you are unable to vote in person on Election Day, you may still request a vote-by mail (absentee) ballot. You must make a written request, signed under penalty of perjury, and deliver it to the RR/CC's office at 12400 Imperial Highway, Norwalk, 90650.

- **Touchscreen Early Voting**

Our touchscreen "early voting" project has been very well received since its inception in conjunction with the November 2000 election. Early voting begins approximately 13 days before the regularly scheduled Election Day. It has been especially welcomed by blind and visually impaired voters who may vote privately and independently with the aid of the audio component of the system, which orally guides them through their ballot selections. The system also allows for an increase in text size. For voters whose first language is not English, it has the ability to display the ballot in their choice of one of seven languages.

Voters cast their ballots electronically by lightly touching their choice on the screen. This system is available to ALL voters who wish to vote during the touchscreen early voting period preceding major elections. The touchscreen ballot contains the same contest and measures as the ballot you receive at your polling place on Election Day or that is sent to you in the mail if you vote by absentee ballot. Instructions are on the screen and voters may select their ballot language option i.e. English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

## **ELECTION DAY SERVICES**

### **▪ Accessible Polling Places**

The international symbol of access is used on every sample ballot pamphlet to indicate if a polling place is accessible to voters using wheelchairs. Presently, 95% of L.A. County polls are accessible. If your polling location is not accessible, you may vote your ballot outside the polling place location (see Curbside Voting section) OR at a nearby accessible poll. To find the nearest accessible polling place that has the same ballot as your precinct, call **(562) 466-1310**. You may also use our web site [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net) to find if your polling place is accessible, and if not, an alternate option to vote. You can also report inaccessible polling places by clicking on Accessibility Services and the “Accessible Voting Option.”

### **▪ Neighborhood Voting Centers (NVCs)**

Neighborhood Voting Centers (NVCs) are the future for locating polling places in Los Angeles County. NVCs consolidate two to four polling places in a familiar and visible location in the neighborhood, are accessible for voters with specific needs, and have good parking.

### **▪ Assistance in Voting**

Under California law, any voter who needs help in casting a ballot is entitled to request assistance. A pollworker can provide assistance or the voter may select a person of his or her choice.

If you are unable to mark your ballot yourself, you may select up to two people to help you cast your vote. The persons may not be your employer, your employer’s agent or your labor union leader or agent.

- **Voters Using Wheelchairs**

Designated wheelchair accessible voting booths are available at every County polling place.

- **Curbside Voting**

Any voter who cannot reach the voting area at the polling place because of architectural barriers or physical limitations may request to vote “curbside” (outside of the polling location). A pollworker will bring a ballot and a voting device to the voter, assist the voter if necessary and place the voter’s ballot in the ballot box.

- **Voters with Vision Impairments**

Each polling place in the County displays voting instructions in large type. Magnifying devices are also available for voters who may have difficulty reading the ballot. Pollworker assistance is always available.

- **Marking Devices**

A special marking device with a large ball for easy gripping is available at every polling place in Los Angeles County. This marking device allows persons who are unable to grasp the regular voting device to more easily mark the ballot and accurately cast their vote.

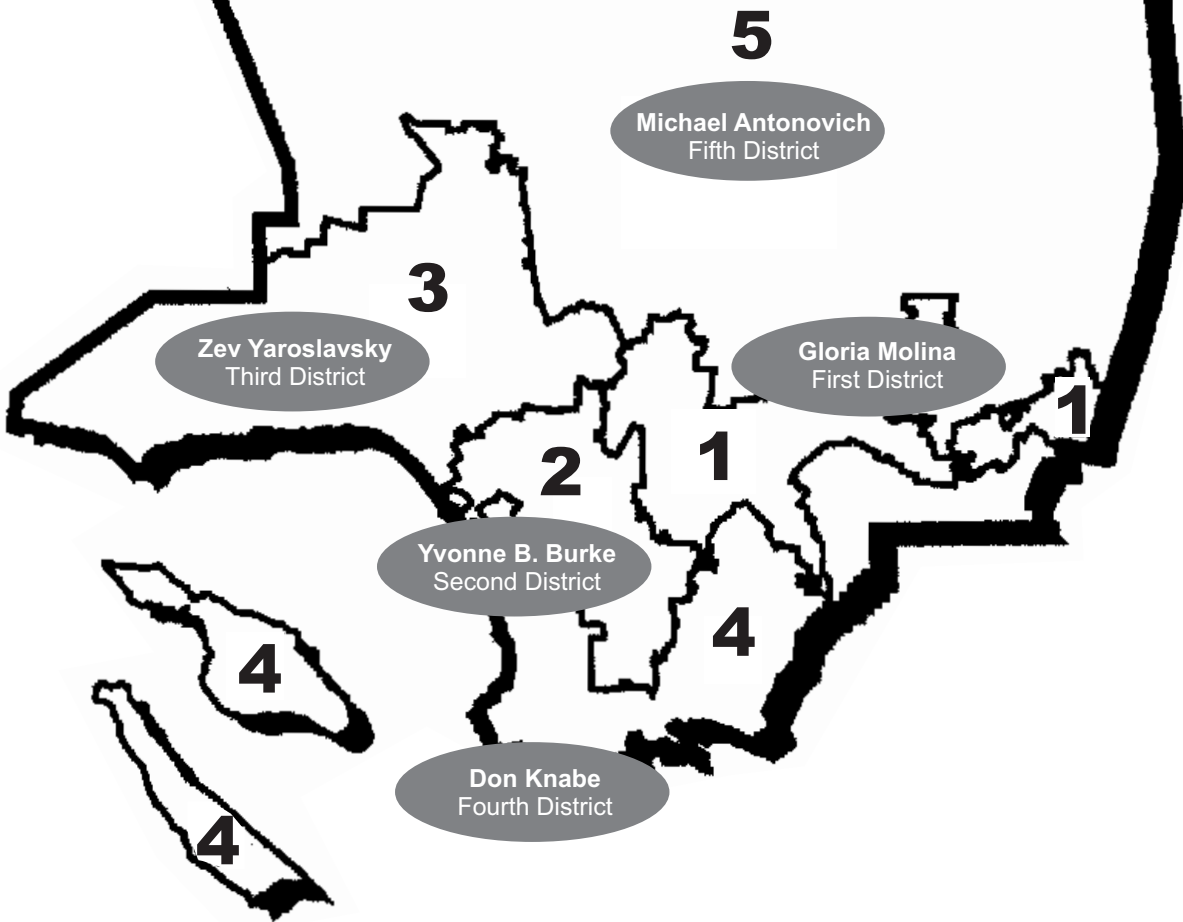
## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

Inside the back cover of this pamphlet, we have provided telephone numbers to help access our services.

# IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Election Information Section:	562-466-1310
Registration/Sample Ballot Inquiries:	562-466-1310 or 562-466-1323
Absentee Ballot Information:	562-466-1323
Sample Ballot Translations	800-481-8683
TDD (Speech/Hearing Impaired):	562-462-2259
Polling Place - Inaccessible	562-466-1373
Julia Keh - Election Programs Coordinator	<a href="mailto:jkeh@rrcc.co.la.ca.us">jkeh@rrcc.co.la.ca.us</a> 562-462-2754
RR/CC Web site address	<a href="http://www.lavote.net">www.lavote.net</a>
RR/CC address	12400 Imperial Highway Norwalk, CA 90650

# Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors



**Conny B. McCormack**  
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

12400 Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650