



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

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CONNOR B. McCORMACK
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

February 24, 2004

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: Conny B. McCormack, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

STATUS REPORT #4: MARCH 2, 2004 PRIMARY ELECTION

Press Event

As reported previously, we will hold a press briefing in the Third Floor Board Hearing Room of the Hall of Administration tomorrow, February 25, at 11:00 a.m. to provide information on the complex rules governing the primary election. Please join me on the podium if you have time.

Assisting Your Staff in Answering Election Day Questions

Our staff has reserved Room 864 at the Hall of Administration from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, February 26 for your staff to stop by and obtain a refresher course in answering voter inquiries on election day. We will provide written materials, a brief reminder on how to use our website to look up polling locations and a user-friendly explanation of the "Modified Closed Primary" rules to help prepare for questions that go through your offices.

Explanatory Brochure

Attached is a new brochure produced by RR/CC staff explaining the difference between primary and general elections. This is a perennial source of questions for our voters. It is available on our website. If you would like additional printed copies, please call me.

Sample Ballots

Sample Ballot mailing is complete to all active registered voters in the County.

Pollworker Recruitment and Training

Our Pollworker Recruiting section is focusing on filling vacancies and ensuring that high-turnout areas of the County have sufficient workers to serve voters on election day. A recent joint press conference with Los Angeles Community College, combined with strong support by its administrators, resulted in more than 200 pollworker applications from Community College students. We continue to recruit as we are still short 900 pollworkers countywide.

Absentee Ballot Mailings

To date, we have issued 412,269 absentee ballots. More than 26% of the ballots issued (nearly 110,000) have been voted and returned to our office. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is today, February 24.

Touchscreen Early Voting

At the close of Early Voting yesterday (February 23), 6,160 voters have used Touchscreen equipment at 16 sites throughout the County. This is about half the volume of the comparable period prior to the October Special Statewide (recall) election.

Please call me if you have any questions regarding this report or any other election preparation activity.

Attachments

**MARCH 2, 2004 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION
STATUS OF EVENTS PERFORMED**

	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>SCHEDULED COMPLETION</u>	<u>ACTUAL COMPLETION</u>
2.	<u>Recruit and Appoint Precinct Officers</u>	3/01/04	
	This election will involve 4,571 precincts requiring the recruitment of approximately 22,000 pollworkers. Recruitment of precinct officers is proceeding on schedule.		
3.	<u>Update Registration Records</u>	2/27/04	
	The February 17, 2004 update of the registration records total 3,682,950 registered voters. This event is proceeding on schedule.		
4.	<u>Testing of Election Night Data Processing Hard/Ware and Programs</u>	3/02/04	
	Testing of election night tally programs is in process. This event is proceeding on schedule.		
6.	<u>Mail Sample Ballots</u>	2/23/04	
	The initial sample ballot mailing to over 3.6 million registered voters began on January 22, 2004. This event is proceeding on schedule.		
7.	<u>Precinct Supplies and Vote Recorders Assembled</u>	2/20/04	
	Vote Recorder Packaging began on February 14. Supply box processing began on February 17.		

MILESTONE STATUS REPORT OF KEY EVENTS

Presidential Primary Election March 2, 2004

EVENT	WEEK ENDING ▼							
	1/16	1/23	1/30	2/6	2/13	2/20	2/27	3/5
1. FINALIZE BALLOT PAGE DESIGN.	▲ 1/11							
2. RECRUIT AND APPOINT PRECINCT OFFICERS.								△ 3/1
3. UPDATE REGISTRATION RECORDS.						△ 2/17		
4. TESTING OF ELECTION NIGHT DATA PROCESSING HARDWARE AND PROGRAMS.								△ 3/2
5. RECEIVE SAMPLE BALLOTS AND BALLOT PAGES FROM PRINTERS.		▲ 1/21						
6. MAIL SAMPLE BALLOTS.							△ 2/23	
7. PRECINCT SUPPLIES AND VOTE RECORDERS ASSEMBLED.						△ 2/20		
8. BOOTH AND SUPPLIES PICKED-UP BY PRECINCT INSPECTORS.							△ 2/22	

- △ SCHEDULE COMPLETION DATE
- △ RESCHEDULE COMPLETION DATE
- ▲ COMPLETION DATE

Primary Election?

General Election?

What's the
difference?



This brochure provides a brief explanation of how these major elections differ.

For more election information, visit our department's website at

www.lavote.net

Contact Information



Election/Voter Registration Information

(562) 466-1310

Absent Voting Information

(562) 466-1323

Multilingual Assistance

(800) 481-8683

General Information

(800) 815-2666

Department Website

www.lavote.net

Conny B. McCormack
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
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Primary and General Elections

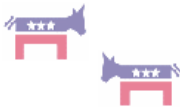
What's the Difference?



Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
County of Los Angeles

www.lavote.net

Narrowing the field of candidates...



Primary Elections



A Primary Election is a **nominating election** in which voters in each political party choose the nominee who will run against the other political parties' nominees in the General Election. For example, Republicans run against other Republicans and Democrats run against other Democrats for their respective party's nomination.

California has adopted a Modified Closed Primary system which restricts voters affiliated with a political party to the choice of candidates of that political party. Under California law, political parties may determine whether or not to allow non-partisan voters (who declined to state a political party affiliation when they registered to vote) the opportunity to cast a ballot for their party's candidates.



Sample Ballots for primary elections are color-coded according to party.

For the March 2, 2004 Primary Election, the Democratic, Republican and American Independent parties allow non-partisan "cross over voting." The Green, Libertarian, Peace and Freedom, and Natural Law parties prohibit non-partisan participation.

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Sending them to office...

General Elections

A General Election is held for voters to choose among the candidates nominated in a primary election for federal, state and local offices. The purpose of a general election is to make a **final choice** among the candidates nominated at the previous Primary Election.

Voters will make their final selection for US President on November 2, 2004



What to expect



at the polls...

Primary Elections

Once you arrive at your neighborhood polling place, a pollworker will give you the party ballot

for the party you registered with (each is designated by a different color). This ballot must be voted in the booth containing



Ballots are color-coded according to party.

the ballot choices for that party. Each non-partisan voter receives a non-partisan (NP) ballot. If a non-partisan voter chooses to cast votes for a political party that allows "cross over voting," he or she will vote in the booth for that political party.

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General Elections

All voters at the assigned voting precinct vote the same ballot regardless of party affiliation. Voters select from among the candidates of the various political parties.

