



REGISTRAR OF VOTERS  
ALAMEDA COUNTY • CALIFORNIA

TIM DUPUIS  
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

CYNTHIA CORNEJO  
DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

**Date:** November 13, 2020  
**To:** Members of the Media  
**From:** Tim Dupuis, Registrar of Voters, County of Alameda

Handling record turn-out (81%) in the middle of a pandemic with new voting regulations in place, the County of Alameda Registrar of Voters (“ROV”) received and successfully processed nearly 800,000 ballots from its 966,088 registered voters for this General Election. The ROV was able to do so through the efforts of its staff and over 1700 poll workers stationed for four days at 100 accessible voting locations (“vote centers”) throughout the County.

Members of the media and advocacy groups have raised questions regarding several issues that occurred over the course of this record-setting vote effort. The ROV has actively and aggressively worked to address these concerns and is able to share the following:

**Touchscreen Voting at Mills College Vote Center**

Uniquely for this election, all registered voters were mailed a vote by mail ballot to cast their vote. Voters could choose to deposit their ballots into one of 66 regionally located drop boxes, United States mailboxes, or by delivering it to one of 100 vote centers. 726,556 voters voted my mail using one of the above methods. Out of that number, 373,472 used the regional drop boxes.

56,722 voters chose to vote in person at one of 100 vote centers. Of that number, 28,297 used one of the touchscreen devices located at each vote center. Approximately, 300 voters used the touchscreen at the Mills College Vote Center location.

The ROV learned on the afternoon of November 3, 2020, that a number of the 300 voters who used the touchscreen at Mills College left with without casting their ballots. They instead took them with them as “receipts.” That number is at most 160 voters, but is likely much less. The ROV immediately began its investigation and was able to confirm

definitively that it received 140 ballots on Election Day from Mills College touchscreen voters.

The ROV immediately began contacting Mills College touchscreen voters—by email, telephone and regular mail—to collect retained ballots, and even offered to pick up ballots from voters. To date, the ROV has received 22 ballots. The ballots have a unique watermark that cannot be duplicated, so the ROV can determine whether it is an authentic ballot. So far, the number of ballots that may have been retained is not sufficient to determine the outcome of any race.

The ROV provided advanced training to poll workers on use of the touchscreen equipment, provided a resource training guide onsite that confirmed the process, and the helpline was up and running for on the spot poll worker questions and problem solving. All poll workers should have been aware that the touchscreen machines printed out a ballot for deposit onsite, not as a receipt. The ROV cannot account for how this occurred given the training and resources available to poll workers. The problem does not appear systemic. No information indicates this anomaly arose at any other vote center.

The ROV provides different levels of training for its poll workers, including the clerks, judges, and captains. The training materials and sessions train the poll workers at all levels that touchscreen ballots must be deposited into the official ROV trolley at each vote center. The ROV has not received any similar reports from any other vote center within the County.

The ROV continues to post election updates daily or as warranted, as the ROV marches towards certifying the results of this record-setting election.