Alameda County Elections Commission Meeting Agenda
July 17, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM
Location: Via Zoom/In person
                                     San Lorenzo Library
                                     395 Paseo Grande
                                     San Lorenzo, CA 94580
Teleconference Location: Union City Hall
                                     34009 Alvarado-Niles Road
                                     Union City, CA 94587

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(b), this notice and agenda will be posted and members of the public may attend and provide public comment at the teleconference location.

Zoom Link for Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86937627021
The video recording of the meeting is normally posted 2-3 days after the meeting at: https://bos.acgov.org/committee-meetings/

1 -- **Call To Order / Roll Call at 4 pm** -- 2 minutes

2 – **Swearing In of New Commissioners** -- 2 minutes

3 -- **Approval of Agenda** -- 3 min
   Modifications to the agenda can be made here

4 -- **Approval of Minutes of June 2025** -- 5 minutes
    See attachment.

5 -- **Announcements and Communications** -- 5 minutes
    No discussion on these items.
    a. From staff
    b. From commissioners
       See attachment.

6 -- **Public Comment on Agenda Items** -- 15 minutes
    If we have 5 or less commenters, then they will have up to 3 minutes each. 5-14 commenters will be limited to 2 minutes each. If we have 15 or more people then they will be limited to one minute each. We encourage and appreciate written comments to be emailed to the Commission at eoc@acgov.org.

7 -- **Monthly Update from Registrar of Voters Office** -- 10 minutes
     See attachment.

8 -- **Business Items** – all items are for action

(a) <u>**Ongoing Items from Committees**</u> **– 40 minutes**
See attachments for committee reports. The convener / lead for each subcommittee has an asterisk by their name.

(1) **Structure of the ROV position (Z Valentine*, Pham, and Lindsay) -- 25 min**
Background: At the June meeting the commission established a new ad hoc committee to complete the Elections Commission's report with recommendations to send to the Board of Supervisors.
Possible Action: Dissolve the current ad hoc committee.
See attachment – the final version we submitted or an interim report to be taken up by the commission.

(2) **Voting Participation (A Moore*, Whitehurst, and Lindsay) -- 5 minutes**
Background: This committee is looking into how the ROV can move the needle for Black men and other populations that have a low voting rate.

(3) **Nominations (Ramon* and Seabrook) -- 5 minutes**
Background: The Nominations Committee is trying to find a strong candidate for the District 2 supervisor and for the "impacted community" seat that the commission is responsible for nominating to the Board of Supervisors.
See attachment.

(b) <u>**New Business**</u> **– 50 minutes**

(1) Speed of Tallying Elections - – 50 minutes
Background: At the June meeting the commission requested a report from the ROV on the impediments and options for releasing election results more frequently and possible ways to improve communications and expectations, which would include more information on the website regarding the timeline for releasing results and the legal requirements.
Possible Action: Form an ad-hoc committee or appoint a commissioner to work with staff on it.
See attachment.

(2) Ballot Design – 20 minutes
Background: The commission identified two ballot design issues in the post-2024 election assessment that needed improvement as follows:

"A. Computer Touchscreen – All candidates in one contest did not appear on the same computer touchscreen screen so some voters may not have known to scroll for more candidates. For example, Oakland's at-large council race had 10 candidates, but

touchscreens show only the first eight candidates when initially opening that screen, forcing voters to scroll down to a second page to find the final two candidates.

  Remedies to Consider:

  1. Provide clear written instructions to view all candidates before moving on.

  2. Ensure all candidates are on one screen.

"B. Placement of Candidate and Ballot Questions on the Ballot – The placement of a Yes or No question was at the top of the same page as the choices of candidates for an at-large race. This might have caused some people to miss the question.

  Remedy to Consider: Ensure yes or no questions are not on the same page as candidates."

Possible Action: Request a report from the ROV &/or form an ad-hoc committee or appoint a commissioner to work with staff on it.

9 -- Special Report from the ROV
Embedded this month into agenda 8b1 – Speed of Tallying Elections

10 -- Public Comment on Agenda or Non-Agenda Items -- 15 minutes
The 15 minutes here is a fixed allocation of time, and will be divided equally among all who wish to comment, with a maximum of 3 minutes per person. If your comments are complex or if you didn't have enough time, we always appreciate it if you send your input to the Elections Commission at eoc@acgov.org.

11 -- Requests for Future Agenda Items
Commissioners can make requests directly to the president of the commission. Requests for future agenda items from the public can be emailed to the commission at eoc@acgov.org.

12 -- Adjournment (as close to 6:30 as is viable)
The next meeting will be Thursday, September 18, 2025, at the San Lorenzo Library.

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA ELECTIONS COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2025
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Via Zoom/In person
             Alameda County Training and Education Center
             125 12th Street, 4th Floor, Oakland Room
             Oakland, CA 94612

1) Call To Order / Roll Call

   The Elections Commission meeting of June 18, 2025, convened at 4:05 p.m. in the Oakland Room. The meeting was called to order by President James R. Lindsay.

   Present
   Commission Members: Karen A. Butter, Susan R. Henderson, Alissa Moore, Alexander Ramon, Zabre Valentine (arrived late), David Wagner, and James R. Lindsay.

   City Clerk: Thai Nam Pham
   Registrar of Voters: Tim Dupuis, Cynthia Cornejo, Shaheer Siddiqui, and Charles Smithline.
   County Counsel: Jason Allen.

   Absent
   Commission Members: Judy Belcher, Irene Dieter, Karl I. Seabrook, and Allie Whitehurst.

2) Swearing-In of New Commissioners
   City Clerk Thai Nam Pham was sworn-in in public.

3) Approval of Agenda
   No modifications were made to the agenda.

4) Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2025
   A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Butter, seconded by Commissioner Ramon, and passed unanimously (6-0).

5) Announcements and Communications
   a. From staff
      There were no announcements from staff.

   b. From commissioners
      There were no announcements from the commissioners.

6) Public Comment on Agenda Items
   Public comments were made on the agenda items.

7) Monthly Update from Registrar of Voters Office
- **Registrar Dupuis noted that the Washington Township Healthcare District has enough validated signatures to hold a special election in November 2025. As of June 18th, the district has 192,604 registered voters.**
- **Commissioner Lindsay asked about the implementation of poll pads for this election. Mr. Dupuis explained that the Elections Office has not yet fully assessed the costs and logistics involved, such as the potential need to purchase additional trolleys to store ballots received without envelopes but assured the commission that they will be kept informed as planning progresses.**

8) Business Items
    (a) Ongoing Items from Committees
        (1) Structure of the ROV position (Heard after item 8(b)(1))
        - **Commissioner Valentine summarized where the commission was in its decision-making process. A discussion ensued, during which several commissioners requested revisions to the report. Ms. Valentine accepted the requested adjustments and then asked the commission to vote on submitting it to the Board of Supervisors.**
        - **A motion to dissolve the current ad hoc committee and form an ad hoc committee, consisting of Ms. Valentine, City Clerk Pham, and Mr. Lindsay, to finalize the report and transmit it to the Board of Supervisors as soon as possible by Ms. Butter, seconded by Mr. Ramon, and passed by a vote of 5 to 1 with Wagner dissenting and Moore absent.**
        (2) Voting Participation
        - **Commissioner Moore reported the committee has been meeting with community-based organizations and individuals who live in the affected areas and will deliver a rough draft of the report by July 6.**
        (3) Nominations
        - **Commissioner Ramon reported that three LAAC members have applied for open commission seats, the committee will review these applications, and the committee will hopefully have a recommendation at the July meeting.**
        (4) April 15 post-election assessment
        - **Ms. Moore read the submitted report.**
        - **Mr. Ramon inquired whether the Registrar of Voters had hired an ADA compliance consultant for website accessibility. Mr. Dupuis responded that the county's web team is certified in accessibility compliance.**
        - **Commissioner Henderson asked whether the agency consults with accessibility organizations, and the answer was also yes.**
        - **Commissioner Lindsay suggested publishing the number or percent of ballots remaining to count. The ROV agreed and said they plan to publish the results they submit to the Secretary of State, including the number of unprocessed ballots and to omit the legacy "100% precincts reporting" notation. The ROV also said they will evaluate potential ways to assist voters with marking ranked-choice ballots on touchscreen voting machines, which looks different than paper ballots.**

- **A motion to approve the report and forward it to the Board of Supervisors was made by Ms. Butter, seconded by Mr. Ramon. After some discussion about website accessibility and revisions to the report's language, the motion as amended passed unanimously (6–0) with Ms. Moore absent.**

   (b) New Business

      (1) Website Reporting of Election Results

- **The commissioners invited Preston Jordan to explain the request for including the percentage of registered voters who participated in each plurality at large contest, including when two seats are up for grabs.**
- **Mr. Dupuis explained that he will need to find out if its system can generate this information or if their IT team needs to do it.**
- **A motion was made to appoint Commissioner Dieter to work with staff on website changes by Mr. Ramon, seconded by Ms. Butter, and passed unanimously (7-0).**

      (2) Speed of Tallying Elections

- **Mr. Lindsay noted that the Registrar of Voters is receiving a significant amount of public criticism regarding the speed of election results reporting (no specific names or numbers were provided). He requested that the agency present a report at the July meeting outlining potential options to improve the speed of ballot tallying, as well as enhanced communication strategies and public expectations around the process.**
- **Mr. Ramon asked that the report also include a list of any impediments to faster tallying.**
- **Mr. Wagner added a request to explore options for improving public perception around the speed of the counting and costs of more frequent reporting to costs of other options. He also said that he would like the presentation not to focus on the way it works now, but on listing options to consider for increasing the speed and the advantages and disadvantages of those options.**
- **A motion for the ROV to provide a report at the July meeting explaining the impediments and options for releasing election results more frequently and possible ways to improve communications and expectations was made by Ms. Valentine, seconded by Mr. Ramon, and passed unanimously (6–0) with Ms. Moore absent.**

9) Special Report from the Registrar of Voters

    The special report was not delivered this month.

10) Public comment on agenda or non-agenda Items

    Public comments were made on the agenda and non-agenda items.

11) Requests for Future Agenda Items

    There were no requests for future agenda items.

12) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 17, 2025, at the San Lorenzo Library

To: Alameda County Board of Supervisors
From: Alameda County Elections Commission
Date: Submitted on July 9, 2025

April 15, 2025 Post-election Assessment

Overview

The April 15, 2025 special election in Alameda County proceeded smoothly, with several notable improvements since the November 2024 election. This report summarizes the observations, improvements, and ongoing concerns discussed during the April commission meeting.

Notable Improvements

- Ranked-Choice Voting Instructions: A new graphic and updated instructions for ranked-choice voting were implemented. These enhancements received positive feedback and may have contributed to the much lower incidence of overvotes.

- Website Enhancements: The "Ballot Processing Activities" page provided accessible and clear explanations of observable activities such as ballot scanning and adjudication. The Registrar of Voters (ROV) maintained a daily alert system and live-streamed ballot processing activities, exceeding legal requirements.

- Website User Interface: Illustrated election-related topics on the website were easily navigable and accessible to the public.
- Voter Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions: The FAQ page clarifies that ex-felons may register and vote, provided they are not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction.

Concerns and Responses

- Results Posting Frequency: The current schedule of posting results only on Fridays raised concerns. The ROV explained that this schedule is intended to manage workflow effectively and ensure that each update reflects a significant batch of results.

- Ballots with Missing Postmarks: Concerns were raised regarding the counting of ballots that arrived within seven days of the election without discernible postmarks. The ROV clarified that, under existing guidelines, such ballots are counted in favor of the voter.

- "100% of Precincts Reported" Notation: The phrase continues to cause confusion. Although "from Vote Centers" was added since the last election, it does not clarify that the results are preliminary and include vote-by-mail ballots. The ROV is considering removing the 100% notation entirely to avoid misinterpretation.

Registration & Turnout		−
108 of 108 Precincts Reported from Vote Centers (100.00%)		Total Registration:250800
	Turnout	Percentage
Election Day Reporting Turnout	4,543	1.81 %
Vote by Mail Reporting Turnout	90,503	36.09 %
Total Ballots Cast	95,046	37.90 %

- Electronic Voting Display for Ranked-Choice Voting: The electronic interface for ranked-choice voting differs significantly from the paper ballot layout and is not explained in advance. As a result, voters encounter this unfamiliar interface for the first time at the polling place. It would be beneficial to provide information about this interface ahead of time, ideally in the voter pamphlet. Additionally, on-site instructions that voters can review before using the device would enhance clarity and reduce voter confusion.

Conclusion

The April 15 special election demonstrated operational improvements and enhanced transparency. While certain areas still require attention, particularly around public communication and result reporting, the ROV's efforts reflect a commitment to continuous improvement.

ATTACHMENT FOR AGENDA ITEM #7 - ROV Monthly Report

ELECTIONS COMMISSION MEETING – July 17, 2025

Agenda Item #7 – Registrar of Voters Monthly Report

1. Election Clean Up
    a. November 5, 2024, General Election
    b. April 15, 2025, Special City of Oakland Election

2. Preparation for the June 2, 2026, Primary Election
    a. Reviewing supply needs
    b. Staffing needs
    c. Reviewing training materials
    d. Reviewing processes and space requirements

3. Potential November 2025 Election:
    a. Washington Township Health Care District
        i. Ballot Measure (Initiative – Medical Emergency and Life Saving Care Funding Act)
        ii. Governing Board to meet on July 28th

**Alameda Elections Commission Ad Hoc Committee
to Finalize and Submit the ACEC Ad Hoc Report Examining
Whether the ROV Should Be a Full Time Position
July 2025**

The Ad Hoc Committee examining whether the ROV should be a full time position submitted its final report to the full Commission at the 2/20/25 meeting. In order to provide the ROV time to review the report and respond, the Commission agreed to revisit the report in May, prior to making any final decisions regarding recommendations to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

Due to the demands of the April 15 Special Election in Oakland, ROV Dupuis said he was not able to prepare a response for the May meeting. He did present in-person remarks. (The Committee clarified at the time that the comments should be submitted to the Committee in writing in order to be fully recognized and reflected in any Commission analysis.)

During that presentation, ROV Dupuis expressed support for the second and third Ad Hoc Committee recommendations (#2 dealt with increasing capacity to communicate with the public and #3 recommended an independent review of ROV policies and practices culminating in recommended changes if deemed appropriate), while taking issue with the first recommendation (related to establishing a dedicated ROV for Alameda County).

Additional edits were also requested by Commissioners, which were made prior to the June ACEC meeting.

At the June meeting, additional edits were discussed and accepted. The Ad Hoc Research and Drafting Committee was dissolved, and a new Ad Hoc Committee was formed for the purpose of finalizing the report and submitting it to the Board of Supervisors prior to the July Commission meeting. This new Committee comprised President Jim Lindsey, Zabrae Valentine, and Thai Nam Pham.

As of the submission of this report, those edits have been made, and the final document, as well as one showing substantive edits, have been submitted to the ROV, and we expect will be subsequently submitted to the Board of Supervisors by the afternoon of July 16, 2025.

ATTACHMENT FOR AGENDA ITEM #8(a)(3) – Nominations

Alameda Election Commission – Nominations Committee Report July 14, 2025

The nominations committee has revived the database of prior applicants to the commission. It is reviewing that pool of applicants and will be contacting the Language Accessibility Advisory Committee for potential candidates.

Registrar of Voters
PROCESSES

Tim Dupuis
Registrar of Voters
July 17, 2025
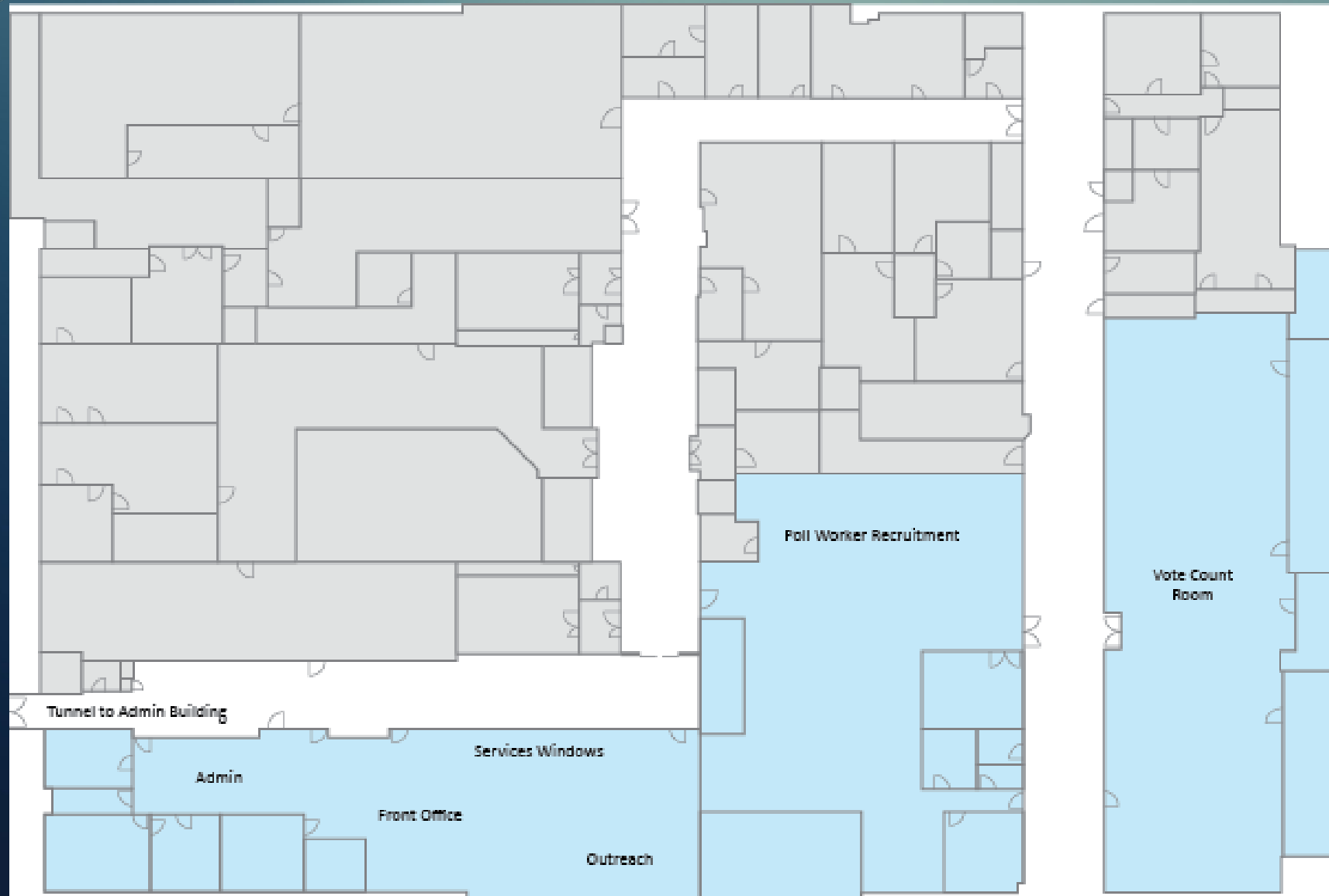
ROV Logistics

Administration Building

Rene C. Davidson Courthouse

Oak Street

Fallon Street

12th Street

ROV Logistics

ROV Logistics

In-Person Voting

Vote Centers Process
1. Poll Pads
2. Print Official Ballot or Use Ballot Marking Device
3. Official Ballot Trolley
4. Rover Pick-up
5. ROV Central Vote Count Room

Voting By Mail (VBM)

Vote by Mail Process
1. Mailed, Drop Box (Black Bags), Drop Stop, Yellow Trolley's
   VBM Ballots
2. Preparation for Sorting
3. Sorting
   a. Signature Capture
   b. Pre-Sort
4. Sig-Checking
5. Final Sort
   a. Milling
   b. Precinct Level Sort
6. Ballot Extraction
7. Vote Count Room

Voting By Mail (VBM)

Drop Box

Mail

Prep Sort

Transport

Sort

Extract

Election Day

Election Day Process
1. In Person Voting
2. Vote by Mail Receiving
    a. Drop Box
    b. Vote Center
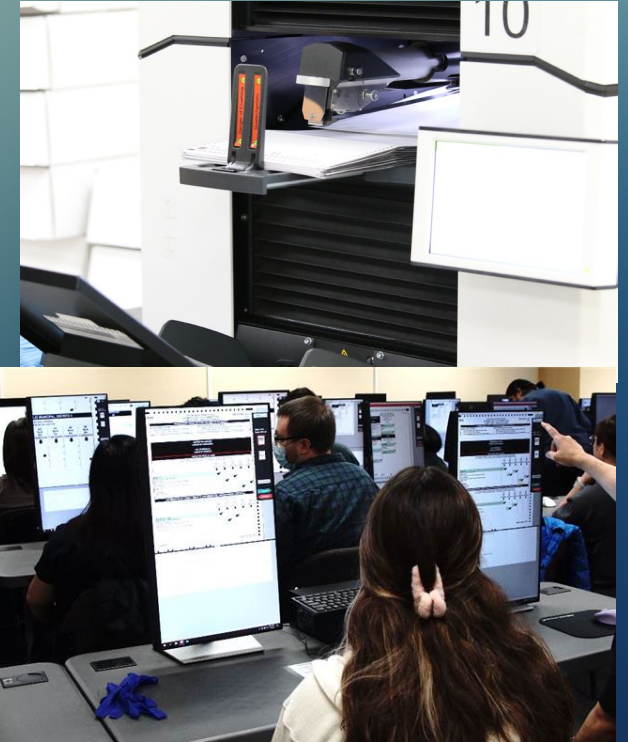3. Phone Bank
4. Help Desk
5. Election Night Asset Receiving

VBMs received on Election Day start the VBM journey.

Vote Counting

Vote Count Process
1. ROV Central Vote Count Room
   a. Vote Tallying
   b. Batches of 600 cards
      i. Batches with overvotes or ambiguous marks are sent to adjudication
      ii. Ballots in adjudication are not included in the initially tallied results

E-Plus Timeline

E-0

Election Day

E+7

Final Day for plus mail postmarked on or before election day.

E+15

Deadline for Voters to cure their ballots

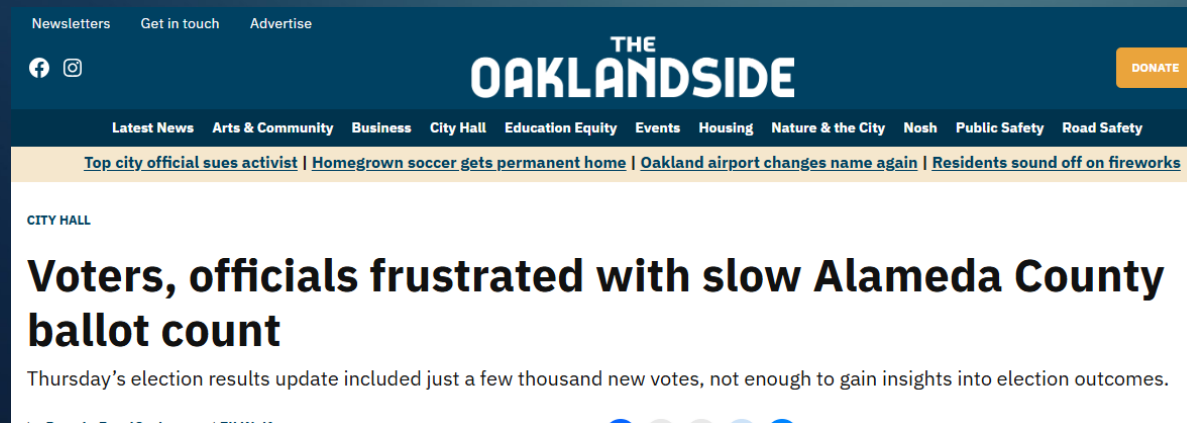**E+17**

Earliest date to certify

Voters must be given a minimum of 8 days' notice of the deadline to cure their ballot prior to certification of the election.

Speed of Tally

Alameda County is processing ballots at the same pace as other counties in California.

Article written after the election results update

Voters, officials frustrated with slow Alameda County ballot count

Thursday's election results update included just a few thousand new votes, not enough to gain insights into election outcomes.

Published November 7, 2024

November 5, 2024 – General Election
Unprocessed Ballot Report (E+10)
(November 16, 2024)

County	Count
Alameda County:	**17,000**
Contra Costa:	14,600
Sacramento:	60,000
Orange:	71,911
Riverside:	35,600
San Diego:	46,500
Santa Clara:	19,000
Sonoma:	22,932
Stanislaus:	32,495
Shasta:	16,639
San Bernardino:	84,600

Suggested Improvements

Public Suggestions

1. Publish how many ballots are remaining to count by race
   a. We don't sort ballot down by race
   b. We process as we receive them
   c. Sorting down by race would slow down the process
   d. Inaccurate
      i. Don't now how someone voted
      ii. Undervotes
2. Vote VBM at the Vote Centers
3. Educate voters on early voting/returning ballots early
4. Updates Daily
   a. Start and Stop of Processes
   b. Smaller Result Updates
   c. Small Updates may not cover every race

Suggested Improvements

Election Night
- Alameda County focuses on in-person voting
- OCROV/LA focuses on in-person and VBM processes
- Can Alameda County focus on both?
  - Additional Staff will be required
  - Additional Space will be required
    - Staff and Space need to expand, can not do one and not the other
  - Split Shifts
    - Increase space, staffing, training, and management

ROV Identified Improvements

Adjudication – Additional Space and Staff
- Ballots sent for adjudication must go through 3 levels of review, before being released for results

Sorting Process
- Additional Sorter, Space, and Staff

- Signature Checking
  - Additional Staffing and space

- Centralized Workspace
  - Additional and adjacent space to improve operational efficiency

What we are doing now:
Working to acquire more space, used by ITD for the 2026 Election Cycle