

Presidential General – November 2008 Ballot Order Procedure

There are two segments of the ballot order for precinct ballots. The main order is for English language ballots and the order quantities are based on the number of registered voters in a precinct at the time of the order. The second component is language ballots that are ordered for precincts with a requisite number of voters in Spanish, Filipino, or Vietnamese. For this election, there were an extremely large number of late voter registrations. We monitored the increase in voters by precinct and decided to do a supplemental order.

Original Ballot Order

The quantity of English ballots ordered is based on the Elections Code requirement of seventy-five percent of the registered voters in each precinct. There is no consideration given to the number of permanent mail voters. After calculating seventy-five percent of the registered voters in the precinct, a ballot order is generated for the calculated requirement rounded up to the nearest increment of 25¹.

In addition to the English ballots ordered for a precinct, it may also receive one or more of the language ballots. The formula for ordering language ballots is based on a Memorandum of Agreement between the County of San Diego and the United State Department of Justice. For those precincts receiving language ballots they are in addition to English ballots². (See chart below for quantities ordered.)

Supplemental Ballot Order

There were an extraordinary number of new registrations received by the RoV at the close of registration 15 days prior to Election Day. After analyzing the increase in registration, it was decided to determine if some precincts might need additional ballots. It was also decided to adjust the ordering formula to take into consideration precincts with a higher proportion of 'net voters'³ than the norm.

The new formula was based on the higher of seventy-five percent of registered voters or the number of 'net voters' plus ten percent. Using the new registration count and new formula, we ordered 9,225 English ballots for 148 precincts. These ballots were combined with the ballots from the original ballot order for the 148 precincts. All of the paperwork was amended to include the additional ballots and were included in the precincts' election supplies distributed on October 25-26.

After close of registration, we continued to receive voter affidavits from the Secretary of State up to five days prior to Election Day. We entered these

¹ English ballots are padded in quantities of 25 and 50.

² Language ballots are padded in quantities of 5 or 25.

³ 'Net Voter' is the result of subtracting the permanent mail voter count from the total registered voters in a precinct.

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registrations into the DIMS system as late as three days prior to the election.

To make sure we would be prepared to handle a situation where the increased registration might affect some precincts on Election Day, we recalculated the ballot order a third time using the same formula used in the supplemental order. A second supplemental order was placed for 16,425 English ballots in 196 precincts. These ballots were held at the Registrar's office in a locked cage until needed on Election Day.

As a result of the active monitoring of turnout, ballot supply, and constant contact with Precinct Inspectors, we were able to meet the needs of every precinct. Based on the continuous monitoring of the precinct ballot supply, we sent 2,100 official ballots to 12 precincts on Election Day. There were no precincts that ran out of ballots on November 4th. Every voter that showed up at their precinct was given a ballot to vote.

Description	Initial Order	Supplemental Order 1	Supplemental Order 2
Registered Voters	1,351,664	1,446,067	1,471,059
English Ballots	1,044,300	9,225	16,425
Spanish Ballots	179,085	0	0
Filipino Ballots	18,815	0	0
Vietnamese Ballots	14,460	0	0
Total Order	1,256,660	1,265,885	1,282,310