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**Santa Cruz County Voter Registration and Elections**

**Information for Candidates & Campaigns**

**Voter Turnout Updates & Alpha Indexes**

Santa Cruz County has implemented a Vote Center Model for the November 3, 2020 Election in compliance with Executive Orders and laws that were passed to ensure voter safety during the global pandemic. Under our former polling place model, voters were assigned to one location to vote. For Nov. 3, voters can vote anywhere in the County. Therefore, the paper Alpha Index previously used is no longer available for tracking voter participation.

Santa Cruz County will now offer Voter Activity Status reports instead of the traditional Alpha Index. This report will provide information on who voted in-person, but also who has already voted using the ballot mailed to them. This robust and comprehensive report provides campaigns more information than previously available under the polling place model.

Reports will be hosted on a secured FTP site. An application is required to access this report. Once the application is received and approved, we will send an email with your password. You will use that password to access the FTP site for each report that is done. One report will be available at the beginning of Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. On Tuesday, Nov. 3 reports will be provided at 10am, 2pm, and 6pm. We will send an email to you with a link to each report. These reports are free of charge.

Visit our website for more information on how to access voter file information.

Election Night Results:

Historically, results on election night increased by hundreds of thousands of votes as polling places reported in. With the Vote Center Model we are using for the November 3, 2020 Election, results reporting will be different.

* Most people will vote using the ballot we mailed them. These ballots are processed and scanned on an on-going basis as we receive them.
* First results on Tuesday, Nov. 3 after the polls close at 8pm will include ballots processed and scanned by mid-day on November 3 and in-person ballots that were cast before November 3.
* In person ballots cast at the voting locations on Nov. 3 will be added to Election Night Results as they are received from the Vote Centers.
* Over the course of election night, election results will include the in-person votes from Vote Centers on Election Day.
* Keep in mind that this number will be less than in past elections as more people opt to vote using the ballot we mailed to them.
* Mail ballots, timely received, are added to the results following election night during the official canvass. Our website, [www.votescount.us](http://www.votescount.us), will list the date and time of the next update to the results.
* The law gives us until Dec. 1 to certify the election. We do hope to have most of the ballots counted and posted prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. We will continue to add ballots up until Dec. 1 resulting in a change of the vote totals.
* The results are not complete and winners are not final until all audits have been done and the results are certified by this office.
* If you have any questions, please contact County Clerk Gail Pellerin at 831-454-2419 or [info@votescount.us](mailto:info@votescount.us)