**News Release**

Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections

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**June Ballots are starting to go out to Military and Overseas Voters**

Santa Cruz County election officials will begin sending ballots for the June 5, 2018 Primary Election to our county’s 1,421 military and overseas voters on Friday, April 6.

The federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act requires elections officials to mail or email military and overseas ballots no later than 45 days before a federal election day. However, due to the fact that these ballots need to reach people in places all over the world that do not always have dependable mail delivery, California law authorizes ballots be sent as early as 60 days before the election.

Voters who are in the military or overseas who want to request a ballot for the June 5, 2018 Primary Election may complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) online at <http://www.fvap.gov/california>. If the voter has already completed an application, there is no need to reapply for each election.

Military and overseas voters have already been contacted by Santa Cruz County elections staff to verify addresses where the ballot is to be mailed or emailed. California law allows emailed ballots to military and overseas voters only.

To qualify as a military or overseas voter in California elections, a person must be:

* A U.S. citizen living outside U.S. territorial limits or the District of Columbia;
* An active member of the United States armed forces or an auxiliary branch;
* A person living on a merchant vessel documented under U.S. law; or
* A spouse or dependent of a member of the U.S. military or an auxiliary branch.

For our regular vote-by-mail voters, ballots will begin to be mailed on Monday, May 7. The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is May 29. Applications are online at [www.votescount.com](http://www.votescount.com), or on the back cover of the County Sample Ballot and Voter Information Guide to be mailed to voters in May. Voters may also call 831-454-2060 and request a ballot be mailed to you.

As of today, Santa Cruz County has 150,028 registered voters, 85,617 of which are permanent vote-by-mail voters. The last day to register to vote in the June 5 election is Monday, May 21. Voters may register to vote online at <http://registertovote.ca.gov/> or pick up a card at any post office, library, city hall, or county office.

Voters who miss the deadline to register may still register and vote up to and including Election Day at the Santa Cruz County Clerk’s Office or Watsonville City Clerk’s Office. An additional registration and vote center will be set up at UCSC’s Quarry Plaza from Saturday, June 2 to Tuesday, June 5.

For more information, please call the Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department at 831-454-2060, 1-866-282-5900 (toll-free), or visit our website at [www.votescount.com](http://www.votescount.com).

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