

the POLLcat

A NEWSLETTER FROM WARREN SLOCUM, CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER, SAN MATEO COUNTY

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MARCH 2008



Dear POLLcats,

As you know, U.S. Rep. Tom Lantos passed away on Feb. 11. Elected in 1980 to represent the northern portion of San Mateo County in the House of Representatives, Congressman Lantos served his country and this county with distinction.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger issued a proclamation calling for a special congressional election in order to fill this newly vacant seat for the 12th Congressional District.

This Special Congressional Open Primary Election, being held on April 8, will fill the seat for the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends on Jan. 3, 2009. The primary election for the new two-year term, which begins on Jan. 4, will be held during the June 3 Statewide Direct Primary.

Because this election is an open primary, candidates from all political parties will appear on the same ballot. Voters can choose any candidate they wish, regardless of political party affiliation.

Voters will undoubtedly have many questions about how this Special Congressional Open Primary will work. You can read more about how the open primary works by visiting the Elections Web site at www.shapethefuture.org, or by reviewing your sample ballot.

Poll worker recruitment for the April 8 Special Congressional Open Primary Election has already begun, and you can sign up today by visiting our Web site at www.shapethefuture.org or by calling 650.286.2810.

Thank you for your continued support and service. See you at the polls!

Warren Slocum

Provisional Voting

Voting had been brisk all morning and Sally, the inspector at Menlo Park, was musing on how smoothly the setup had gone. Everyone had showed up on time and was excited about the day.

The first ripple occurred around 7:30 a.m., when a young woman's name wasn't on the roster. Sally explained gently, "For whatever reason, your name isn't on the roster. The only option we have for you today is to vote a provisional ballot. You can call the office after the election to find out if your votes counted. It's a legitimate way to vote."

Not on the Roster. The young woman was annoyed, and that rattled Sally, but she took charge and grabbed a Provisional Envelope. On the outside of the envelope, she checked off the reason for the provisional ballot and wrote in the precinct number and ballot style. She then handed the envelope to the voter to fill out and return to Joe, the traditional judge.

Joe double-checked the voter's precinct and gave her the correct paper ballot. When she finished, she slipped her voted ballot into the Provisional Envelope, sealed it and returned it to Joe. He handed her a green Provisional Handout and an "I Voted" sticker and placed her envelope in Red Hot Envelope #1.

Tip from Tower

eSlates will not be used for Provisional Voting in the April Special Congressional Election.

Signed up to Vote by Mail, but never received ballot. Twenty minutes later, in walked a voter who said she was signed up to Vote by Mail but had never received her Vote by Mail ballot. Joe was ready to take this one on. He

checked the roster, and found the voter's name.

"Our roster shows you as registered in this precinct and signed up to Vote by Mail. But we don't know for certain what happened to your Vote by Mail ballot so you will have to vote provisionally," Joe told the voter, knowing that this would be the only way for the Elections Office to sort what happened and ensure she didn't vote twice. He did exactly what he and Sally had done earlier.

No VBM Envelope - Not a Provisional Voter. A few hours later, a frantic voter showed up with her Vote by Mail ballot and said, "I'm late - can't find the envelope! Can you just take my ballot?" Sally knew that this voter was not a provisional voter. She gave the woman a spare Vote by Mail envelope and said, "Just fill it out, sign, and date it." Sally put this ballot in Red Hot Envelope #1 because she knew that it would mess up the count at the end of the night if she didn't.

After easily handling these provisional voting scenarios, Sally and Joe knew they didn't have anything to worry about. Provisional voting had never been easier!

Where is the 12th Congressional District?

In San Mateo County, the district includes parts of El Granada and Redwood City, and the cities and unincorporated areas of:

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Brisbane | Highlands-Baywood | San Bruno |
| Broadmoor | Park | San Carlos |
| Burlingame | Hillsborough | San Mateo |
| Colma | Millbrae | South San Francisco |
| Daly City | Montara | San Bruno |
| Emerald Lake Hills | Moss Beach | San Mateo |
| Foster City | Pacifica | |

San Francisco areas in the district are in the southwest portion of the city.



Why I am a Poll Worker

"I hate to say it this way, but it's a kick in the pants.

Normally, I'm a software developer, chained to my desk and PC with little interaction with the world. The training classes allow you to visit places you would never see otherwise.

You get to meet interesting people during the training and the actual elections. And you wind up assisting people and solving real problems. But mostly you help people make their opinions noted."

Tell us why you're a poll worker in 100 words or less. Email Carol Marks at cmarks@smcare.org.



Leo Shebalin, Daly City
Poll worker since 2002

Change is a Good Thing

A number of staffing reassignments were made recently at the Elections Office. We do this periodically to keep the organization strong, spread the knowledge base, and see what new ideas result when you make a change.

Greta McElroy-White, who admirably led the Election Officer Unit for four years, will now handle field operations and conduct training for field technicians, poll opening and closing technicians, and ride-along coordinators. She will also handle the May 6 Portola Valley School District All Mail Election. These areas will surely benefit from her expertise.

A new supervisor of the Election Officer Unit will be named in the near future. In the meantime, Hillary O'Connor will assist in the day-to-day coordination and training schedules for the Election Officer Unit.

Everyone is committed to making Election Day an excellent experience for both you and the voters. As Warren would say, "We all need to be repotted every now and again!"

eSlate Labs - Change in Venue

We lost our lease! The eSlate Lab on Claremont didn't meet the County's accessibility standards and we had to vacate.

Beginning March 18, an eSlate Lab will be set up at 40 Tower Road in the L&A Room. The hours will be from 9:30 am - 1:30 pm and 2:00 pm - 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday. It will also be open Saturdays, April 22 and 29, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. The Lab will be staffed at all times - you'll always be able to get answers and assistance. Remember: Practice makes perfect! If you are a traditional judge and want to learn more, come to a lab.

The eSlate Lab Schedule is posted on www.shapethefuture.org, or call 650.286.2810 for the hours.

Training Begins March 17



If you are planning to work in the April 8 Special Congressional Open Primary Election, the Poll Worker Procedures Classes begin March 17 and run through April 3.

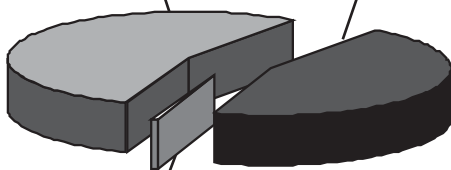
You should have received a schedule in the mail with your availability letter. Sign up for class today!

There are three ways to sign up for class: 1) online at www.shapethefuture.org, 2) call 650.286.2810, or 3) send an email to pollworkertraining@smcare.org.

Presidential Primary Statistics

Total Number of Election Day Votes Cast - 114,828

Total Number of Mail Ballots Cast - 95,928



Total Number of Early Votes Cast - 941

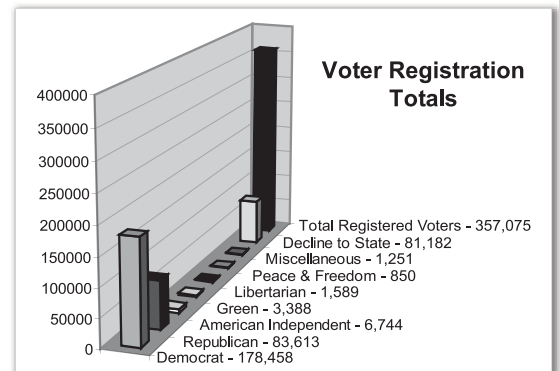
Total Number of Ballots Cast - 211,697

Provisional Ballot Totals

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Total Cast | 12,994 |
| Total Accepted | 11,324 |
| Cast on eSlate | 2,400 |

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Precincts | 448 |
| Polling Locations | 234 |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Field Techs/RACs | 79 |
| Poll Open/Close Techs | 150 |
| Poll Workers | 2,455 |



WARREN SLOCUM

CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
SAN MATEO COUNTY REGISTRATION & ELECTION DIVISION
40 TOWER ROAD
SAN MATEO CA 94402-4035

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