



Dear Poll Workers,

Welcome to our third edition of PollCat. The May issue focuses on the need for preparation in elections, introduces our new poll worker training program called Poll Worker Academy II (PWAI), provides the results from our recent election day role preference questionnaire, and spotlights Donald Nelson, just one of our distinguished poll workers.

Sir Robert Baden Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts said, "Be prepared...the meaning of the motto is that a scout must prepare himself by previous thinking out and practicing how to act on any accident or emergency so that he is never taken by surprise." By introducing the PWA II we are following this sage advice.

In any business activity it pays to be prepared. The conduct of elections is no different. It requires six months of planning and thousands of well trained people. And even with all of that effort, things can happen that were not planned for.

It is vitally important that we invest as much time and energy in training as we can – you as a poll worker and we as election administrators. In this way and working together, we can do the best job for the voters at the November 2007 election as well as during the upcoming presidential election cycle.

I encourage you to make this a "summer of commitment" as we prepare for the journey ahead.

You will be successful – we will be successful, but it will take our collective energy and effort. I am counting on you.

Best

Warren Slocum

Be Prepared!

Sir Robert Baden Powell, founder of the Boys Scouts, coined the now famous phrase... "Be Prepared!"

Ever since I've been your Chief Elections Officer, that's been our motto. We test our knowledge, our procedures, our equipment ...we practice, practice, practice...we develop training procedures and instructional materials ...and we rehearse every aspect of the election. That's why we enjoy a national reputation for conducting accurate elections and for issuing timely results.



Sir Robert Baden Powell

In the next 18 months, we will be tested as never before. We will conduct four major countywide elections with full implementation of our new voting system. The schedule and the attendant election mandates will mean that the system, our people and all of our election components will be taxed as never before. In order to meet that challenge, we must be prepared and that means extra effort by the entire team!

There are two steps in our preparation program and they are described below.

STEP ONE

To prepare fully, our first step is to hold an intensive seminar entitled Poll Worker Academy II at the San Mateo County Community College District campuses (Skyline, College of San Mateo and Cañada). It will be the first of its kind in California, and possibly the nation.

The Academy will consist of four two-hour classes that will focus on the most important aspects of electronic voting. This year's Academy is specifically designed for eJudges and Inspectors. Traditional Judges will be able to become certified at next year's session. Our "working titles" for classes are:

- Opening The Polls - *Taking the Stage*
- During Election Day - *A Flawless Performance*
- Closing The Polls - *Curtain Call*
- Review Lab - *Encore*

Classes will be limited in size for individualized instruction, hands-on practice, role-playing exercises and a sense of community. You will be tested for your proficiency and mastery. Upon successful completion you will be certified as a San Mateo County eJudge or Inspector and honored at a graduation ceremony that recognizes your efforts.

STEP TWO

The second step will be the opening of an eSlate Practice Lab in San Mateo beginning in August. It will be open until the February Presidential Primary. Here you can brush up your skills after the Academy and practice as you wish.

It's going to take a special commitment from all of us. I am asking that you make this a summer of commitment.

SPECIAL REQUEST

Oh, one more thing. Did I mention that I'm asking you to sign up and complete these classes on your own time and without pay? That I expect you to attend the classes, give it your all and do this voluntarily?

I can hear you now... "He expects us to do what, on our own time—without pay! He's lost his mind!" Well, that's exactly what I'm asking. In fact, I'm counting on you.

For your efforts, you will earn ½ unit of college credit, be certified, be prepared for most Election Day challenges and have my respect and grateful thanks. More information will be coming in the mail.

In addition to the Poll Worker Academy, the regular mandatory training classes will be held in October as usual. You will be paid for attending this class if you serve on Election Day.

And just remember as Sir Robert Baden Powell says, "A scout smiles and whistles under all circumstances."

Center Stage

Our November election this year will be the first in over 30 years that neighbors will not be voting in the Nelson garage.

Donald Nelson began serving as a poll worker in 1982, just after he retired from the South San Francisco Fire Department as a Battalion Chief. His wife, Devota, had already been working part time at the Elections Office and had a polling place in their home, so it was natural that he, too, would become a poll worker. Since then, he has added poll worker to his list of activities as a dedicated community member. An officer for VFW and American Legion in Pacifica and a volunteer for the SSF Fire Museum, Mr. Nelson said that it is "time to pull back a little and reduce the number of civic commitments."



Donald Nelson

Mr. Nelson noted that the introduction of Eagle voting machine and the opportunity to work with student poll workers were the most welcome changes in his years as a poll worker.

Update on Top-to-Bottom Review

The "Top-to-Bottom Review of Electronic Voting Equipment," spearheaded by California's Secretary of State Debra Bowen, seeks to strengthen voter confidence in the election process through a comprehensive examination of the voting systems currently in use throughout the state.

The Secretary of State contracted with University of California to provide three teams of experts that will conduct a thorough review of the voting systems with respect to their usability, security, and accessibility. All the reviews are expected to be complete by late July. A public hearing and comment period will follow. Based on the results of the review, the Secretary will determine whether each voting system should retain its certification, have additional conditions attached to its certification, or be decertified entirely.

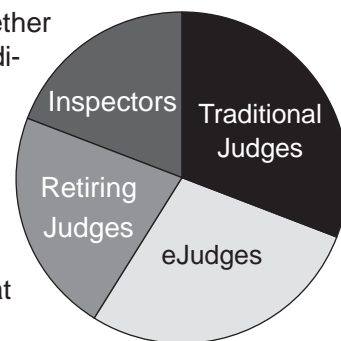
The Secretary held a public random drawing to determine the order for the system reviews. San Mateo County's system, the Hart Intercivic 6.2.1 system, will be the fifth system (out of seven systems) that will be reviewed.

WARREN SLOCUM

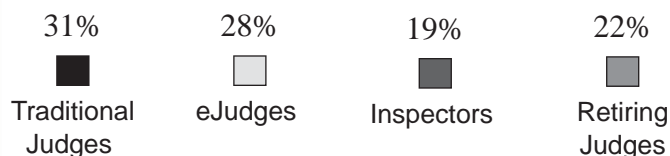
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Election Day Role Preferences

We asked you to tell us whether you'd prefer to be a Traditional Judge, an eJudge, an Inspector or if you'd rather have your name removed from Election Day service. Based on this terrific response we will have a good balance of expertise at the polls on Election Day.



Here's what you said:



- 685 want to serve as Traditional Judges
- 622 want to serve as eJudges
- 437 want to serve as Inspectors
- 502 want to retire from service

November 6, 2007

The upcoming November Election is known as a UDEL election, which stands for Uniform District Elections. The following UDEL jurisdictions are scheduled for the November 2007 Election:

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Schools: Belmont-Redwood Shores, Burlingame, Hillsborough, Jefferson School, Millbrae, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Bruno Park, San Carlos, San Mateo-Foster City, San Mateo Union High, Sequoia Union High, Woodside

College: San Mateo County Community College

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Fire Districts: Colma, Half Moon Bay, Menlo Park, Point Montara, Woodside

Police District: Broadmoor

Recreation Districts: Highlands, Ladera

Sanitary Districts: Bayshore, East Palo Alto, Granada, Montara, West Bay

Water Districts: Mid-Peninsula, Coastside, Los Trancos, Skyline, Westborough

Community Council: MidCoast

MUNICIPALITIES

Belmont, Brisbane, Burlingame, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Millbrae, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Bruno, San Carlos, San Mateo, South San Francisco, Woodside

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