



Dear *POLLcats*,

Having worked in election administration for more time than I care to remember, I have seen a few elections in my life. I can tell you this – we haven't had an election like the upcoming November 4th Presidential General Election in years.

Not only will turnout be high but there will be lots of observers. Those two facts make it absolutely critical that you make a commitment to this year's training opportunities. There are all kinds of training available for poll workers – those opportunities includes classroom style courses as well as lab courses where you will get a chance to practice in advance of election day.

So much of the success of an election is in the hands of poll workers like you. Your performance at the polls shapes the opinion the voters have of how well an election is conducted. It goes without saying that you have a critical role to play.

I am making a special request for this election. Don't just take the one mandatory class. Go to the lab classes and spend time of the things that you need to review. Get ready. Be prepared. Don't leave anything to chance. It will make a world of difference to our voters and to your fellow precinct board members.

And I will be grateful.

Let's show the rest of the country that San Mateo County election are magnificently prepared for their voters.

Thank you,

Warren Slocum

Classes are in full swing

Warren Slocum has said, "The most important thing a poll worker can do for the Presidential General Election is to get prepared by attending a training class."

By now, you should have received your assignment letter, gotten the training schedule and lab schedule in the mail, gone online to www.shapethefuture.org and signed up for class (or called), and are counting the days until Nov. 4. This historic election is less than 30 days away!

The classes will prepare you for all the procedures but the labs are where you can go at your pace, review the areas you want to review, and get answers to your questions. There will be staff with knowledgeable people at all times.

Labs will be held six days a week at varying times at Tower Road. Sign up for one or more lab classes described below:

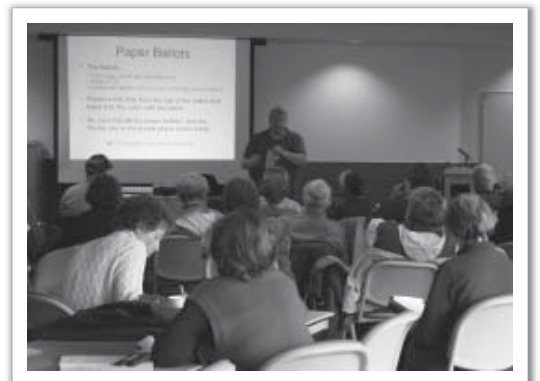
eSlate Open / Close. Being able to set-up the eSlates, open the polls without issues, facilitate voting, and at the end of the day, conduct the closing procedures and disassemble the equipment as if you were blindfolded (just kidding) will give you such confidence on the day it matters.

Ballot Reconciliation. At the end of a very long, very exciting, Election Day, you will have to complete one of your most important tasks, Ballot Reconciliation. This lab will give you step by step ballot reconciliation practice. You'll want to be confident of this process.

eSlate Helping Voters. This lab reviews how to add voters and cancel a booth as well as to practice your skills at helping voters with disabilities, voters who prefer an alternate language ballot, and first time voters who don't know what to expect. This lab practice will make you an invaluable resource for your voters and your precinct board colleagues.

Processing Vote by Mail / Provisional Voters. This is a scenario-based lab that reviews all aspects of provisional voting. Who casts a provisional ballot? What are the steps to assist voters through provisional ballot process? And tips to help you diffuse a situation where the voter feels entitled to cast a regular ballot and doesn't want to vote a provisional ballot.

eSlate Free Time. Just want to practice the various voting situations that a voter could encounter? This is the time to do that. You set the pace and decide what you want to practice. Get answers to your questions in an unstructured lab setting.



www.shapethefuture.org gets the hits

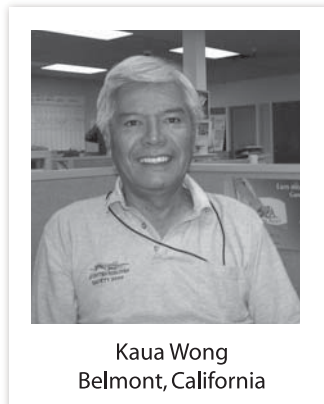
Last week, more than 3,000 visitors logged onto www.shapethefuture.org for all different kinds of reasons. Two-thirds of our visitors made it a point to make a return visit. In this same timeframe, there were 198,000 page views. What does that mean? It means that people, who came on line, browsed through the site and looked at lots of pages...on average, nearly 27 pages per visit. That means there's a lot to see, do, learn, and review.

If you haven't ever gone to the website, let me invite you in. See what others are seeing. Sign up for class, see the poll worker reference guides and back issues of *POLLcat*, take the poll worker knowledge quiz (it's anonymous and fun!), look at the features, press releases, and news. Check your voter registration status—see what others experience when they do. The content changes almost every day. If you haven't checked it, do it today!

Poll Worker Spotlight

“I started working in the polls in 1991, maybe '92,” said Kaua Wong, who moved here from Hawaii years ago.

Kaua serves as a Double-Inspector in Precincts 1006 and 1007 located in the Lutheran Church on Burlingame Avenue, where he has been an Election Officer for years.



Kaua Wong
Belmont, California

“You meet the most interesting people when you work at the polls on Election Day. And your colleagues — they become like family. Being able to work in any election is what makes this country great. I wouldn't miss it!”

Voter Registration in San Mateo County Higher Than State Average

According to the statistics released by the Secretary of State's Office, 76.67% (or 367,010) of the eligible voters (478,751) in San Mateo County are registered to vote as of today. The statewide average as of Sept 5 was 69.79%. San Mateo County has traditionally had higher voter registration counts. This year we are ahead of the statewide average by 6.88%.

Party Preferences in San Mateo County

Democratic Party	50.87%
Republican Party	22.22%
Decline to State	22.91%*

*(4th highest percentage of voters in the state)

What's New?

New Blue Ballot Boxes

The old blue corrugated cardboard ones are gone. The new ballot boxes are lightweight, heavy duty, plastic, secure boxes that have two slots in the top. One slot is for paper ballots cast on Election Day; the other slot is for Vote by Mail ballots and provisional envelopes.

A brand new training room (and three different knowledge levels for classes)

Training at Tower Road will take place downstairs, away from the hubbub and noise of the warehouse.

Line-management procedures at the polls

With many new voters and occasional voters motivated to vote in this election, election officers will be giving voters who are standing in line an eSlate instruction sheet, and a copy of the Sample Ballot Pamphlet if they haven't made their choices already.

No More Envelope #1, Envelope #2, or Envelope #3

The old envelope #1 is now the new Blue Ballot Box! Envelope #2 has become two envelopes — the “Spoiled Envelope” and the “Surrendered Envelope.” Envelope #3 has become the “Communications Envelope.”

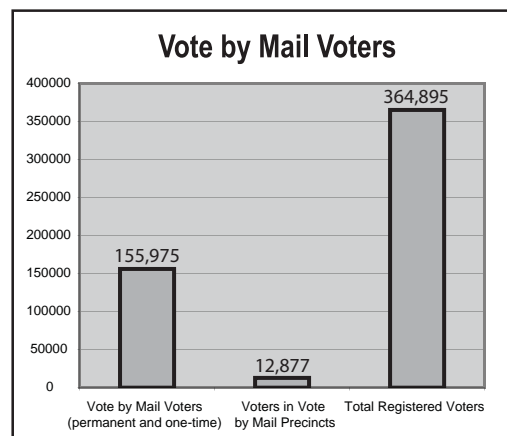
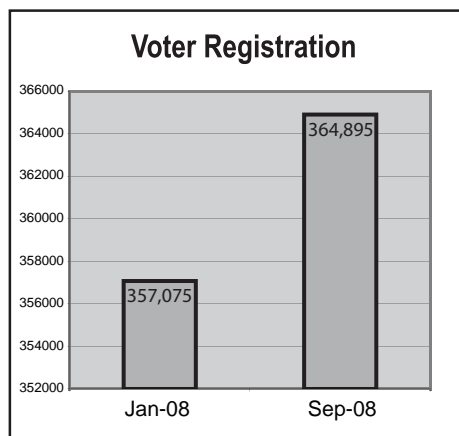
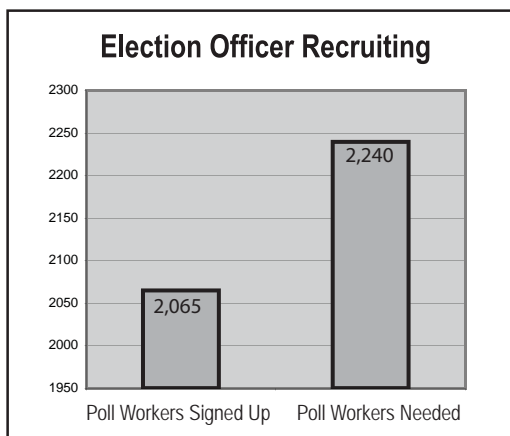
The Phone Centers – Internal and External

An external call center will open on Oct. 6 to handle the tidal wave of voter questions in the month preceding the election as well as on Election Day. They will field the majority of the calls and be trained to handle the six most frequently asked questions. We are ready!

Chairs with Cushions in the Training Room

In response to the overwhelming number of requests for chairs with cushions, we have chairs with cushions for you. We are listening.

By the Numbers



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