



Santa Barbara County Elections



The Future of California Elections

**Expanding Participation in California's Democracy:
A look at current reforms and the road ahead**

Joseph E. Holland
Santa Barbara County
Clerk, Recorder and Assessor
Registrar of Voters



Santa Barbara County Elections



Our History

- **The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo - February 2, 1848**
 - *The treaty added an additional 525,000 square miles to U.S. territory including land that makes up California.*
- **California Admissions Day - September 9, 1850**
 - *California became the 31st state and entered the union as a free state.*
- **Fourteenth Amendment - July 9, 1868**
 - *Grants guaranteed privileges and immunities of Citizenship, Due Process, and Equal Protection. But does not grant the right to vote.*
- **Fifteenth Amendment - February 3, 1870**
 - *Gave all Men the right to vote.*
- **California Proposition 10 – Ban on Poll Taxes - November 3, 1914**
 - *Abolished an annual poll tax of not less than two dollars, on every male inhabitant of this state over twenty-one and under sixty years of age, except paupers, idiots, insane persons, and Indians not taxed.*
 - *\$2.00 in 1914 equals approximately \$47.00 today.*

NATIONAL POLL TAX RECEIPT.

No. 1668



\$2.00.

E PLURIBUS UNUM.

ACT OF APRIL 12TH, 1862.
STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

County of Santa Barbara

1862,

This Certifies that

July 3rd
William Dover

has

paid Two DOLLARS Federal Poll Tax, levied for the Suppression of the Rebellion.

A. Robinson
County Treasurer.
S. H. Thompson
County Auditor.

W. M. Munn
State Controller.

County of Santa Barbara

No. 86832

October 6

1863.

This certifies that *Wm. Dover*

has paid Three Dollars, STATE POLL TAX, for the year 1863.

A. Robinson
County Treasurer.

S. H. Thompson
County Auditor.

W. M. Munn
Controller.

\$3.00.

No. 130

County of Santa Bar.

May 31st

1858.

This Certifies, that *William Dover*

has paid Three Dollars, Poll Tax for the year 1858.

P. Canillo County Treasurer.

\$3.00

Chas. C. Cook Clerk of Board of Equalization.



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Our History

- **Nineteenth Amendment - August 18, 1920**
 - *Women's right to vote*
- **Twenty-Fourth Amendment - February 23, 1964**
 - *Abolished poll tax on all Federal Elections.*
- **The Voting Rights Act of 1965**
 - *Prohibits any election practice that denies the right to vote to citizens on the basis of race.*
- **Twenty-Sixth Amendment - July 1, 1971**
 - *Changed the Voting Age to 18.*



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Yesterday and Today

- **California No-Excuse Absentee Voting - 1978**
 - *4.4% absentee ballots cast – November 1978*
- **Uniform and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) - 1986**
 - *Protects the right to vote for service members stationed overseas*
- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - 1990**
 - *Ensures that election workers and polling sites provide a variety of services designed to ensure persons with disabilities are able to vote.*
- **National Voter Registration Act - 1993**
 - *Requires states to permit mail-in registration, and make registration services available at DMVs, unemployment offices, and other state agencies.*
- **California Permanent Vote By Mail - 2002**
 - *27% VBM ballots cast November 2002*
 - *60% VBM ballots cast November 2014*
- **Precincts Set at 1,000 Registered Voters**
 - *Regardless of the amount of Vote by Mail Voters per Precinct*



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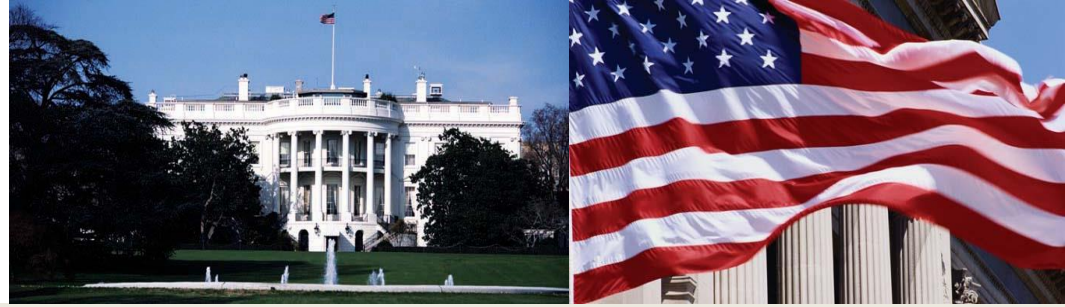


Yesterday and Today

- **The California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (CVRA) – July 9, 2002**
 - *Makes it easier for minority groups in California to prove that their votes are being diluted in “at-large” elections.*
- **Help America Vote Act of 2002 - October 29, 2002**
 - *Creates minimal standards of election administration, provides for provisional ballot voting, and sets aside funds to help states improve outdated voter systems.*
 - *Set Standards for ADA access and the ability for disabled voters to cast a ballot independently and unassisted.*
- **The Military and Overseas Empowerment Act (MOVE) - 2009**
 - *Establishes more efficient means for troops stationed overseas and expatriates to request and receive absentee ballots through the mail or electronically.*



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Tomorrow

- **Conditional Voter Registration – 2017 ?**
 - *Allows a person to register to vote after the 15th day prior to an election and on Election Day, and cast a provisional ballot to be counted if the conditional voter registration is deemed effective.*
 - *Requires the county elections official to offer conditional voter registration and provisional voting at its permanent offices or at satellite offices.*
 - *Conditional Voter Registration becomes operative on January 1 of the year following the year in which the Secretary of State certifies that the state has a Statewide Voter Registration Database.*
- **VoteCal 2013- 2016**
 - *California Secretary of State currently working on Statewide Voter Registration Database that will be rolled out to counties beginning in 2015 with a target date of June 2016 to be operative across the state.*



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Future?

- **Entirely Vote By Mail.**
- **Vote by Mail Drop Off Centers on Election Day.**
- **Regional Vote Centers with access to all ballot types open on specified days prior to and on Election Day.**
- **Same Day Registration vs. Conditional Voter Registration. Removing the need for a close of registration deadline.**
- **Mail a ballot to every registered voter including those on the inactive list.**



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Technology Today

- **Optical Scan Vote Tabulation Machines with Paper Ballots**
- **Ballot on Demand (BOD) Printing Capability for Regular and Regional Offices**
- **High Speed Vote By Mail Ballot Sorting (Down to Precinct Level)**
- **High Speed Automatic Signature Recognition(ASR) for Vote By Mail envelopes**
- **On-Line Voter Registration**
- **Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Voting Machines for HAVA ADA Compliance.**
- **AutoMark Paper Ballot Voting Machines for HAVA ADA Compliance**
- **UOCAVA Voting via FAX and US Mail**



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Technology Tomorrow?

- **Digitally Scanned Vote Tabulation Machines with Paper Ballots**
- **Digital Adjudication and Duplication of Over-voted and Damaged Ballots**
- **Electronic Voting for HAVA ADA compliance with printed paper ballots that can be scanned into vote tabulation systems**
- **Open source coding for vote tabulation systems**
- **Electronic Poll Books wired into statewide voter registration database (VoteCal) at all Vote Centers/Polling Places. (Wireless?)**
- **UOCAVA Voting over internet or by E-mail**
- **Electronic Petition Tablets for gathering petition signatures**