

# VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES AND THE JUNE PRIMARY

Disability Rights California

By Fred Nisen

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2016

We run a statewide  
hotline on election day.  
Based on our calls we  
noticed a few trends.

Poll workers should offer  
the accessible voting  
system to every voter.

Hospitals need training  
on “Hospitalized Voter”  
or “Emergency  
Absentee” ballots.

Voters with disabilities  
are having trouble  
figuring out where to go  
for help on election day.

Some counties included  
our hotline number in  
the voter info guides.

We work collaboratively  
with Counties to help  
resolve election day  
issues.

On late Tuesday afternoon our hotline received a call from a voter needing assistance in San Francisco. The voter was concerned about making it to the polling place because of their disability.



We contacted election  
officials in San  
Francisco on his behalf  
and...

San Francisco sent a poll worker to escort him to his polling place and he was able to vote before the polls closed.

Prior to election day we were working statewide to ensure that accessible voting was available in all of California.

There are many outstanding accessibility issues when Counties transition to all vote by mail elections.

Sometimes, even though accessible voting machines might be available in an all vote by mail County, it is not adequately offered or properly explained by County Election Officials

# EXAMPLE OF PROBLEMATIC VOTER MESSAGING IN A COUNTY TRANSITIONING TO ALL VOTE BY MAIL

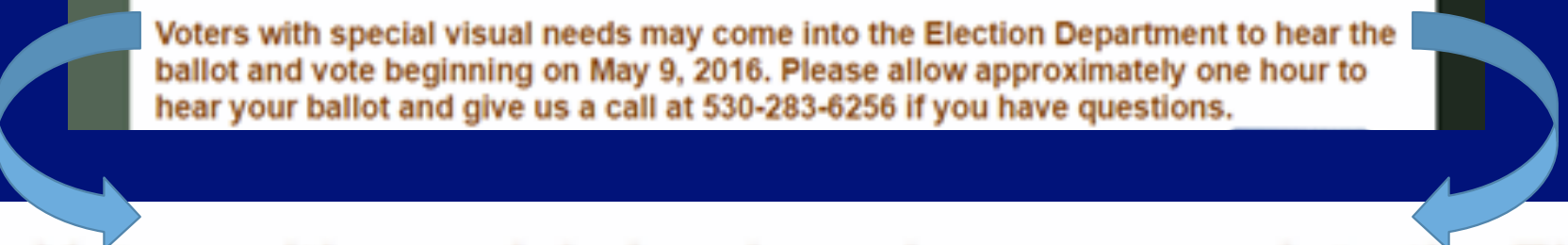
Elections Department, Room 102 at the Court-house at 520 Main St. Quincy May 9 - June 7, 2016, Election Day by 8:00 p.m.



If you make a mistake on your ballot, bring it in to the Election Department and exchange it for a new one. If you haven't received your ballot by May 16, call us, we can void your first one and issue you another one.

Please remember to mail your ballot early to make sure it reaches us in time to be counted. To check the status of your Vote By Mail ballot to see if we have received it after you mail it, call us at 530-283-6256 or 1-844-676-VOTE toll free.

Voters with special visual needs may come into the Election Department to hear the ballot and vote beginning on May 9, 2016. Please allow approximately one hour to hear your ballot and give us a call at 530-283-6256 if you have questions.



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WE CONTACTED THIS COUNTY AND THEY  
AGREED TO UPDATE THEIR WEBSITE  
THIS IS THE FIRST TRY....

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The Courthouse is a voting place accessible to voters with disabilities.





# MANY PHONE CALLS TO THE COUNTY ELECTION OFFICIALS LATER...

counted. Ballot envelopes must be postmarked by June 7, 2016. To check the status of your Vote By Mail ballot to see if we have received it after you mail it, call us at 530-283-6256 or 1-844-676-VOTE toll free.



Some voters with disabilities may not be able to use a vote by mail ballot and may come to the Courthouse and vote in person. The Courthouse is an accessible voting place. Voters will be able to vote privately and independently using an accessible voting system. Voters with special visual needs may hear the ballot and vote. Please allow approximately one hour to hear your ballot.

**TDD/TTY-call 711. Or go to [Federal Communications Commission](#) or [deaf and disabled telecommunications program](#)**

**California Secretary of State [Voters with Disabilities Information](#)**

**Give us a call at 530-283-6256 or 844-676-VOTE if you have any questions.**

**Visit us on facebook and twitter!**

Counties transitioning to all vote by mail must still offer the option of accessible in-person voting for voters with disabilities. One polling place in a rural county is not adequate due to long travel times.



Questions?

