

## June 5 Election Q&A



Final results from the June 5 Statewide Primary Election have been reported and Sacramento County's first election under the Voter's Choice Act (VCA) is one for the books. We sat down with Alice Jarboe, Interim Registrar of Voters for Sacramento County, to catch up on how the election went and learn more about what we can expect for future elections.

### How did it go?

With Sacramento County being the largest of the five counties to implement the VCA beginning with the June Primary Election, the pressure was on. The implementation took months and months of planning and coordination by all **Sacramento County Department of Voter Registration and Elections** (DVRE) staff and what resulted, was a very successful election where voter turnout reached 42 percent, significantly surpassing the 2014 Statewide Primary Election of 29.6 percent.

Voters in Sacramento County were very receptive to the new voting model and took advantage of the Vote by Mail (VBM) option, returning a record breaking amount, higher than the past three Primary Elections. In fact, based on the results from the Voter Experience Survey, 79 percent of respondents said they were very satisfied or satisfied with their overall voting experience.

What were the top three questions the department received?

#### » **What security measures were taken?**

Every precaution was taken to safeguard the system, and all data is housed on a secure closed network with no internet connection. Additionally, access to the system and ballots is limited to authorized employees under 24/7 surveillance and all staff, both permanent and temporary are sworn in as election officers. Anytime there is a ballot in the room, there are always two or more people present.

#### » **When will the ballots be processed and counted?**

This year, the results released on election night were different than in years past. In total, there were only 18,104 in-person votes and 106,505 VBM ballots to report election night. Since the majority of voters waited until June 5 to return their VBM ballot, those were not included in the initial results but counted in the days and weeks after the election.

For those concerned with how long it took to release final results, this election was actually certified faster than the November 2014, June 2016 and November 2016 elections.

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## Adopted County Budget Focuses on Social, Health Services

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted the Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2018/19 on Tuesday, June 5.

The Budget maintains the capacity to provide services to County residents while implementing strategic initiatives that address the Board's priorities.

More than 80 percent of the County's investment in new or enhanced programs is in the Health Services Department, with the focus on addressing critical needs in the Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug programs, including:

- » \$5.9 million to implement the Drug Medi-Cal Waiver that will provide enhanced drug treatment services to the community.
- » \$4 million to develop and implement a program that provides trauma-informed mental health services and support for foster youth, with a focus on placement stability for foster youth and their families.
- » \$24.2 million to continue to implement the Board-approved three-year MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) to expedite mental health services for individuals with serious mental illness and/or co-occurring substance abuse disorders and are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- » \$4.7 million to provide contract and rate increases for mental health service providers to ensure provider stability and uninterrupted services for patients.

The Budget will also continue funding for programs and services that were initiated over the last few years with Board approval, including:

- » Initiatives to address homelessness, such as Rapid Rehousing, the winter shelter program, improving family crisis response and shelters, preserving the Mather Community Campus, establishing a full-service rehousing shelter and implementing a flexible supportive rehousing program.
- » The Parkways and Unincorporated Communities Clean-up and Safety Initiative to reduce the incidence and mitigate the impact of illegal camping in the County's parkways and unincorporated communities.
- » A strategic plan to reduce disproportionate African-American child deaths through community-based contracts and targeted staffing in Child Protective Services, Public Health and Probation.



- » Implementation of the Sheriff's ShotSpotter Initiative, that uses acoustic surveillance technology to identify and respond to illegal gunfire incidents in selected geographic areas in real time.

The numbers on the Recommended Budget will change between now and September, when the County receives new information including the impact of the State Budget and updated revenue totals. The Final Budget will come back to the Board of Supervisors in September for review and adoption.

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### June 5 Election Q&A, *Continued*

- » **What are the hours of operation and locations of Drop Boxes?** There was some confusion over Drop Box locations hours of operation. Since Drop Boxes were inside the designated facilities, they were only accessible during the facilities business hours.

Moving forward, we will be working with facilities to have more uniform hours for all the locations.

### What can we expect for future elections?

- » **Higher voter turnout.** This is an incredibly exciting time and we expect to see increased voter turnout in the November 2018 election. As more voters become familiar with the new voting model, we anticipate more VBM ballots being returned, and we are working to prepare for that.
- » **Additional outreach.** Typically it takes at least two to three elections for voters to really acclimate to voting changes. As this is the case, we will continue our efforts to educate all residents in Sacramento County about the changes to voting under the VCA and all of the opportunities available to them.

For more information about upcoming elections, registration information or the VCA, visit [DVRE's website](#).



## Working to Make Your Roads Smoother

The Sacramento County Department of Transportation (SACDOT) is in high gear. Traveling around the unincorporated areas of the County this time of year, you may encounter construction on the roadway. Despite the temporary inconvenience, the smoother roads will be easier on your car and make for a better ride in the long run.



For road improvements and maintenance projects, SACDOT is using funds from the SB 1 gas tax. Already, Sacramento County has received about \$7.3 million of these funds and will receive another \$21 million in fiscal year 2018-19. This amount will increase in future years and the County will receive an average of more than \$24 million per year over the next 10 years.

Along with the roadways, the gas tax is funding curb, gutter and sidewalk repairs, traffic signal upgrades, street light installation, and, bridge replacements. Project costs range from \$475,000 to \$4.1 million.



These funds will go a long way in halting the continued deterioration of the County's roadway system and give travelers a smoother ride through Sacramento County. As an added bonus, the recent passage of Prop 69 securely earmarks the funding for transportation projects by ensuring money will not be diverted.

SACDOT appreciates the public's patience as crews work to improve the roads. For more information on the work being done under SB 1, visit the "Your Gas Taxes at Work" webpage at [http://www.sacdot.com/Pages/Senate\\_Bill\\_1.aspx](http://www.sacdot.com/Pages/Senate_Bill_1.aspx).

## Promoting Fair Housing Through the Renter's Helpline

Sacramento County is dedicated to protecting the rights of renters and landlords and promoting fair housing choice. In support of that commitment, Sacramento County serves as the lead participant in the Renter's Helpline, a telephone and internet-based counseling and mediation service that contracts with a variety of organizations to address fair housing issues throughout the region.

Recently, the Renter's Helpline with one of the contracted organizations, Project Sentinel, worked to connect a tenant who was experiencing disability discrimination at her residence.

The discrimination started in 2017, when the tenant, a disabled mother of two, took on an emotional support animal that was prescribed to help with her disability-related needs. The on-site and corporate management refused to review the paperwork and issued the tenant



a 60-Day Notice to Vacate. Hoping to resolve the issue, the tenant again called the corporate management office and subsequently received a 3-Day Notice to Perform or Quit, which cited very minor lease violations.

The tenant filed a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

complaint and contacted the Renter's Helpline to learn how to advocate for herself. The Renter's Helpline connected her with program counselors from Project Sentinel who reviewed her documents, determined there was evidence of discrimination and worked to conduct several witness interviews to further support the tenant's discrimination claim.

After representing the tenant throughout the complaint process and negotiating on her behalf, Project Sentinel helped the tenant reach a final settlement in February 2018, which included HUD monitoring the property's compliance with the agreement for a two-year period.

If you believe you or someone you know has experienced housing discrimination while trying to rent an apartment or buy a home, call the Renter's Helpline, 916-389-7877, or visit the website at [www.rentershelpline.org](http://www.rentershelpline.org).

## Vow to Not Allow Sprinkler Runoff!

Lush lawns can be the envy of the neighborhood, but did you know that lawn chemicals such as fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides can easily travel by sprinkler runoff into your neighborhood's stormwater drains?

It is this polluted sprinkler runoff, entering our stormwater drains, that connects directly to our local streams, creeks and finally to our rivers. Fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides can be toxic to fish, wildlife, and the water itself. Chemicals in the runoff water can upset the natural balance of microorganisms, nutrients and molecules that help to maintain a healthy homeostasis.

Among other things, fertilizers in our waterways promote unhealthy growth of algae that chokes out oxygen for fish. Herbicides can hinder the growth of beneficial plant material and oxygen in our waterways. Pesticides collect in insects, frogs and fish, as well as the wildlife that are part of that food chain.

The Sacramento County Department Water Resources has tips to help you keep your vow to not allow sprinkler runoff and still have that lush lawn:

1. **Don't allow sprinkler runoff** – Adjust sprinklers, use shorter watering duration, aerate lawns to promote water absorption, don't water when windy
2. **More is not better** – Sparingly use fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides
3. **Always follow label instructions** – Avoid chemical applications when rainy or windy
4. **Always choose non-toxic** – Use chemical alternatives or the least toxic lawn products
5. **Never pour unused chemicals into drains** – Chemicals do not belong in stormwater drains, indoor drains, sinks or toilets
6. **Properly dispose of unused chemicals** – Take all unused lawn chemicals to the County's Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Center for disposal, free of charge for residents only,



at 4450 Roseville Road, North Highlands, 95660, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information, visit the Department of Water Resources webpage at [www.waterresources.sacounty.net](http://www.waterresources.sacounty.net).

## Sac County 311 Connect is Your Link to County Services

Where do you report an abandoned vehicle or broken street light? Or get information about County services? Get the information you need by submitting a request on the web at [www.311.sacounty.net](http://www.311.sacounty.net), through our mobile app

or by calling 311. (916-875-4311 if calling from out of the area.)

Friendly and knowledgeable customer service representatives are available 24/7, 365 days a year to answer questions, route calls, and resolve issues.

