

**BAY AREA
ELECTION OFFICIALS**

ALAMEDA
Tim Dupuis
Registrar of Voters



CONTRA COSTA
Kristin B. Connelly
Clerk-Recorder-Registrar



MARIN
Lynda Roberts
Registrar of Voters



MONTEREY
Gina Martinez
Registrar of Voters



NAPA
John Tuteur
Assessor-Recorder-Clerk



SAN MATEO
Mark Church
Assessor-Clerk-Recorder-
Chief Elections Officer



SANTA CLARA
Matt Moreles
Interim Registrar of Voters



SANTA CRUZ
Tricia Webber
County Clerk



SOLANO
Tim Flanagan
CIO/Registrar of Voters



SONOMA
Deva Proto
Clerk-Recorder-Assessor



COALITION OF BAY AREA ELECTION OFFICIALS

Website: BayAreaVotes.org
Facebook: [Bay Area Votes](https://www.facebook.com/BayAreaVotes)

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 11/8/2024

FROM: Bay Area Election Officials

Counting Votes Takes Time

Elections are not final on Election Night. Voters will return thousands of ballots on Election Day. County Elections Officials need the following days to make sure all the ballots have been checked and all the votes have been accurately counted. This is the “canvass” period, and counties have 28 days to complete the official process. AB 3184, a new law passed in California in 2024 means that all counties in California will uniformly certify their elections on December 3, exactly 28 days after Election Day, for this election cycle. The intent of the bill is giving all voters throughout the state a uniform deadline to resolve issues like missing or non-matching signatures on their challenged Vote-by-Mail ballots.

One of many steps that must be completed to ensure the integrity of the election, the canvass accomplishes the following critical tasks:

- Ensure every eligible ballot is counted
- Ensure voters only voted once
- Ensure proper procedures were followed on Election Day
- Ensure the vote tabulation system is properly counting ballots

In elections, these building blocks comprise the foundational cornerstones of safeguards, checks, and balances to ensure the will of the voters are reflected in the outcome of election results. However, these processes take time, and Bay Area Elections Officials ask that voters have patience.

Processing Vote-by-Mail ballots takes time. Each signature is verified prior to preparing the ballot for counting. The return envelopes must be scanned and sorted. The ballots must be removed from the envelope and organized for counting. Vote-by-Mail ballots postmarked on or before Election Day and received up to seven days later must go through these steps as well.

During the canvass, voting records are updated based on whether a voter returned their ballot by mail or in-person. During this process, the number of voters is compared to the number of ballots cast at each voting location. This is a critical step in ensuring that all ballots are accounted for. A statewide voter

registration database linking all 58 counties helps staff ensure voters only voted once.

During the canvass, counties are required to conduct audits of the ballot counting systems by performing the “One Percent Manual Tally”. This involves randomly selecting at least one percent of the precincts where ballots were cast in person, as well as Vote-by-Mail ballots, and performing a manual hand count of each set of ballots. The results are then compared to the machine count results to check for accuracy.

“Counties across California have 28 days to certify the election.” said Lynda Roberts, Marin County Registrar of Voters. “Elections offices take many steps to ensure that ballots are counted properly, that the equipment is counting correctly, and that the integrity of the election is intact.”

As with all activities related to an election, the canvass is open to the public for observation. Please contact your county elections office for more details on how to observe your local election. Information on this topic as well as direct links to local elections offices can be found on our website, BayAreaVotes.org, or our Facebook page, [Bay Area Votes](#).



Coalition of Bay Area Election Officials

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