Executive Summary: *August 16, 2016, Special Election*

On April 19, 2016, the City of Sunnyvale called a special municipal election to fill an unexpired City Council seat and requested that the County of Santa Clara Registrar of Voters (ROV) conduct the election, making the August 16, 2016, Special Election the fourth scheduled election of 2016, joining the May 3, 2016, Special Mail Election, the June 7, 2016, Presidential Primary Election, and the upcoming November 8, 2016, Presidential General Election.

Voters turned out for the August 16, 2016, Special Election at a lower rate than both the previous Sunnyvale City Council election in 2013 and the most recent special election held in the city involving a 2011 parcel tax for the Sunnyvale School District. Just over 23% of voters in the district cast a ballot in the August 16, 2016, Special Election. Nearly 30% of vote-by-mail voters voted in the election compared with only 7% of polling place voters.

More than 91% of the ballots cast in the election were vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots, with only about 9% of the ballots cast at the polls. Over 80% of VBM ballots were received and processed by the ROV prior to Election Day, lower than the very high percentage of early VBM ballots received in the August 17, 2010, Special Election, but higher than in either of the other two special vacancy elections from 2015 and 2013.
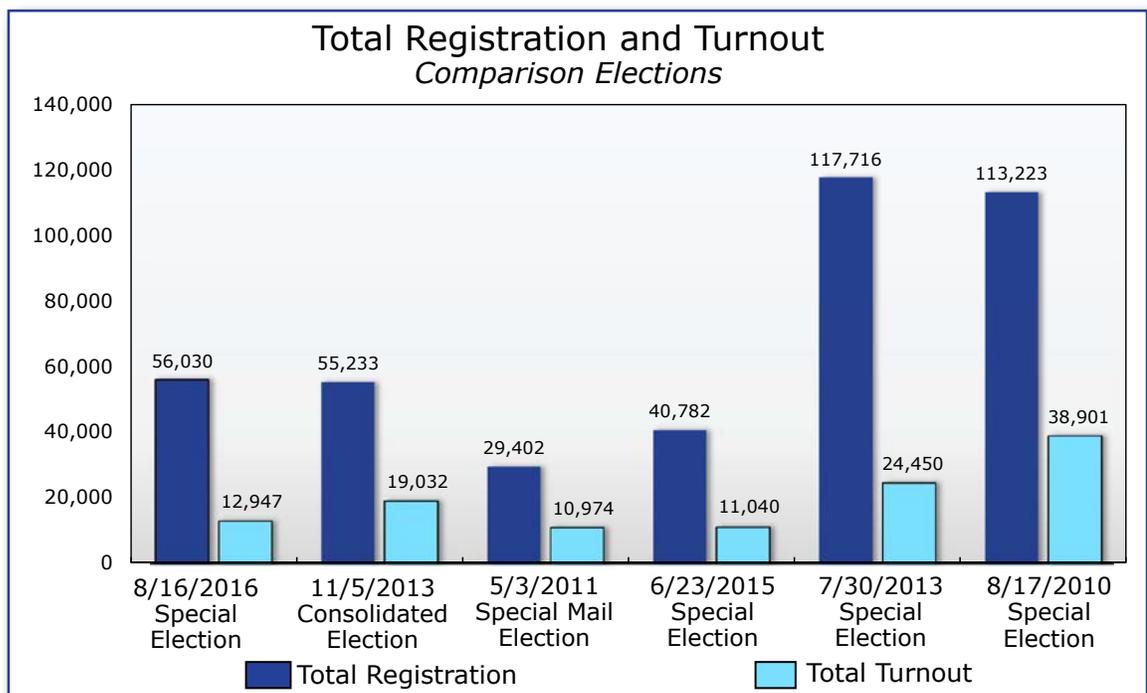
The ROV was able to tally 92.2% of the total ballots cast by Election Day, 99.9% within three days, and 100% of the ballots within a week of Election Day, certifying the results of the election by August 29, 2016 – 13 days after Election Day.

This election saw continued trends toward increased vote-by-mail voting, more bilingual election officers and election officers overall at the polls, and higher percentages of VBM and total ballots being counted in these special polling place elections.

Comparison Election Profiles

Election	Voting Jurisdiction	Registered Voters	Total Turnout	Turnout Rate
August 16, 2016, Special Vacancy Election	City of Sunnyvale Seat 4	56,030	12,947	23.1%
November 5, 2013, Consolidated Election	City of Sunnyvale	55,233	19,032	34.5%
May 3, 2011, Special Mail Election	Sunnyvale School District	29,402	10,974	37.3%
June 23, 2015, Special Vacancy Run-off Election	City of San Jose District 4	40,782	11,040	27.1%
July 30, 2013, Special Vacancy Run-off Election	County of Santa Clara District 2	117,716	24,450	20.8%
August 17, 2010, Special Vacancy Run-off Election	State Senate District 15	113,223	38,901	34.4%

In the August 16, 2016, Special Election, just over 23% of registered voters in the City of Sunnyvale voted for City Council, a turnout rate more than 10 percentage points lower than the two prior Sunnyvale comparison elections. Among the four special vacancy elections, the 23.1% turnout rate in the August 16, 2016, Special Election is higher only than the turnout rate for the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors District 2 run-off election in July 2013. In all three vacancy run-off elections, the turnout in the run-off was slightly higher than in the primary that had been held several weeks prior. The August 16, 2016, Special Election did not have a primary.

Total Registration and Turnout
Comparison Elections

	Total Registration	Total Turnout
8/16/2016 Special Election	56,030	12,947
11/5/2013 Consolidated Election	55,233	19,032
5/3/2011 Special Mail Election	29,402	10,974
6/23/2015 Special Election	40,782	11,040
7/30/2013 Special Election	117,716	24,450
8/17/2010 Special Election	113,223	38,901

Postscript

Despite the small number of voters participating in the August 16, 2016, Special Election, the election process provides us with many interesting stats and facts:

- This was the **third of four elections the Registrar of Voters (ROV) will conduct in 2016**, the average number of elections held by the ROV since 2010.

- It involved a vacant city council seat in the City of Sunnyvale:

  □ Winning candidate **Larry Klein** received over **60% of the votes**, besting two other candidates.

  □ Despite his victory, winner Klein must run again in the November 8, 2016, Presidential General Election, if he wishes to continue holding his Council seat.

  □ The deadline to file nomination paperwork for the November 2016 election was August 12, 2016, four days before the August 16, 2016, Special Election was held.

  □ By Election Day, both Klein and second-place finisher **John Cordes** had **already timely filed nomination paperwork for November**, as did a third candidate, **Mike McCarthy**.

- The **ROV needs be ready** to conduct a special vacancy election at **any time throughout the year**.

- The timing of special vacancy elections can be difficult to predict. The ROV successfully conducted the August special vacancy election **between the two major presidential elections of 2016**.

- It marked the **seventh special vacancy election** held by the ROV **since 2010**.

- For the third consecutive election, more than **half of the election officers** serving at polling places were bilingual.

- Even with polling place voting, about **90% of the ballots cast** in the election were tallied before the polls closed.

- By a **week before Election Day**, well over **half of the total ballots** in the election had been processed by the ROV.

- **Over 99% of ballots** received by the deadline were **counted as valid** in this election.

- The ROV **certified the results on August 29, 2016**, only 13 days after Election Day.

Post-Election Reports

Find this and other post-election reports online by visiting www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Resources/Pages/Statistics.aspx.

Register, Update, and Participate

The best way to ensure that your voice is heard is to vote. The Registrar of Voters (ROV) offers numerous ways you can register to vote, update your registration information, stay informed regarding election news, track your ballot, and locate your polling place.

Register to Vote

- **In Person**: Visit the ROV office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, in San Jose.

- **By Mail**: Obtain a voter registration affidavit from a library, post office, or other government office.

- **Online**: Visit www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Register/Pages/Online.aspx.

Find Your Voting Information

- **By Mobile App**: Visit www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx and click on "SCCVOTE Mobile App" to download the ROV app for Android or Apple.

- **Access Candidate and Measure Information**: View information about recent and upcoming elections at www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Info/Pages/CandidateINFO.aspx.

- **Keep Up to Date**: Look up your districts and polling place, verify that your ballot was received and counted, and more at eservices.sccgov.org/rov.

Volunteer

- Learn how to serve as a paid election officer by visiting www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Volunteer/Pages/Volunteer.aspx.

Update Your Registration

- Update your registration information or provide changes to your address, party affiliation, or language preference at www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Register/Pages/ChangeRegistration.aspx.

Connect with the ROV

- **By Phone**: 1-866-430-VOTE (8683) or 1-408-299-VOTE (8683).

- **On the Web**: Visit www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx.

- **Facebook**: Become part of the ROV's network at www.facebook.com/sccvote.

- **Twitter**: Get up-to-the-minute tweets at twitter.com/sccvote.

- **YouTube**: Watch videos at www.youtube.com/user/sccvote.

- **RSS**: Subscribe to the ROV feed at www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/RSS/Pages/RSS.aspx.