

**CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM**

**Meeting Date:** February 18, 2020  
**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
**From:** City Administration  
**Subject:** Presentation from Deva Marie Proto, County Registrar of Voters on the new County Voting System (Requestor: Sonoma County Registrar of Voters)

**Recommendation :** That the City Council Receive the Presentation  
**Funding:** Currently Budgeted: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No XX N/A

Net General Fund Cost:

Amount: \$

Account Code/Costs authorized in City Approved Budget (if applicable) N/A  verified by Administrative Services Department)

**INTRODUCTION:** This item is to request Council Receive Presentation by Deva Marie Proto, County Registrar of Voters on the new County Voting System

**Attachment:**  
Presentation

# Sonoma County Registrar of Voters



Deva Marie Proto

County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor-Registrar of Voters

# **CRA Mission Statement**

The Clerk-Recorder-Assessor is committed to assuring honest and open elections, maintaining and preserving property and vital records, and setting fair and equitable values for tax purposes in an accurate, timely, professional, and courteous manner.

## **Department Consolidation**

- 2001 – the Board of Supervisors combined the elected County Clerk and elected County Recorder with the elected Assessor
- The County Clerk included:
  - County Clerk
  - Registrar of Voters
  - Public Guardian-Public Administrator
  - Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

# Previous Election System

- Mark-A-Vote
  - Installed in 1983
  - Paper Based, Optical Scan Voting System
  - Antiquated
  - No longer manufactured
  - Replacement parts were almost non-existent
  - One qualified (and semi-retired) technician maintained the hardware
  - Some software was no longer supported
  - State law prohibited changes to the system
  - No periodic updates possible
- eSlate Disabled Access Unit (DAU)
  - Installed in 2006



# 2017 – 2018

- County funding
- State funding was imminent
- New certified election systems
- Voting Systems Replacement Project
  - Hired Special Projects Director
  - Online survey to public
  - Demo Day
  - Issued a Request for Proposal

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

### SONOMA COUNTY SEEKS NEW, MODERN, SECURE VOTING SYSTEM

#### Why Is It Necessary to Replace the Voting System?

Like all technologies, voting systems rely on software that becomes obsolete quickly. Sonoma County's voting system—while still functional and accurate—is 35 years old, has parts that are no longer made, relies on software that is no longer supported, and few technical experts remain to service the system. Although the system is aging, state law does not allow programming and software updates from the original vendor.

#### Why Does Replacement Need To Happen Now?

County Clerk Bill Rousseau has made it a priority in his final term in office to ensure Sonoma County modernizes and upgrades its voting system to the latest standards, using the most secure, accurate, and accessible technology available. Sonoma County Grand Jury's urged action in 2012: "The county has done a good job maintaining the system but needs to upgrade and replace outdated software...if the system is allowed to become obsolete the integrity of the voting process in Sonoma County could be jeopardized."

#### Who Decides Which Voting System The County Will Use?

Voting systems must first pass months of rigorous State testing and be certified for use in California by the Secretary of State before any county may purchase that system. Sonoma County will use a formal bidding process; all eligible proposals will be scrutinized by a panel of experts, who then make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors (to "award" a contract).

#### When Will Voters Begin Using A New Voting System?

Although the Registrar of Voters Office expects to purchase a new voting system in mid-2018, voters will not use new ballots or voting equipment in polling places before 2019.

#### How May Sonoma County Residents Get Involved?

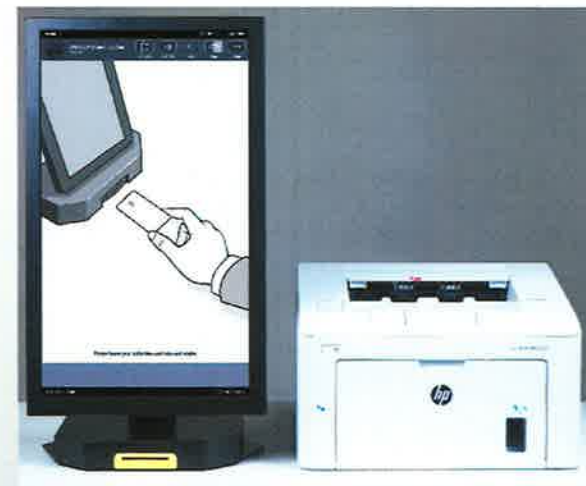
Visit the County's new Voting System Webpage at <http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/VotingSystem/> to follow progress of the Voting System Replacement Project. While there, complete a brief survey (available March/April) about voting with the current voting system, and give opinions on important issues to consider in choosing a new voting system. Finally, consider becoming a volunteer! Read more about why volunteer Poll Workers are key to ensuring integrity and security of elections, and protecting voter rights.



For more information contact:  
Elizabeth Acosta  
Director, Special Projects  
Sonoma County Registrar of Voters Office  
(707) 595-6800

# 2019 – Future

- New Tallying System
  - Implemented early 2019
  - Used for 2019 elections
  - Increased automation
  - Increased efficiency
  - Decreased Extra-Help and overtime costs
  - Decreased waste
  - Periodic updates
- New Ballot Design
- New Accessible Ballot Marking Device
  - Includes paper ballot



# **Additional Election Changes**

- New Motor Voter
- Conditional Voter Registration (CVR)
- Postage Paid
- Signature Curing
- New Accessible Voter Information Guide
- New Election Night Reporting
- Remote Accessible Vote by Mail (RAVBM)

# **Upcoming Challenges**

- Voter's Choice Act
- More Legislation
- Redistricting

# Election Security


- Paper ballots
- Central Count
- No Internet connectivity
- Cybersecurity
- Redundancies
  - Manual process & procedures
  - Reconciliations

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**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
Special Election  
Sonoma County, California  
Tuesday, March 5, 2019

7509 Revised of 1

**Instructions to Voters:**  
To vote, completely fill in the oval to the left of your choice. Use a blue or black ink pen to mark your ballot. **NO RED INK OR PENCILS.**  
If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.



**MEASURE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS**

DISTRICT

**FALM DRIVE HEALTH CARE DISTRICT**

**A** To provide continuing access to healthcare services at the hospital facilities located at 501 Petaluma Ave., Sebastopol, CA 95472, shall Palm Drive Health Care District Resolution 18-15 recommending the same, with an option to purchase, of said hospital facilities and other specified District assets for full market value as determined by an independent appraiser, with no cost liability to taxpayers, to AAMC for the purpose of providing healthcare to the local community, be approved?


YES

NO

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
Demonstration Election  
Sonoma County

**Instructions to Voters:**

1. Remember to place your ballot in a ballot box before exiting the voting center. Your ballot has not been counted until placed in a ballot box.  
2. If you receive a mistake, contact a poll worker before placing your ballot in the ballot box.  
3. Remember to place your ballot in a ballot box before exiting the voting center. Your ballot has not been counted until placed in a ballot box.



United States Senator  
Vote for THOMAS EDISON  
Representative to the 115th United States Congress - District 2  
Vote for (WRITE-IN) MARIE CURIE  
Regent of the University of Colorado - At Large  
Vote for ALBERT EINSTEIN  
State Representative - District 13  
Vote for ISAAC NEWTON  
District Attorney - 1st Judicial District  
BLANK CONTEST  
County Commissioner District 1  
BLANK CONTEST  
County Commissioner District 3  
BLANK CONTEST



# After The Election

## *Why does it take so long?*

- E+3
- Signature Curing
- Manual Tally
- Vote / No Vote
- Conditional Voter Registration
- Provisional Votes



## *How can you help?*

- Get your Vote by Mail ballots in early!!

# Questions?

## Contact Information

Deva Marie Proto

Clerk-Recorder-Assessor-Registrar of Voters

[Deva.Proto@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Deva.Proto@sonoma-county.org)

707-565-1877