

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY
CLERK AND RECORDER:

Clerk, Board of Supervisors
County Clerk
Elections
Recorder



RICHARD D. DEAN
COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

ELECTIONS DIVISION

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August 20, 2001

Honorable Bruce A. Clark
Presiding Judge, Superior Court
Ventura County Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA. 93009

Subject: County Clerk and Recorder Response to Grand Jury re: Elections Division

Dear Judge Clark:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 2000-2001 Grand Jury report on the Elections Division in which seven recommendations are proposed:

R-1: The County Elections Division should continue to keep abreast of and implement new technologies and savings.

AGREE: The County of Ventura Elections Division will continue to keep abreast of new technologies relating to elections administration. The Assistant Registrar of Voters is an active member of the Legislative Committee of the County Clerks Association and attends monthly meetings where new and potentially cost saving ideas and technologies are explored.

R-2 : The DMV and the Registrar of Voters need to work closely to eliminate the disconnect between registration at the DMV and getting that information to the Registrar.

AGREE: The Secretary of State and the County Clerks Association have met with the DMV at the state level to facilitate the timely transfer of voter information from the DMV to local election offices. This office will contact local DMV offices to follow up on these state wide efforts.

R-3 : County Elections Division should look into recruiting precinct workers on community and four-year campuses, as well as in the business community and the naval bases.

AGREE: Recruiting and training precinct workers is a top priority in the preparation for each election. We will continue to utilize every possible source of potential polling place

officers. College campuses, the business community, and the naval bases will be specifically targeted for the November 2001 election.

R-4 : Every effort should be made to obtain greater cooperation with the Post Office in the distribution of absentee ballots.

AGREE: Since the performance of the U.S. Post Office is critical to the timely distribution of mail, this office will continue to work closely with the Oxnard Bulk Mail Center to insure the timely delivery and return of absentee ballots.

R-5: In pre-election classes and literature, suggest that election workers bring or have someone drop off meals.

AGREE: Although the suggestion that precinct workers make adequate provisions for their food needs is normally discussed at election officer training classes, it will be included in the election officer training manual.

R-6: Include a cell phone in precinct election materials for those sites without readily available telephones.

REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS: We currently rent thirty cell phones on election day through the County Information Services Division at a cost of \$1500 for use by our roving inspectors. With over 450 polling places, we need to determine the additional quantity and cost of cell phones required by this recommendation. This office will send letters to each polling place in the next thirty days to determine their telephone coverage. Costs could be reduced by asking that all of our election officers serving in locations without phone service bring their personal cell phones to work on election day and call the election office with a cell phone number for their precinct.

R-7: In election materials provide temporary handicapped parking signs to post in front of polling locations.

DISAGREE: Existing handicapped parking spaces have curbs painted blue and standardized signs over the space and on the pavement as required by law. The Elections Division lacks the jurisdiction and resources to create additional handicapped parking spaces.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 2000-2001 Grand Jury recommendations.

Sincerely,



Richard D. Dean
County Clerk and Recorder