



## New Election Laws...

California Election Laws change and often grow every year. The only thing that remains the same in our office is change. If you would like to learn more about current changes visit the Secretary of State's website: [www.sos.ca.gov/elections](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections).

Areas affected by new regulations include: voter registration, redistricting, candidacy declaration, petition filings, ballot measures, campaign funds, ballot processing, and many more. Additionally, with a new Secretary of State now in office, it is likely that there will be policy changes in our office. As Cathy Darling Allen is fond of saying each Registrar of Voters prepares their eggs a little differently. This analogy flows upward also as each Secretary of State focuses on different areas. Much of our policy is determined by the SOS's direction and funding allocations, creating change for us.

Many of these changes will create tweaks in procedures within our office and possibly the polls. For example: previously all Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballots needed to be received at the Elections Office, or a polling site, at the close of polls on Election Day. A change in the law now allows a VBM envelope to be postmarked no later than the election date and received by the Elections Office within three days. The Presidential Primary is June 7, 2016. VBM envelopes if mailed, must be postmarked on or before June 7, 2016, and received by our office no later than June 10, 2016. This will have little effect at the polls with the exception of voters asking about the postmark requirement.

As always, we encourage you to educate fellow voters. You can let them know that the first ballots to be counted are those VBM ballots we receive first. These ballots are the first election results you see on the news election night!



### STAFF SPOTLIGHT: LORI WOOD

Lori Wood started on April Fools Day in 2007, at the Poll Site Coordinator Desk where she fell in love with the amazing volunteers who make Shasta County Elections a success.

Four years to the day Lori left her beloved poll workers to move to the lead clerk desk. Although she misses working with her volunteers, she loves to visit when they come into the office and appreciates all of your hard work. If she ever finds a pot of gold, know each of you will get a piece!

During crunch time Lori joins in on election fun, issuing ballots at the counter and registering citizens. Her years of experience are a gift to every poll site coordinator, and she is greatly valued for her mentoring.


Lori loves to craft, sew and spend time with her God-Grandchildren. Her face lights up when sharing their adventures. She is also an amazing cook, and everyone at the office benefits from her efforts. In fact, staff will actually horde her infamous Snicker doodles at their desks as they are so packed full of deliciousness.

SHASTA COUNTY  
ELECTIONS  
DEPARTMENT

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We are lucky to have  
you as a poll worker!

Thank you!



We are on the web!

[www.elections.co.shasta.ca.us](http://www.elections.co.shasta.ca.us)

**When did the State of California allow Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballots?**

In 1920, California first allowed for VBM voting, although universal VBM (absentee) voting didn't begin until 1978. Prior to that, VBM ballots were available only to the ill, disabled, those who lived too far from the polls, and other special circumstances. Following legislation that now allows any person to vote by mail, it has become a very popular means to cast a ballot.

Initially, vote-by-mail voting could not be used in statewide elections or to elect local officials and was generally used for special district measure elections. In 1977, Monterey County conducted the first vote-by-mail election in California, on a flood control measure. It also was the first vote-by-mail only election ever held in the United States.

The law was modified several times until 2002 when California law changed again to permit Californians to become permanent vote-by-mail (VBM) voters, allowing all voters to exercise this option in every election without needing an excuse or having to request a VBM ballot for each election. Another law passed in 2007 renamed "absentee voting" to "vote by mail".

In the twelve years since enactment of the permanent vote-by-mail law, California's vote-by-mail rate has steadily increased, topping 50 percent in November 2012, which marked the first time a majority of voters cast VBM ballots in a statewide general election. The ranks of permanent VBM voters have also swelled and now account for 43 percent of all registered voters, totaling nearly eight million California voters. In Shasta County, more voters have voted from home than at the polls in every election since 2005.

In Shasta County, we have just over 92,000 registered voters. Sixty one percent of those are permanent vote-by-mail voters. In the November 4, 2014 General Election, just over 19 percent of registered voters went to the polls. Vote-by-mail turnout was 37.58 percent. Including all-mail precinct ballots, total turnout was 59.94 percent of registered voters.

M	C	D	U	F	F	L	C	M	W	A	C
N	O	X	E	N	J	A	L	C	I	K	L
D	E	E	S	M	C	K	I	N	L	E	Y
B	U	C	H	A	N	A	N	M	S	B	D
R	C	T	D	E	E	O	T	I	O	U	E
O	E	N	A	H	I	P	O	C	N	C	N
D	J	A	C	K	S	O	N	H	F	H	N
Y	T	R	G	M	C	L	E	A	G	A	E
J	O	G	E	A	P	K	H	E	F	A	K
S	N	I	X	O	N	Q	J	Z	L	S	N

Buchanan	McKinley
Clinton	Nixon
Grant	Polk
Jackson	Reagan
Kennedy	Wilson

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