

Placer County Election Report

November 5, 2019, Assembly District 1

Special General Election

The Placer County Elections Office conducted the Special General Election on November 5, 2019, in the State of California. Placer County had a 32.78% turnout, with 12,141 ballots cast throughout its 11 polling place precincts and 25 mail ballot precincts.

This document presents the facts of the project in stages including: Pre-Election, Election Day, and Post-Election. It goes into every area that requires action and, while narrating the procedures followed, it will present figures and numbers resulting from the process.

While preliminary work for this project started mid-2019, this report covers the activities that started with election preparation. In the Election Preparation section of this report, the reader will be presented with the context of the election, the process for the training of poll workers, how vote by mail ballots were prepared, a description of the voting systems used, and the security measures deployed. The next section, Election Day, describes the technical issues that occurred on E-Day and how the semifinal official canvass was wrapped up for the night. The Canvassing, section details the post-election processes, including provisional vote processing and other relevant findings. However, canvass activities are detailed throughout the report as a whole.

I would like to recognize all of the individuals who helped the Placer County Elections Office conduct a very successful Special General Election on such short notice. From our dedicated team of permanent and temporary staffers, to the 121 poll workers and election night workers that comprise the backbone of any thriving election, to the voters of Placer County whose participation ensures that all of our hard work matters, I thank you.

Signed this 15th day of November 2019, in Auburn, California.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan Ronco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ryan Ronco
Placer County Clerk–Recorder–Registrar of Voters

Election preparation

The election held on November 5, 2019 was a special election, as defined in section 10700 of the California Elections Code. It included the State Assembly District 1 race.

A total of 10 polling places were established throughout Placer County. To cover the staffing needs for the election, a total of 95 poll workers were placed. Through the work of staff, Placer County was fully staffed on Election Day. The number required to operate in each polling place was reached and the election was able to move forward. Poll workers were placed in Spanish targeted precincts.

Precincts and poll workers

California Elections Code section 12304 establishes a minimum number of poll workers needed to run a precinct at three: one Inspector and two Clerks. However, Placer County has traditionally set the minimum at a higher threshold than required by law. In Placer County, precinct boards are made up of one Inspector (I), one Judge (J), and three or four Clerks (C), four being required at precincts where there is a large number of registered voters. Therefore, the minimum number of poll workers required to operate this election in Placer County was 55, which is the result of having the minimum of 3 clerks at each of the 11 precincts (J+I+3C). During the process of recruiting the poll workers, a total of 1 quit, which required extra efforts by the staff to locate a replacement worker. Additionally, under California elections code section 12303, Placer County must place bilingual poll workers in targeted precincts. 5 Spanish bilingual poll workers were required, and 6 bilingual poll workers were placed, meeting the targets.

To source the poll workers, the Elections Office used the following mechanisms:

- Phone calls by staff to recruit.
- Worked with the Placer County Public Information Office (PIO) to recruit within the community. They posted information in the weekly Placer County e-newsletter, and on the county's website and social media pages. A press release was also distributed to media outlets throughout the county.
- Placer County management employees were recruited.
- Placer County's Human Resources Department sent an email to people on various recruitment lists telling them about this opportunity.
- Flyers posted in coffee shops, schools, community centers, and other locations throughout Placer County.
- Flyers emailed to post offices, county libraries, and community centers.
- Informational letters were sent to service clubs and churches to encourage them to volunteer and raise money for their organizations.
- Recruitment flyers were sent to various organizations in the Tahoe area to post and/or email.

Voting equipment

The County deployed one ICE (The ImageCast Evolution Scanner) and one ICX (The ImageCast X touch screen) voting unit in each of the 11 county precinct poll locations for the November 5, 2019, Special Election. As utilized by Placer County, the ICX machines are intended for use only

by voters with specific needs and supplement the County's main ICE voting system, which continues to be used as the primary precinct and vote by mail voting system in the County.

A portion of the County's ICX's were prepared for the election in accordance with approved guidelines and requirements, including installation of software and pre-election diagnostic testing, memory card creation and installation, security seal logging and installation, and post-election diagnostics, if needed. These same procedures and requirements were also followed for the County's ICE machines, and in addition, the County's ballot counting (DOMINION) servers had all software installed prior to the Election from the approved source media.

Security procedures

The County followed the security procedures set forth in the Secretary of State's Conditional Certification Requirements, approved guidelines and procedures issued by Dominion Voting Systems, Inc., and the Secretary of State's procedures related to tabulating precinct votes issued. Specifically:

- No additional software developed by Dominion Voting Systems, or other systems modifications, other than that specifically listed in the voting system vendor's certificate, was installed on the County's servers running Election Management System Software Version 5.2.18.2.
- The County reinstalled all approved software and firmware on its Dominion servers and the ICX units had software reinstalled from secure, authorized media sources. Any voting machine that goes to repair has the hardware and software reinstalled.
- The Dominion servers are located in a secure, card key-controlled, camera-surveilled room within the County Elections Office; additionally, the Elections Office is located within a controlled-access County building.
- Placer County adheres to the recommended procedures and system configurations set forth in the Dominion Security Policy and Dominion Server Configuration Guide for its Dominion servers as established and promulgated by Dominion Voting Systems, Inc., and also by the Secretary of State.
- The County conducted the required logic and accuracy testing for ballot tabulation.
- Placer Elections staff reset the encryption key utilizing a unique key generated for each election for the ICX prior to programming the units for this specific election.
- Placer has established clear separation of duties among Elections staff to enhance internal control over the Dominion voting system security.
- Poll workers were trained on types and placement of security seals for the ICE unit; on seal verification requirements by poll workers; on signing of the "zero" tapes before the election and on the election results tapes by all poll workers; on allowing public observance of seals and equipment at the polls; and on use of poll incident logs.
- Required signage regarding the penalties for tampering with voting equipment and/or altering voting results was posted in each voting booth and on or near each ICX unit.
- The County did not use any unapproved ICE or ICX voting equipment models.

- All ICX and ICE units were stored before and after the August Primary Election in a secure locked and alarmed facility, with access limited to authorized staff, and which are under camera surveillance.
- All ICX units had software replaced from the secured, approved media source.
- All ICX and ICE units were pre-election diagnostic tested by County IT staff in secure election facilities. Post-election diagnostics are done on the voting equipment as applicable.
- Every ICX and ICE memory card had a permanent serial number assigned to it. Each memory card was programmed in a secured facility by staff from the Elections Office. Once a memory card was programmed for the election, it was inserted by Elections staff into its assigned unit and sealed with the serialized, tamper-evident seal, and its serial number was logged into the County's tracking system designed for that purpose. The County also recorded the chain of custody of each memory card and voting equipment unit from the point of programming the memory card for use in the election through the time of completion of the official canvass.
- On Election Day, if it was detected that a seal had been broken prior to unlocking the ICX compartment or ICE unit, or if there was a discrepancy between the log and the serial number, the discrepancy was confirmed by one or more of the remaining members of the precinct board, documented, and immediately reported to the County.
- Each ICE and ICX machine was checked Election Night by Elections staff when received back at the Elections Office in Auburn for intact seals and confirmation of security seal and serial numbers. There were no ICE units that had a memory card failure; however, there were two precincts that were recounted by Elections staff as a precaution because of broken seals.
- ICE and ICX results were not transmitted from poll locations or regional receiving centers by modem per direction from the Secretary of State's Conditional Recertification; instead all voting equipment was brought to the County's A election facility in Auburn for checking of security seals and central vote tabulation.
- The required minimum one percent (of voting precincts) random manual tally was conducted in accordance with Election Code Section 15360(e). The results of these tallies are included in the Statement of Vote, which this report accompanies.
- Poll workers did not participate in any audits or recounts involving ICX or ICE audit records for any precinct(s) for which they served.
- Any significant, adverse issues relating to voting equipment would have been reported to the Secretary of State's Office of Voting Systems Technology Assessment on Election Day, including a complete description of the problem and information on how the issue would have been resolved.
- Each memory card from the precinct ICE voting equipment used was loaded into the Dominion tabulation server, with verification of each card's upload before the next card was loaded.

Vote By Mail ballots

Placer County has historically had a high number of voters choosing to participate via the mail rather than at the polls. For this election, 75.5% of the registered and active voters in the county

were part of the Permanent Vote by Mail (PVBM) program. In addition to voters who registered for the PVBM program, the County had 25 Mail Ballot (MB) precincts for this election, which accounted for 4,212 registered voters who were not assigned a poll location.

Ballots, for both PVBM and MB voters, were sent out on October 7, (E-29) directly from the vendor's printing facility to the West Sacramento Regional Mail Distribution facility; this order accounted for 28,823 ballots. Subsequent requests, of over 100 were mailed directly from our vendors printing facility. Requests of fewer than 100 derived from registration, re-registration, or requests for replacement ballots were handled in-house by printing, assembling, and dispatching ballots on a daily basis.

Placer County issued 30,005 vote by mail ballots, of which 12,439 returned to the Elections Office, either because the voter mailed it back or because the post office was unable to find the voter (undeliverable ballot). This means that 58.5% of the ballots mailed were not returned to the Elections Office by the voters or the post office.

Finally, Assembly Bill 1013 mandated the option for a voter with a disability, or a military or overseas voter, to cast his or her ballot using a certified remote accessible vote by mail system (RAVBM) beginning January 1, 2020, or one year after the date on which the Secretary of State certifies a RAVBM. Placer County was one of the first counties to implement the new RAVBM system. The new RAVBM system was made available to Placer County through a grant at no county expense.

The project was made possible by a grant from the DRAM Settlement Fund. Created as a result of antitrust litigation pursued by the Attorney General of the State of California, the purpose of the Fund is to encourage use of innovative technology to benefit California consumers.

Two voters utilized the new system for the November 5, 2019 Special General Election.

Election Day

Poll workers were instructed to be at the polling station at 6:00 am on Election Day to allow plenty of time for setting up the station. The setup of the polling place included installing all the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) equipment required to mitigate access barriers, organizing the precinct in the necessary layout, and setting up the Ballot Scanner and Touch Screen voting machines. At the same time, Rovers were doing rounds on their assigned precincts to ensure all necessary support was provided. The total number of poll workers who worked the November 5, 2019 election was 100 which was 45 above the minimum goal set by Placer County.

All poll stations opened promptly at 7:00 am.

Technical issues at the polls

Placer County's help desk hotline for technical issues started operating at 6:00 am on Election Day. Throughout the day a total of 0 incidents that required technical support were documented.

Closing of polls and semifinal official canvass

Polls closed at 8:00 pm. No reports of any delays were received from any of the polling stations. At that same time, the Elections Office collected all ballots in the drop off box outside the main office in Auburn, and the drop off box located at our front counter, and checked all fax machines for any UOCAVA vote transmissions. Anything that would have arrived after that time at any of those locations would have been considered past the deadline established by state law for receiving ballots.

At the poll stations, poll workers began producing final count reports for both the ICE and ICX at each of their precincts. They also began accounting for all ballots in their precincts (spoiled, unused, surrendered, etc.), and ensuring that all the returned materials were packed according to the procedures provided by the Elections Office. Once the closing process was completed, the precinct's materials were delivered to an assigned receiving center where they were accepted into the custody of the Elections Office. After all precincts in the area delivered their materials to the receiving center, the consolidated materials were shipped directly to Elections Central in Auburn.

Trucks started to arrive at the Elections Office around 10:15 pm on November 5, 2019 and continued to do so until 11:20 pm on November 5, 2019. Each arriving truck was unloaded, and the staff proceeded to verify that all ballot boxes, ballot bags, and Memory cards had arrived. In the same process, the seals of each Memory card were verified against the log created prior to dispatching them to ensure integrity of the unit. If a unit had a broken or non-matching seal, then the precinct ballots were recounted prior to sending the data to the SOS. The semiofficial canvass was completed on November 5, 2019 at 11:30 pm.

Canvassing

A total of 55 ballots were provisionally cast in Placer County; more than 89% of them were qualified to be counted once they were reviewed by the Elections Office. Ballots that were not counted were cast by voters who were determined as not qualified to vote.

Official canvass

The manual-count to machine-count comparison of a randomly-selected one percent of the ICE Scan units deployed on Election Day. With 11 polling place precincts and 25 mail ballot precincts, Placer County would need to randomly select 1 (one) precinct to comply with Elections Code Section 15360(e). Using the EIMS One Percent Random Sample Report, six sets of precincts were selected. A six-sided die was then used to select the following precinct number on November 6, 2019: 6512517.

Two pieces of legislation, Assembly Bill 840 and Assembly Bill 759, along with a Memorandum from the Secretary of State dated November 13, 2018, mandated a cure period for vote by mail voters who had either failed to sign their vote by mail return envelopes or who had a signature that did not compare with their signature on file with our office. 113 ballots were challenged for having a mismatched or missing signature and the Placer County Elections Office reached out to voters by email, phone, and/or mail in order to cure 65 of those, accounting for a greater than 57.5% cure rate.

Final results were submitted to the SOS on November 15, 2019, after all provisional voting envelopes had been reviewed and all qualified ballots were processed.

PLACER COUNTY OFFICIAL ELECTION SUMMARY
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 1 SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 5, 2019
FINAL

Precincts Reported: 36 of 36 (100.00%)

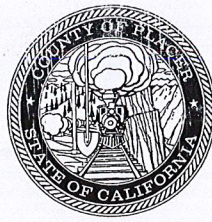
Ballots Cast: 12,151

MEMBER OF STATE ASSEMBLY 1ST DISTRICT (Vote for 1)

Precincts Reported: 36 of 36 (100.00%)

Candidate	Party	Total	
MEGAN DAHLE	REP	6,507	53.60%
ELIZABETH BETANCOURT	DEM	5,634	46.40%
Total Votes		12,141	
		Total	
Unresolved Write-In		0	

RYAN RONCO
COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER-REGISTRAR OF VOTERS



2956 RICHARDSON DRIVE
AUBURN, CA 95603

LISA CRAMER
ASSISTANT COUNTY CLERK

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STEPHEN AYE
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Report of 1 percent manual tally count of random precincts per California Election Code Section 15360(e)

I, Ryan Ronco, County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters, County of Placer, State of California, do hereby certify that on November 7, 2019, a one percent manual tally was conducted and completed in conjunction with the November 5, 2019, Assembly District 1 Special General Election.

The California Elections Code requires each local election official to conduct a manual count of all contests on ballots cast in a randomly-selected one percent of the Election Day voting precincts in order to verify the accuracy of the machine count. This manual tally occurs during the 10-day vote-canvassing period prior to official certification of election results and augments extensive pre-election testing activities to demonstrate the integrity of the vote tabulation system.

This report addresses the manual-count to machine-count comparison of a randomly-selected one percent of the Scanner units deployed on Election Day. With 11 polling place precincts and 25 mail ballot precincts, Placer County would need to randomly select 1 (one) precinct to comply with Elections Code Section 15360(e). Using the EIMS One Percent Random Sample Report six sets of precincts were selected. A six-sided die was then used to select the following precinct number on November 6, 2019: 6512517.

The selected precinct/race showed exact matching tallies between the manual tally and the election summary report.

The entire manual tally was conducted in public view by hand without the use of electronic equipment, no individuals who performed the manual tally at any time during the manual tally process were informed of the corresponding machine tally results, and no poll workers were assigned to participate in the manual tally. Further, tally logs of the manual tally process were kept and have been made available to the public.

An election notice was published in the legal section of the newspaper to comply with the notice requirements. Lastly, the entire manual tally process was completed prior to certification of the Special General Election.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed my official seal on this 15th day of November, 2019, in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Ronco".

Ryan Ronco
Placer County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters
State of California

RYAN RONCO
COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER-REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

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ASSISTANT COUNTY CLERK

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
COUNTY OF PLACER } ss.

Pursuant to the statewide voter registration list requirements set forth in the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) (Pub. L. No. 107-252 (2002) 116 Stat. 1666, 42 U.S.C. § 15483), I, Ryan Ronco, Registrar of Voters for the County of Placer, State of California, hereby certify that I complied with all provisions of Chapter 2 of Division 7 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations for the state election held on the 5th day of November, 2019 in the County of Placer, State of California.

I hereby set my hand and official seal this **15th day of November, 2019** at the County of Placer.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Ronco", is written over a horizontal line.

RYAN RONCO
PLACER COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER-
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
State of California

RYAN RONCO
COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER-REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

LISA CRAMER
ASSISTANT COUNTY CLERK

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CERTIFICATE OF LOGIC AND ACCURACY TEST

I, RYAN RONCO, County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters, County of Placer, State of California, do hereby certify that on **October 22, 2019** a Logic and Accuracy test was completed in conjunction with the **November 5, 2019, Assembly District 1 Special General Election** and the results were satisfactory.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed my official seal on this **15th day of November, 2019**, in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Ronco", is written over a horizontal line.

RYAN RONCO
PLACER COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER-
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
State of California



RYAN RONCO
COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER-REGISTRAR OF VOTERS



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CERTIFICATE OF CANVASS OF VOTE

I, RYAN RONCO, County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters, County of Placer, State of California, do hereby certify that in pursuance to the provision of Elections Code Section 15300, et seq., I did canvass the results of the votes cast in the **Assembly District 1 Special General Election** held in said County on **November 5, 2019**, for contests that were submitted to the vote of the voters, and that the Statement of Votes Cast to which this certificate is attached, is full, true and correct.

(See Attached)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed my official seal on this **15th day of November, 2019**, in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Ronco", is written over a horizontal line.

RYAN RONCO
PLACER COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER-
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
State of California

