



Agenda

San Joaquin County Election Advisory Committee

San Joaquin County Administration Building, Training Room 146

44 N. San Joaquin St.

Stockton, CA 95202

Thursday, January 9, 2025, 6:00 PM

I. Call to Order

- 1) Pledge of Allegiance
- 2) Roll Call

II. Approve Minutes

- 1) Election Advisory Committee – Regular Meeting – May 23, 2024
- 2) Election Advisory Committee – Regular Meeting – August 27, 2024

III. Consent Items

- 1) Election Officer Survey Responses

IV. Discussion Items

- 1) Election Officer Experience on Election Day – Deborah Collins & Mike Collins
- 2) Recommend the Board of Supervisors Write a Letter to President Trump to Require Individuals to Provide Documentary Proof of U.S. Citizenship in Order to Register to Vote in Federal Elections and Prohibit States from Accepting and Processing an Application to Register to Vote in a Federal Election Unless the Applicant Presents Documentary Proof of U.S. Citizenship – Supervisor Ding
- 3) Recommend the Board of Supervisors Write a Letter to Governor Newsom Urging Him to 1) Require Voters to Show a Valid California Identification Showing they are a Legal Resident of California and Said County to Receive a Ballot and to Vote any Type of Ballot Allowed in that said Election in Said County and 2) Remove Article 4.5. Conditional Voter Registration (Sections 2170-2173) from the California Election Code – Supervisor Ding
- 4) Receive an Update from the Registrar of Voters on the November 5, 2024, Presidential General Election in San Joaquin County



SAN JOAQUIN
— COUNTY —
Greatness grows here.

Election Advisory Committee

V. Public Comment

VI. Registrar of Voters Comments

VII. Committee Comments

VIII. Schedule Next Meeting

IX. Adjournment until the next regular meeting as identified by the Election Advisory Committee in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan for the Election Advisory Committee.

Election Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes - May 23, 2024

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Amador at 6 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Cushman.
- II. Committee Members Present: Chairman Tony Amador, Vice Chair David Cushman, Christian Santos, Pamela Sloan, John Beckman, Aimee Rubio, Nicole Goehring (chief of staff for Supervisor Ding)
- III. Pamela made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with relevant corrections regarding Registrar Olivia Hale presenting items to the EAC tonight, motion was seconded by Christian. The motion was approved unanimously.
- IV. Consent Items
 - A. Update from the Registrar of Voters Office
 1. The ROV Office provided the EAC with documentation regarding current items and issues being addressed by the ROV ahead of the November 2024 election, including:
 - a) Upcoming items before the Board of Supervisors
 - b) Election Officer Training & Polling Locations Update
 - c) Voter roll maintenance - using Experian True Trace
 2. No questions were asked from the EAC on this item.
- V. Discussion Items
 - A. Drop Box Recommendations - Holly Moore
 1. Chairman Amador asked for a motion to adopt the Drop Box Recommendations given by Holly Moore at the previous EAC meeting in April. Christian made the motion, seconded by David.
 2. Discussion
 - a) A question was asked to Holly regarding whether she included a specific time frame for drop boxes to be operational, Holly responded that she did not and that the EAC was welcome to include a specific time frame if that was the committee's wish.
 - b) Another question to Holly was whether she knew the impact of only utilizing the minimum number of drop boxes required as opposed to the 25 boxes that San Joaquin is currently utilizing. Holly stated there would be no impact since we would be utilizing the number of boxes required under state law.

- c) A question was asked to Registrar Olivia Hale regarding whether ballots stuffed into a drop box that is over capacity would count as a valid vote. Olivia responded that as long as a ballot is in a drop box it would count as a valid vote, she also said her office looked into the issue of the total number of ballots that were picked up from drop boxes and the numbers given reflected to her knowledge a full day of ballots being deposited in the box.
 - d) Another question was asked to Olivia Hale: are ballots deposited in a drop box treated with the same scrutiny as VBM ballots or ballots physically turned in at the ROV? Olivia responded yes.
3. Following discussion, a vote was held to adopt the motion and it was passed unanimously.

B. Improving Election Integrity in San Joaquin County - David Robb

1. Chairman Amador asked for a motion to adopt the Recommendations to Improve Election Integrity presented by David Robb at the previous EAC meeting in April. Christian made the motion, seconded by David.
2. Discussion
 - a) A question was asked to David regarding whether or not there was a difference in how long it took to count ballots via machine tabulation vs. a hand count. David replied that under modern methods of hand counting ballots it does not typically take any more time to count than machine tabulation.
 - b) The next question for David: are there any other counties in California or throughout the country that use hand counting to count ballots? David replied that there are other jurisdictions but the one he's most familiar with is the state of Missouri. Much of the state utilizes hand counting for elections and that method is efficient and also provides an accurate result for the same or less cost than machine tabulation.
 - c) Question for Olivia: does the county employ a third party to audit our election process. Olivia replied that the county does not, but that the state requires the ROV to do logic and accuracy tests before the election and a 1% manual tally after the election.

- (1) Follow-up to Olivia: is the ROV specifically prohibited from allowing a third party to do an election audit beyond what the ROV does? Olivia replied that it would be difficult for that to take place because of the rules and regulations the ROV has to follow regarding chain of custody and who has access to ballots.
- (2) Another follow-up: is there any prohibition on volunteers coming to do an audit in the ROV office? Olivia replied that their paid staff plus temporary workers already conducts the existing tests of the system that take place.
 - (a) David replied that the audit he is speaking of is more comprehensive than the current tests and 1% tally that the ROV already conducts.
- d) Question for David: can you point to any jurisdiction that has conducted the type of audit you're describing? David replied that he's not aware of any specific jurisdiction but audits have been conducted in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and other places.
- e) Question for David: regarding the stipulation that the ROV must follow California law regarding internet access, has he found there was a flaw in our system? David replied that he can't point to a specific instance but he has received testimony from election workers who have stated they have seen election computers or devices ("poll pads") connected to open access points at polling places.
- f) Question for David: how do you ensure that no device is ever connected to the Internet? David replied it is difficult to completely ensure that no devices are connected to the internet, but wireless access points can be monitored to detect if there is a device that is connected.
- g) Comments from a committee member:
 - (1) First point: ROV is already using Experian True Trace so this point might be redundant
 - (a) David's response is redundancy is the point, and to verify that the machine tallies are accurate
 - (2) Next point: Hand count might take way too long and impede us having final election results in a timely manner

h) Question for David: would you recommend scientists or engineers to participate in an audit? David replied that he would.

i) Comment from a committee member: instead of maybe doing a full hand count, perhaps do a hand count of certain precincts?

3. Chairman Amador entertained a motion to completely pull this item from being voted on as a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors due to wanting more clarity and input on the ideas presented in David's recommendation. Motion was made by Pamela, seconded by Christian. Motion passes unanimously.

C. Chairman Amador asked the County Counsel to confirm that working groups or ad hoc groups consisting of no more than 2 committee members were allowed to meet and discuss items between EAC meetings. Counsel replied that was acceptable.

VI. Several members of the audience participated in public comment.

VII. ROV Comments

A. The ROV removed 32,000 voters from active status before the primary

B. Voters' birthdates of 1850 or before: there were voters from prior to 1971 who were not required to list their DOB when registering. The number of extremely old birthdates continues to diminish, and a staff member is tasked with reaching out to voters to correct that

C. This will be the county's first time utilizing True Trace before the November election

D. The ROV office met with city clerks in the county to meet new city clerks and also hear comments and questions as they ramp up for the general election

E. The state is putting on a voter roll maintenance training for staff and the ROV is making sure staff attends those trainings, including herself

F. Question for ROV: with poll pads there is no way to match digital signature from voter with signature on file, is there a way to fix that for the future? The poll pad doesn't have the capability to do that but the poll pad does keep the signature on file.

G. Question for ROV: why would a deceased relative receive a ballot a year after their death? The ROV doesn't remove a voter from the rolls until their office receives a formal notification that they passed away.

- H. Comment for ROV: professor from Stanford whose reports have been cited by ROV believes there is no problem with elections, therefore his judgment is questionable
 - I. Question for ROV: What is True Trace? It is a product from Experian also used for credit reporting, anytime there is a change in a voter's personal data the ROV is able to receive that notification
- VIII. Committee Comments
- A. John Beckman: Was a poll worker, worked at the election's office, did personal observations of processes on election day, also watched signature verification process live, he believes it is the best way to ensure election integrity and has to be monitored and used extensively. His concern about in-person polling places is that poll workers could theoretically alter vote tallies at their polling place without being caught
- IX. Next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2024.
- X. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

San Joaquin County Election Advisory Committee
Minutes
San Joaquin County Administration Building, Training Room 146
44 N. San Joaquin St.
Stockton, CA 95202
Monday, August 26, 2024, 6:00 PM

I. Call to Order 6:02pm

1) Pledge of Allegiance

2) Roll Call – Tony Amador, Aimee Rubio, Chrystena Rockett, Christian Santos, John Beckman, Janice Vermeulen, Deputy County Administrator Josh Branco, Olivia Hale, Registrar of Voters, Eric Diaz, Asst. Registrar and Nicole Goehring, Chief of Staff for Supervisor Ding

Chairman Amador called a moment of silence in memory of Carol Hadley, District 2 Alternate

II. Approve Minutes

1) Election Advisory Committee – Regular Meeting – May 23, 2024

The May 23rd minutes will be approved at the December 11th meeting.

III. Consent Items

1) Receive the Amended Plan for Formation Approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 13, 2024 – Reviewed and Accepted

IV. Discussion Items

1) Receive Public Comment from Informal Workgroups

David Robb gave a presentation on voter rolls.

Carla Huehne gave a presentation on a sample in person voting hand count.

Janice Vermeulen gave a presentation on increasing polling locations.

Deputy County Administrator Josh Branco clarified the policy rule adopted by the committee at the September 14, 2023 meeting regarding the role of alternates as follows:

Participation at EAC meetings in the role as alternate when the primary EAC member is present: 1. The alternate shall have no voting rights at the EAC meetings. 2. The alternate may provide comments and/or participate in discussions related to agenda items as facilitated by the EAC Chair (“Chair”). 3. The alternate may participate in public comment if compelled to do so.

2) Receive an Update from the Registrar of Voters on the November 5, 2024, Presidential General Election in San Joaquin County – received

[Link to presentation](#)

V. Public Comment

Molly Watkins – Spoke about the issues with the 36 TB flash drive that was given to the committee to view the 25 drop boxes during the 2024 Primary Election; questioned the source of the grant money for the cameras for the 2024 General Election and promoted in person voting on election day

Cynthia Cuevas – In person voting volunteers were not trained and recommended a written procedure per scenario so people are comfortable working the polls; voter roll churning is concerning – how to ensure accuracy?

David Robb – Regarding the voter rolls, there were 3,600 legitimate addresses that were vacant lots

VI. Registrar of Voters Comments

The ROV is working hard to address the public's concerns and improve the processes from the Primary for the General Election. The Sheriff is responsive to voter's concerns. Please report your concerns to the Sheriff. Earth Cam cameras will be used for the Drop Boxes in the General Election.

VII. Committee Comments

Christian Santos – Can we agendize for December voter roll churning and the switching of political preferences

John Beckman – In person voting is ripe for fraud with the inability to check ID and no signature verification

VIII. Schedule Next Meeting

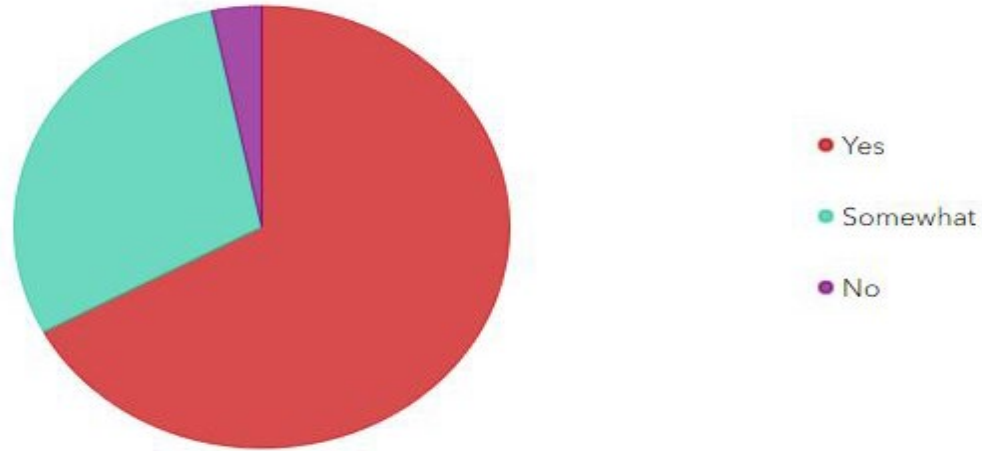
The next meeting will be held December 12, 2004

IX. Adjournment until the next meeting in December 2024 as identified by the Election Advisory Committee in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan for the Election Advisory Committee.

ELECTION OFFICER FEEDBACK SURVEY RESPONSES

November 5, 2024
Presidential General Election

1. Did you feel adequately prepared after completing the Election Officer training?



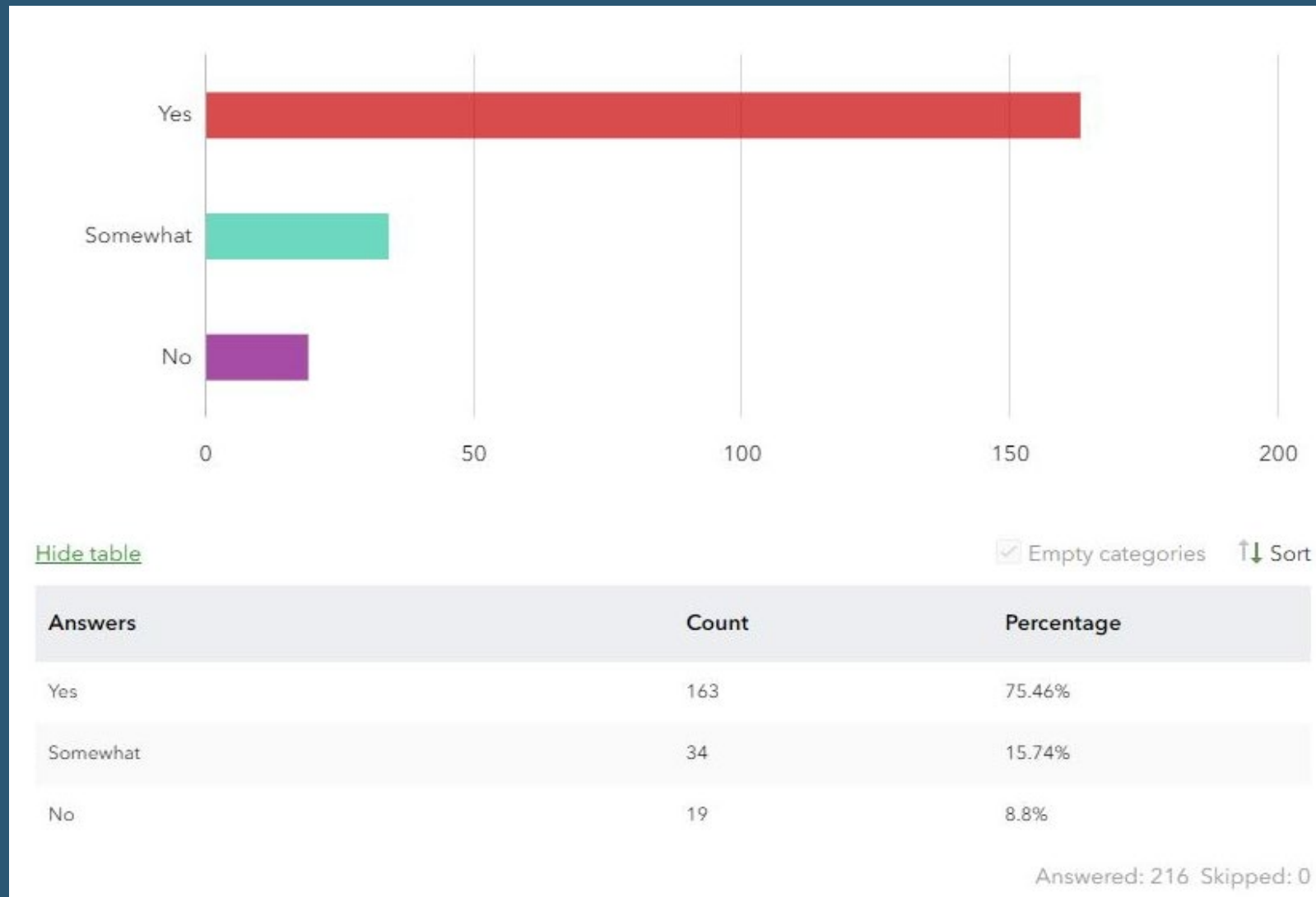
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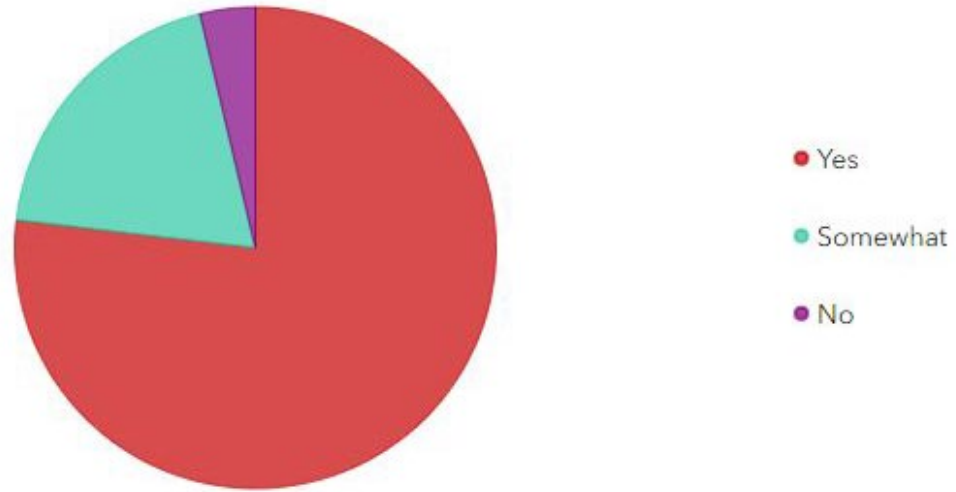
Answers	Count	Percentage
Yes	145	67.13%
Somewhat	64	29.63%
No	7	3.24%

Answered: 216 Skipped: 0

2. Did the training cover all aspects of your duties as an Election Officer?



3. Were the training materials easy to understand and follow?



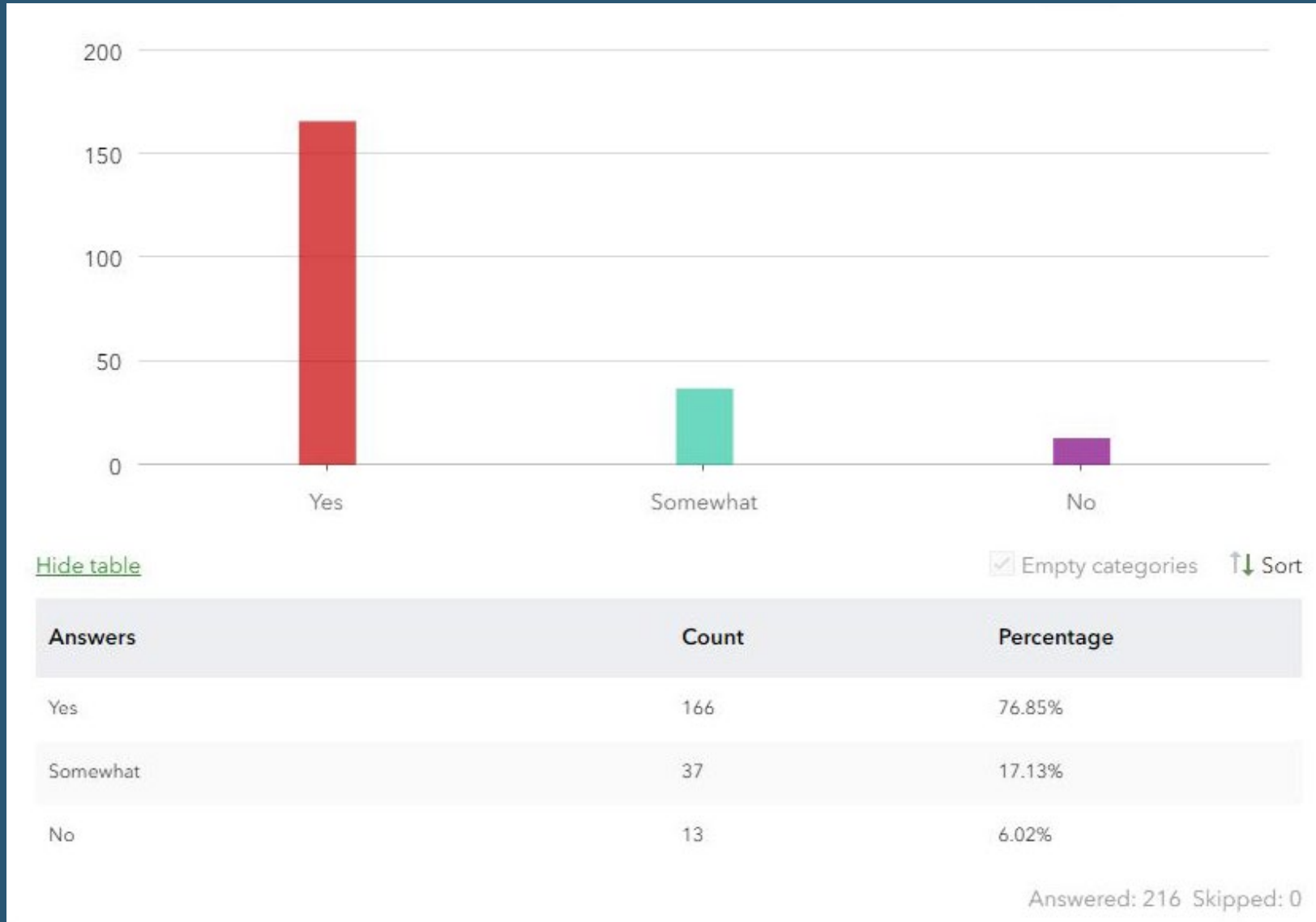
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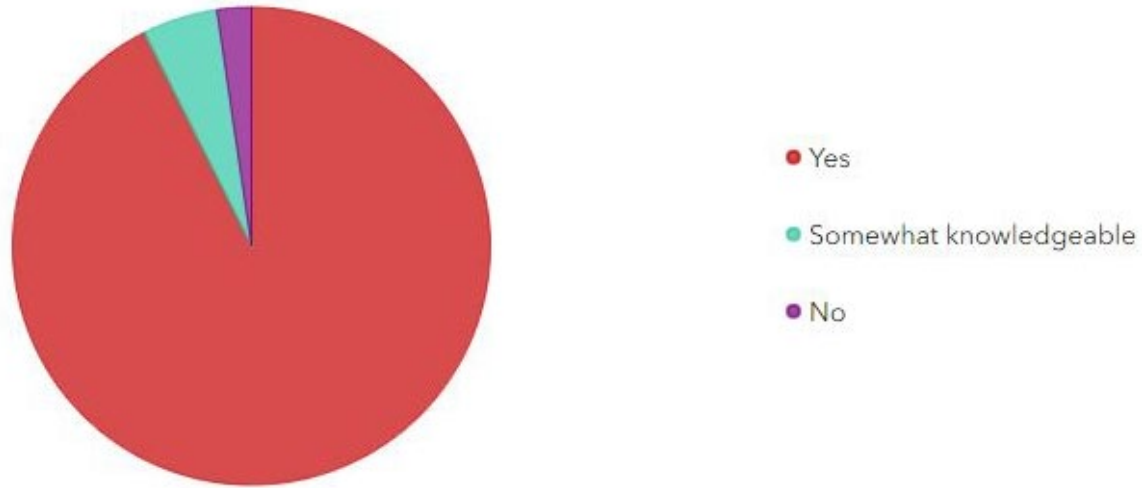
Answers	Count	Percentage
Yes	166	76.85%
Somewhat	42	19.44%
No	8	3.7%

Answered: 216 Skipped: 0

4. Did the training provide sufficient information on handling different voter scenarios (e.g., ID requirements, provisional ballots, Conditional Voter Registrations)?



5. Were the trainers knowledgeable and able to address your questions effectively?



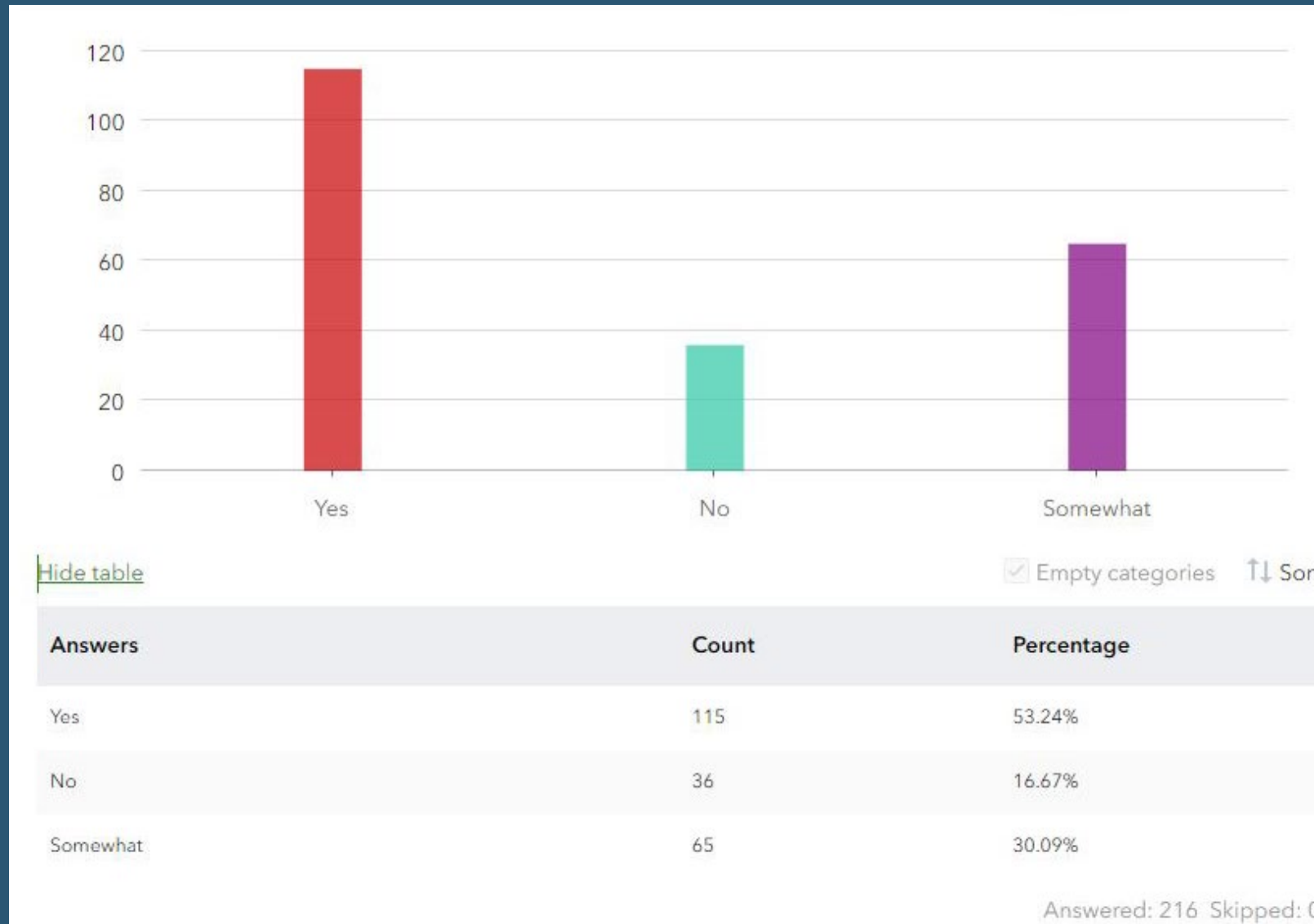
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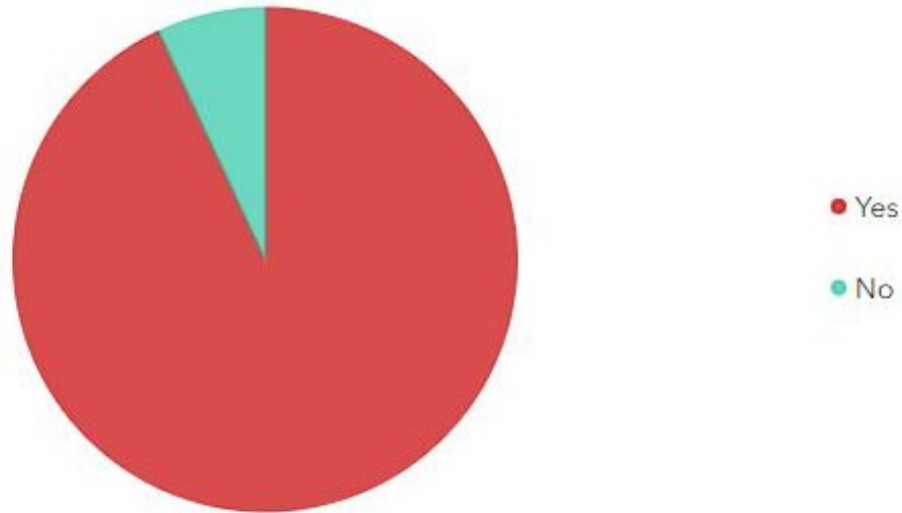
Answers	Count	Percentage
Yes	200	92.59%
Somewhat knowledgeable	11	5.09%
No	5	2.31%

Answered: 216 Skipped: 0

6. Did the training prepare you to handle technical issues (e.g., voting machines, software glitches)?



7. Do you feel confident operating the Poll Pad (E-roster)?



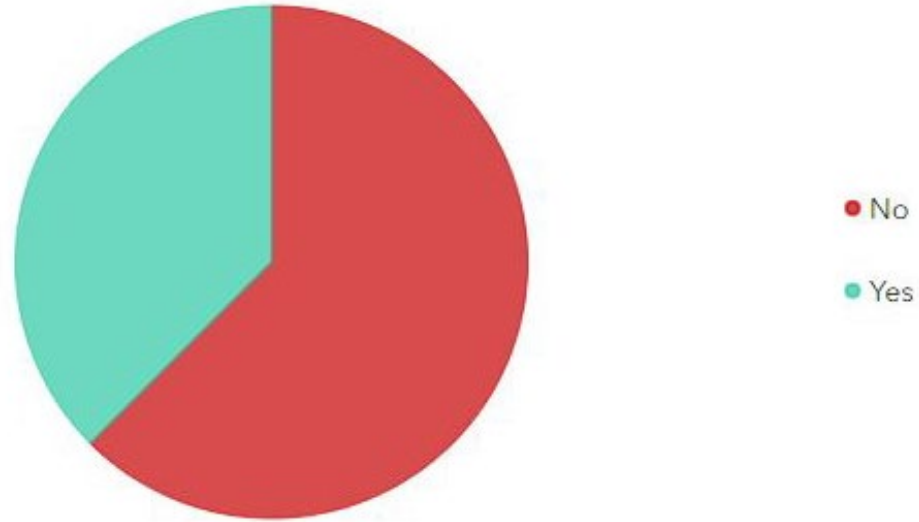
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Answers	Count	Percentage
Yes	201	93.06%
No	15	6.94%

Answered: 216 Skipped: 0

8. Were there any topics or areas in the training that you felt were not adequately covered?



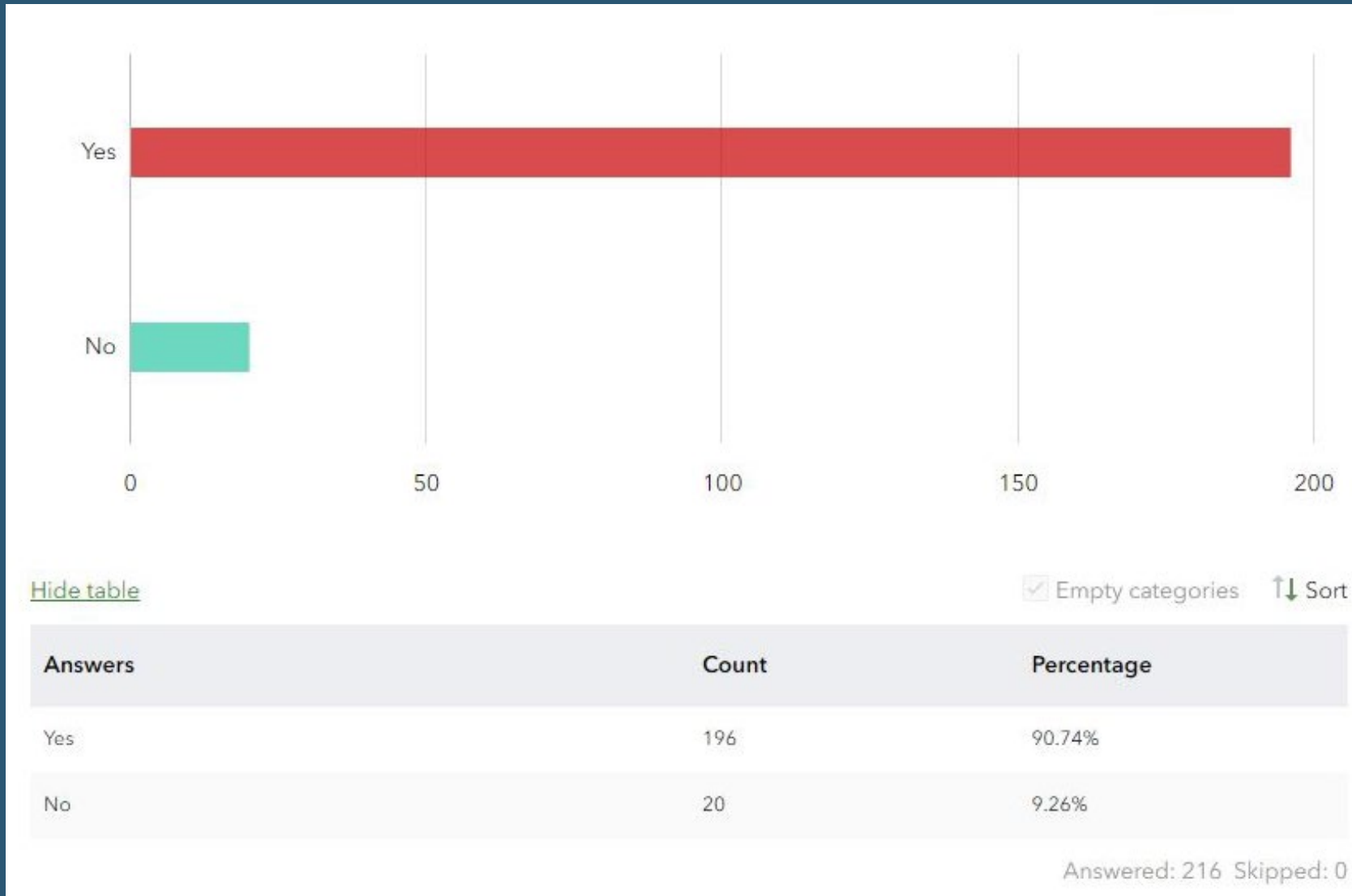
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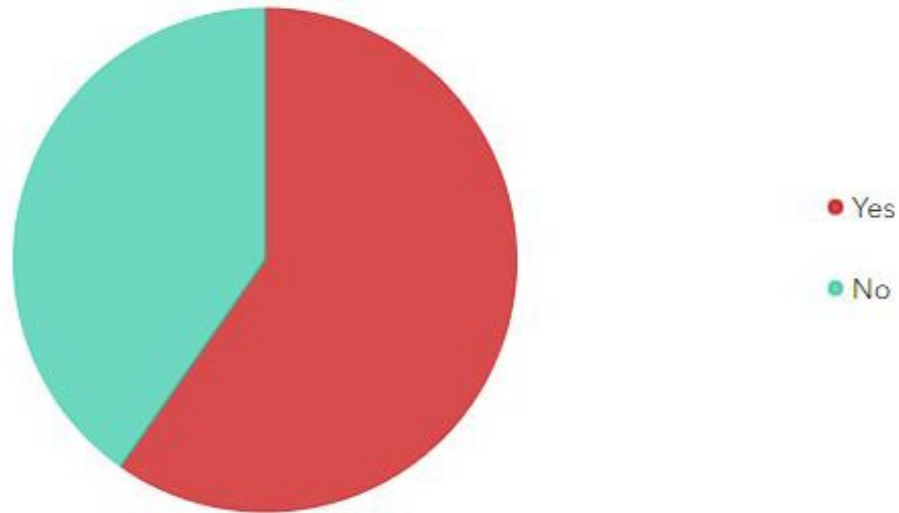
Answers	Count	Percentage
No	135	62.5%
Yes	81	37.5%

Answered: 216 Skipped: 0

9. Would you rate the overall quality of the training as satisfactory?



10. Did you receive additional support or resources after completing the initial training?



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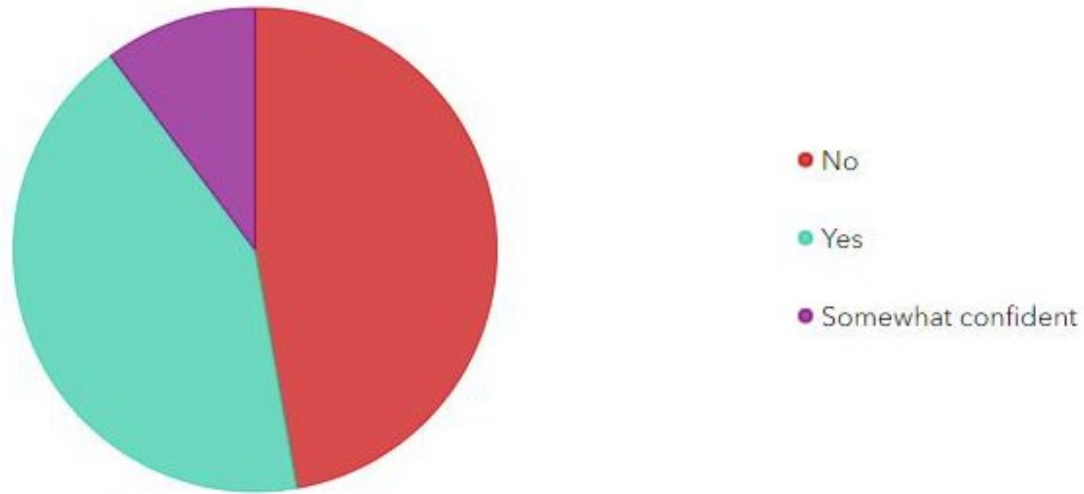
Answers	Count	Percentage
Yes	129	59.72%
No	87	40.28%

Answered: 216 Skipped: 0

11. Were you confident in your ability to perform your duties on Election Day after completing the training?



12. Did you encounter challenges on Election Day that were not adequately addressed in the training?



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Answers	Count	Percentage
No	102	47.22%
Yes	92	42.59%
Somewhat confident	22	10.19%

Answered: 216 Skipped: 0

13. Do you have suggestions for improving the Election Officer training program in the future?

Positive Feedback

1. Hands-On Training Value

- i. Multiple people praised the hands-on portion of training.
- ii. Setting up sample stations during training helped them feel more comfortable on Election Day.
- iii. Live demonstrations were especially useful in reducing confusion.

2. Knowledgeable Trainers & Teamwork

- i. Many noted trainers were professional, quick, and ensured understanding.
- ii. Collaboration among poll workers often went smoothly, with more experienced workers helping new workers.
- iii. Some inspectors were specifically highlighted for their calm professionalism in handling issues.

3. Improved Training Compared to Past Years

- i. A few comments specifically stated that this year's training was "the best we've had in years."
- ii. The printed materials in the binder were commended for being extremely helpful.

Overall Positive Experiences

- i. Many respondents said the election ran smoothly, they enjoyed the experience and would be willing to work again.
- ii. Some even mentioned the day was "awesome" or "great" and that they learned a lot by actively doing the tasks.

Summary of Key Improvement Recommendations

1. Enhance Training

- i. Offer more robust, scenario-based, hands-on training (especially for machines and provisional ballots).
- ii. Ensure online and in-person instructions align.
- iii. Provide role-specific trainings (e.g., Inspector/Lead Officer vs. Clerk).

2. Improve Equipment & Supplies Management

- i. Provide extra toner, paper, and backup supplies at each site during Presidential General Elections.
- ii. Include easy-to-read guides or labels on equipment for quick troubleshooting (toner replacement, clearing jams, etc.).
- iii. Train field inspectors on swift resolution of equipment malfunctions.

3. Address Polling Place Challenges

- i. Pre-evaluate facilities to ensure adequate space, lighting, and accessibility.
- ii. Provide earlier access for setup.
- iii. If needed, relocate or redesign layout in cramped locations.

4. Strengthen Policy & Procedure Clarity

- i. Clarify rules on voter apparel (electioneering vs. free expression).
- ii. Provide clear instructions on handling poll watchers/observers.
- iii. Prepare staff for ID checks, out-of-county voters, and scanning VBM ballots.

5. Streamline Day-of Support

- i. Improve or expand help desk capacity for faster response.
- ii. Offer better on-site support (e.g., more knowledgeable field inspectors, designated troubleshooters).
- iii. Provide quick-reference or laminated “cheat sheets” on top tasks.

November 30th, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I was asked to give my notes as an election officer in San Joaquin County for the Presidential General election on November 5th, 2024. I worked at the poll location, Kennedy Community Center 91107.

Our team was on time and consisted of 4 workers and 3 students. We had everything up and running by 6:40am so we were ready at 7am for the polls to open on time.

Our team worked well together, and our inspector was great.

Our field inspector was also great and helped us get more paper and brought us ink before we even needed it, which was very proactive because we did run out of ink, and it was during a busy time.

The call center only picked up our call a couple of times. We called through throughout the day for different issues and couldn't get through. Please verify this with our inspector if you need further information.

We did have the DOJ show up to our location and probably staying between 45 min – 60 min. There were 2, 1 man and 1 woman. I did not get their names. The woman said she was from California, but the man was from Washington DC. The woman told me that out of our 58 counties in California, we were the only county that requested that they be here. She did not tell me who requested them or why. The man spoke to at least 2 of the students in Spanish so I don't know what he said to them or asked them. They responded to him in Spanish. I don't speak Spanish so I wouldn't know what was said. He only spoke a couple of sentences to each of them from what I could hear.

We also had a poll watcher come in and she was a bit aggressive. She was walking behind our polling pad table to get closer to the pads. I stopped her and told her she was not allowed to be behind the table and she flashed a badge at me stating she was a poll watcher. It happened very fast so I didn't get her name, but I had her move immediately and she did not touch anything and I had to tell her that she would need to move to a place where she was not in the way of us working. She did move and I didn't have any other issues with her.

Here are some notes of things I had come up during the day:

The polling pads

- Inactive voters: we were able to click on the voter's name and the poll pad asked if we wanted to update the voter to active. Once we pressed yes, it printed the slip for them to get a ballot printed. (I have heard from others that they did not do this and had the voter vote provisionally)
- Voters don't show up in the 1st poll pad (even after putting in address or date of birth) We would do a double check on the poll pad #2 and most of the time we were able to find the voter which saved us from sending them to vote provisionally.

- New voters that have never voted before: I would look to see if I could find them in the poll pad and most of the time, they were in the polling pad which saved us from sending them to vote provisionally.
- The poll pads had all the county voters names in them. I was able to find myself in the poll pad and I live in Lodi and I was working in Stockton. That may have been because you could go to any polling place in the county.

Printers / Ink / Paper

We did need a 2nd box of paper, and we did need more ink for the printer

We had one of the ink containers explode on us. We had black ink all over 2 of us and I was able to protect the printer so once we cleaned it all up and put in the new ink the ballots printed correctly.

Paper: Who counts the paper before and after and where does the extra paper go? (should be counted at the polling place at the beginning when the box is opened, after it gets to the warehouse and then again before storing it)

Provisional voters:

We need a system to validate the provisional voter has voted. We had no way of validating that the voter had voted because the provisional envelope and pre-printed ballot goes into the black ballot box.

Provisional ballots – only 1 stack of pre-printed ballots for that location, but voters could go to any polling place so wouldn't have the correct ballot for local city races?

New voters:

We need a system to validate that the voter voted. There was no way of recording or validating that the new voter voted.

Scanner:

We need to verify the scanner is counting correctly. We need the person that is assigned to the scanner to check the scanner count before and after each person scans the paperwork to ensure that the scanner is working correctly.

I am happy to speak to anyone who needs more information or would like to work on streamlining the process so the next election goes even smoother.

Additional information:


In the early evening, another polling location nearby sent people to our location. The reason given to us was their printer wasn't working. I believe it was an issue with ink but I'm not sure if that was the only reason.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Collins

H.R.8281 - SAVE Act

118th Congress (2023-2024)

Sponsor: [Rep. Roy, Chip \[R-TX-21\]](#) (Introduced 05/07/2024)
Committees: House - House Administration
Committee Meetings: [05/23/24 10:30AM](#)
Committee Reports: [H. Rept. 118-552](#)
Latest Action: Senate - 07/23/2024 Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 439. ([All Actions](#))
Roll Call Votes: There have been [2 roll call votes](#)
Tracker:  Introduced > **Passed House**

Summary(3) [Text\(4\)](#) [Actions\(23\)](#) [Titles\(9\)](#) [Amendments\(1\)](#) [Cosponsors\(104\)](#) [Committees\(1\)](#) [Related Bills\(2\)](#)



There are 3 summaries for H.R.8281.

Passed House (07/10/2024)



[Bill summaries](#) are authored by [CRS](#).

Shown Here:

Passed House (07/10/2024)

Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act or the SAVE Act

This bill requires individuals to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship in order to register to vote in federal elections.

Specifically, the bill prohibits states from accepting and processing an application to register to vote in a federal election unless the applicant presents documentary proof of U.S. citizenship.

Further, the bill (1) prohibits states from registering an individual to vote in a federal election unless, at the time the individual applies to register to vote, the individual provides documentary proof of U.S. citizenship; and (2) requires states to establish an alternative process under which an applicant may submit other evidence to demonstrate U.S. citizenship.

Each state must take affirmative steps on an ongoing basis to ensure that only U.S. citizens are registered to vote, which shall include establishing a program to identify individuals who are not U.S. citizens using information supplied by specified sources.

Additionally, the bill requires states to remove noncitizens from their official lists of eligible voters.

The bill allows for a private right of action against an election official who registers an applicant to vote in a federal election who fails to present documentary proof of U.S. citizenship.

The bill establishes criminal penalties for certain offenses, including registering an applicant to vote in a federal election who fails to present documentary proof of U.S. citizenship.

The Election Assistance Commission must, within 10 days, adopt and transmit guidance for implementing the bill's requirements to chief state election officials.



WHATMATTERS

After five weeks, California knows its election results. Dive in



BY LYNN LA
DECEMBER 16, 2024



A voter fills out their ballot at a voting center in the Firebaugh Senior Center on Nov. 5, 2024. Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

The holidays may be coming up fast (have you finished all your gift shopping yet?) but one thing that took its time was California's final election results. On Friday, 38 days after Election Day, Secretary of State Shirley Weber certified the results of the November election.

Some key takeaways: [More than 16.1 million Californians voted](#), with 71% of registered voters casting ballots. And nearly 60% of all eligible voters in the state voted. Of the votes cast, roughly 81% were by mail, while 19% were in-person. (In 2020, [43% of voters nationwide cast mail-in ballots](#), according to the U.S. Census.)

Compared to the last presidential election, [which had an especially high voter turnout](#), voter turnout [this year fell](#): In 2020, more than 17.7 million Californians voted in the election between President Joe Biden and then-incumbent Donald Trump, and the turnout rates of both registered and eligible voters were about 10 percentage points higher than in 2024.

And while there were more voters this year compared to when Trump was first elected in 2016 and both of Barack Obama's victories in 2012 and 2008, this year saw a lower turnout rate of registered voters compared to all those three elections. That's partly because while California added a lot more new registered voters in recent years through its [automatic voter registration system](#), these residents may be less likely to vote regularly.

Nationally, though Trump won the presidency and nabbed the popular vote, he didn't win by the "[unprecedented and powerful mandate](#)" that he described in his victory speech, and [failed to capture the majority vote](#). In California, where no Republican presidential candidate has won since 1988, Vice President Kamala Harris beat Trump handily, capturing over 9.2 million votes, or 58.5%, compared to Trump's 6 million, or 38.3%. Harris also outperformed Democrat Adam Schiff of Burbank, who received 9 million votes in his U.S. Senate race against Republican candidate Steve Garvey.

But compared to Biden, who received 11.1 million votes, or 63.5%, in 2020, Harris did not do as well. She lost vote share [in all but one of the state's 58 counties](#). Trump also gained a larger share of the vote in [most of the state's Latino-majority counties](#) compared to his results in 2020.

On Tuesday, California's 54 members of the Electoral College will gather at the state Capitol to cast their vote for Harris. The nationwide Electoral College results in Trump's favor will then be certified by Congress on Jan. 6.

As for [the 10 ballot propositions](#), the anti-crime measure, [Proposition 36](#), and [Prop. 35](#) to make a tax on managed care health insurance plans permanent, were the most popular measures, both passing with

more than 67% of the vote. [Prop. 33](#) to expand rent control was the least popular proposal with only 40% voter approval.

Days before California's certification, Weber said the long vote count ensures that the [final results are accurate](#). But what's viewed by many as a [notoriously slow process](#) — due in part to the popularity of mail-in voting — invites [doubt and mistrust](#). Assemblymember [Marc Berman](#), a Palo Alto Democrat and former chairperson of the Assembly Elections Committee, is introducing legislation to help counties speed up the counting process.

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Support CalMatters: Donations to CalMatters are tripled in our year-end drive thanks to our annual Board Match and a new California Match Fund. Plus, people starting a \$10+ monthly recurring donation can receive a special-edition CalMatters tote. [Triple your donation today.](#)

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OTHER STORIES YOU SHOULD KNOW

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Taxonomy: [California](#) [Elections Code](#) [Division 2.](#)
[Chapter 2.](#) [Article 4.5.](#)

**Article 4.5. Conditional Voter Registration of
California Elections Code >> Division 2. >> Chapter
2. >> Article 4.5.**

2170.

(a) "Conditional voter registration" means a properly executed affidavit of registration that is delivered by the registrant to the county elections official during the 14 days immediately preceding an election or on election day and which may be deemed effective pursuant to this article after the elections official processes the affidavit, determines the registrant's eligibility to register, and validates the registrant's information, as specified in subdivision (c).

(b) In addition to other methods of voter registration provided by this code, an elector who is otherwise qualified to register to vote under this code and Section 2 of Article II of the California Constitution may complete a conditional voter registration and cast a provisional ballot during the 14 days immediately preceding an election or on election day pursuant to this article.

(c) (1) A conditional voter registration shall be deemed effective if the county elections official is able to determine before or during the canvass period for the election that the registrant is eligible to register to vote and that the information provided by the registrant on the registration affidavit matches information contained in a database maintained by the Department of Motor Vehicles or the federal Social Security Administration.

(2) If the information provided by the registrant on the registration affidavit cannot be verified pursuant to paragraph (1) but the registrant is otherwise eligible to vote, the registrant shall be issued a unique identification number pursuant to Section 2150 and the

conditional voter registration shall be deemed effective.

(d) The county elections official shall offer conditional voter registration and provisional voting pursuant to this article, in accordance with all of the following procedures:

(1) The elections official shall provide conditional voter registration and provisional voting pursuant to this article at all permanent offices of the county elections official in the county.

(2) The elections official shall advise registrants that a conditional voter registration will be effective only if the registrant is determined to be eligible to register to vote for the election and the information provided by the registrant on the registration affidavit is verified pursuant to subdivision (c).

(3) The elections official shall conduct the receipt and handling of each conditional voter registration and offer and receive a corresponding provisional ballot in a manner that protects the secrecy of the ballot and allows the elections official to process the registration, determine the registrant's eligibility to register, and validate the registrant's information before counting or rejecting the corresponding provisional ballot.

(4) After receiving a conditional voter registration, the elections official shall process the registration, determine the registrant's eligibility to register, and attempt to validate the registrant's information.

(5) If a conditional registration is deemed effective, the elections official shall include the corresponding provisional ballot in the official canvass.

(e) The county elections official may offer conditional voter registration and provisional voting pursuant to this article at satellite offices of the county elections office, in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraphs (2) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (d).

2171.

(a) A conditional voter registration accepted under this article shall include the information required by Article 4 (commencing with Section 2150).

(b) A conditional voter registration accepted under this article shall be processed in accordance with general voter registration procedures provided in this chapter and established by regulations adopted by the Secretary of State.

(c) A provisional ballot cast under this article shall be subject to the

requirements for provisional voting in Article 5 (commencing with Section 14310) of Chapter 3 of Division 14.

2172.

(a) The elections official shall cancel any duplicate voter registrations that may exist as a result of a conditional registration deemed effective and shall cancel the duplicate registrations in accordance with Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 2200).

(b) If it appears that a registrant may have committed fraud within the meaning of Section 18560, the elections official shall immediately notify in writing both the district attorney and the Secretary of State.

2173.

(a) Notwithstanding any other law, a person who commits fraud in the execution of a conditional voter registration pursuant to this article shall be punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for up to one year, or a fine up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(b) In addition to the criminal penalties prescribed in subdivision (a), a person who commits fraud in the execution of a conditional voter registration pursuant to this article shall be subject to a civil fine of an amount up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). An action for a civil penalty under this subdivision may be brought by the Secretary of State or any public prosecutor with jurisdiction.

(c) Nothing in this section shall preclude the prosecution of a person under any other applicable provision of law.



← UPDATES

OCTOBER 11, 2024

New California Law Prohibits Localities From Imposing Their Own Voter ID Requirements

California Governor Gavin Newsom signed [Senate Bill 1174](#) into law on September 29, 2024. SB 1174 prohibits local governments from requiring voters to present identification when casting their ballots at the polls.

SB 1174 Passed in Response to Huntington Beach Voter ID Measure

SB 1174, authored by state Senator Dave Min (D-Irvine), was introduced following disagreements between the state of California and the city of Huntington Beach regarding control of election procedures. Prior to the enactment of SB 1174, California's statewide election law allowed individuals to cast their vote without identification. Cal. Elec. Code § 14216.[1] There was, however, ambiguity regarding whether cities and counties had the power to impose stricter requirements, especially given the autonomy that localities have in administering elections.

In October 2023, the Huntington Beach City Council took advantage of this ambiguity and [voted to place](#) a measure on the March 2024 ballot, known as Measure A, seeking voter approval for a city charter amendment revising the city's election processes. The [text of Measure A](#) granted the city broad discretion to require identification at polling places to determine voter eligibility, without defining what would constitute a valid form of identification or providing any other details regarding the measure's requirements or implementation.

Huntington Beach voters approved the measure by a 53% to 47% margin. In April 2024, the state of California [filed suit](#) against the city of Huntington Beach, seeking to enjoin implementation of Measure A. The state argued that existing California election law established uniform procedures for determining voter eligibility at polling places that did not include voter identification and that preempted any contradictory city or county laws. The state [further argued](#) that "[i]mposing unnecessary obstacles to voter participation disproportionately burdens low-income voters, voters of color, young or elderly voters, and people with disabilities." A private citizen has also challenged Measure A on similar grounds. *See Bixby v. Estanislau*, 30-2023-01366664-CU-WM-CJC.

Measure A Enforcement, Despite SB 1174, Could Result in Cumbersome Parallel Elections

On its face, SB 1174 applies to all California local governments—including charter cities like Huntington Beach. And SB 1174 was specifically intended to invalidate Measure A. However, Huntington Beach's city attorney has said that as a charter city, state law cannot interfere with the city's right to control city elections. *See* Cal. Const., Art. XI, Section 5(b)(3) ("It shall be competent in all city charters to provide, in addition to those provisions allowable by this Constitution, and by the laws of the State for: . . . conduct of city elections."). Thus, Huntington Beach has vowed to defend Measure A.

Although the text of Measure A indicates that the identification requirements will apply to "municipal elections," the measure's opponents have pointed out that it may be applied to any election for any officer occurring at voting locations within the city, since municipal elections are usually on the same ballot as other races.

Indeed, as a practical matter, if Measure A survives legal challenges and SB 1174 also goes into effect, Huntington Beach election administrators and voters could be in for a cumbersome experience. To abide by both Measure A and SB 1174, Huntington Beach may have to run parallel elections involving one ballot for city-wide races and one ballot for all other races, only requiring voter IDs for the city-wide elections. It is not clear how election administrators could ensure that the ID requirement would only apply to the city-wide ballot, given that in many cases—*e.g.*, the November 2024 election—city and non-city elections occur on the same day.

Will Other States Follow California’s Lead?

California is one of 14 states that does not require voters to show a form of identification at the polls. Like in California, the ability of local governments to impose stricter voting requirements is unclear in many of these states and creates tension between state and local election laws. For example, New Mexico allows voters to cast their ballots without physical identification (*see* N.M. Stat. Ann. §§ 1-1-24, 1-12-71, 1-12-10, 1-12-4.1), but the city of Rio Rancho enacted an ordinance that requires voters to present photo identification at polling places. Rio Rancho Muni. Code § 30.31.

California is the first state to pass a law that explicitly prohibits localities from imposing voter ID requirements. However, given the growing disagreements between certain local governments and statewide officials regarding several election-related matters (including [disputes with local officials over election certification](#)), other states may follow California’s lead in enacting legislation similar to SB 1174.

Endnote

[1] California requires voters to have a valid California driver’s license or identification card number in order to register to vote. *See* Cal. Elec. Code § 2196.

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Authors



Danielle Sivalingam

COUNSEL



Jameson (Jamie) Ullman

ASSOCIATE



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Election Advisory Committee

Olivia Hale, Registrar of Voters

January 9, 2025



San Joaquin County General Election 2024: Voter Participation Breakdown

83,100 VOTERS WENT TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY!

Voter Turnout:

267,627 (70.68%)

In-Person Voting:

48,900 ballots cast

(including CVR/Provisional)

Early Voting:

1,933 ballots cast

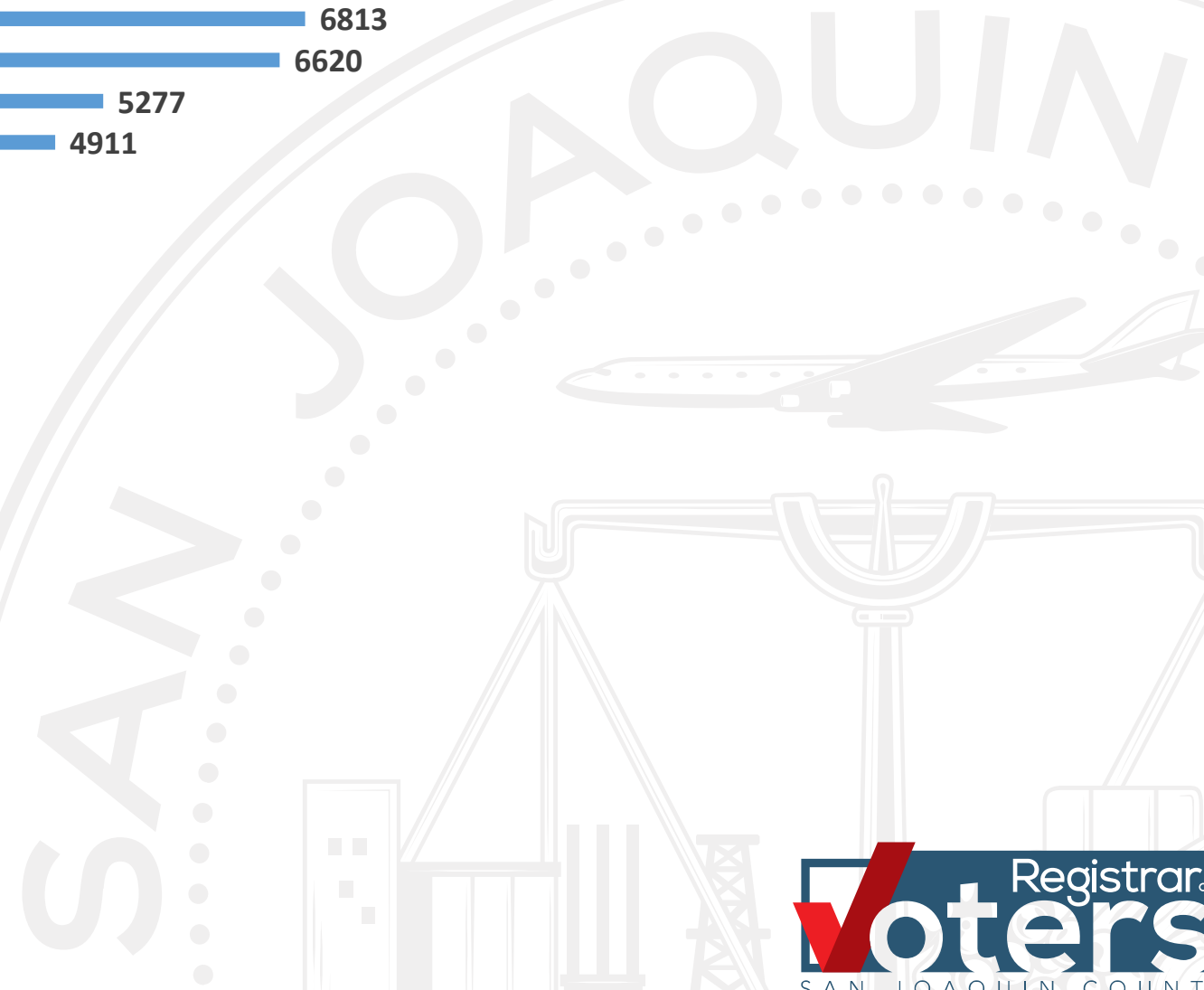
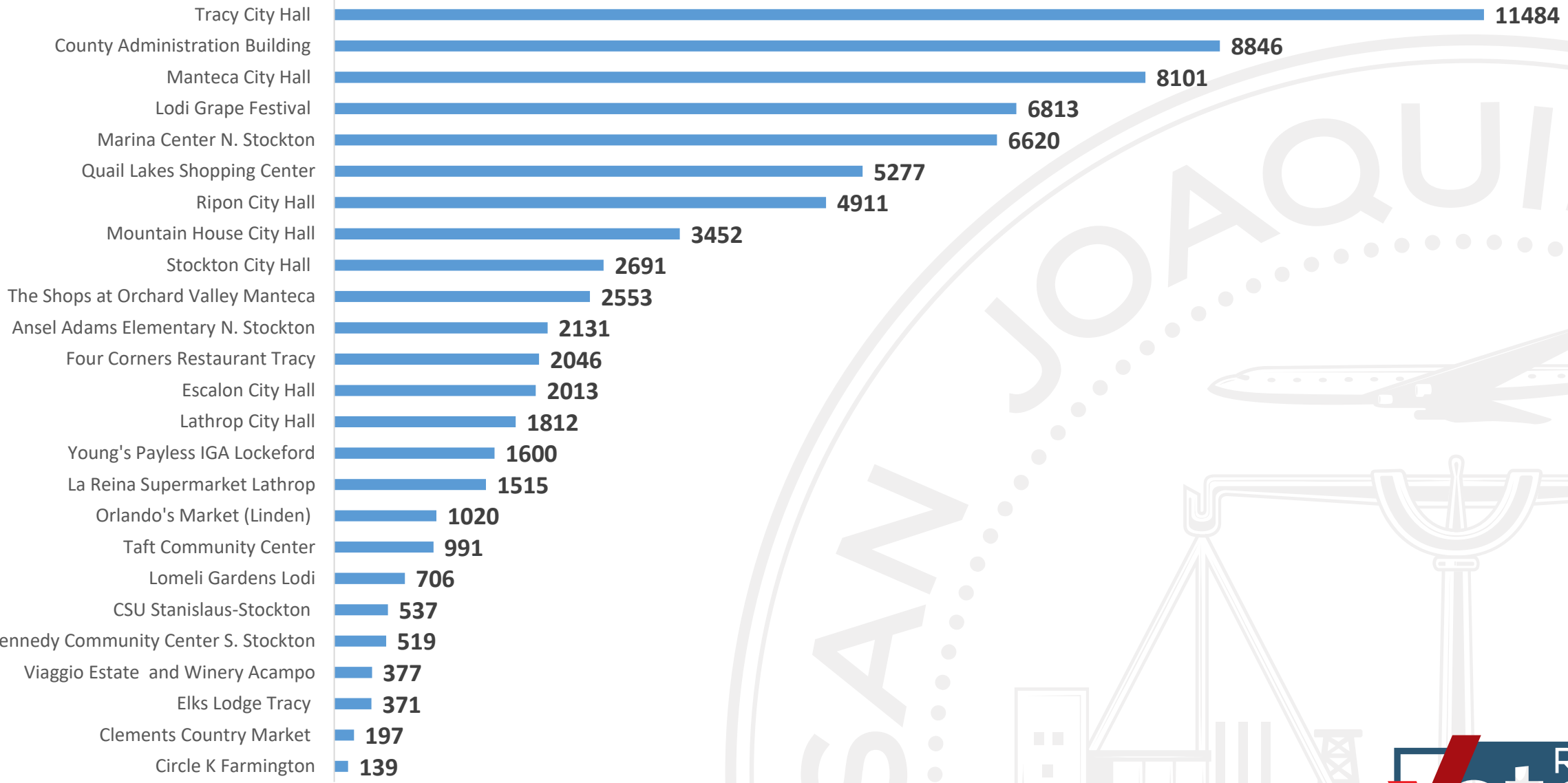
Vote-by-Mail:

216,794 ballots cast

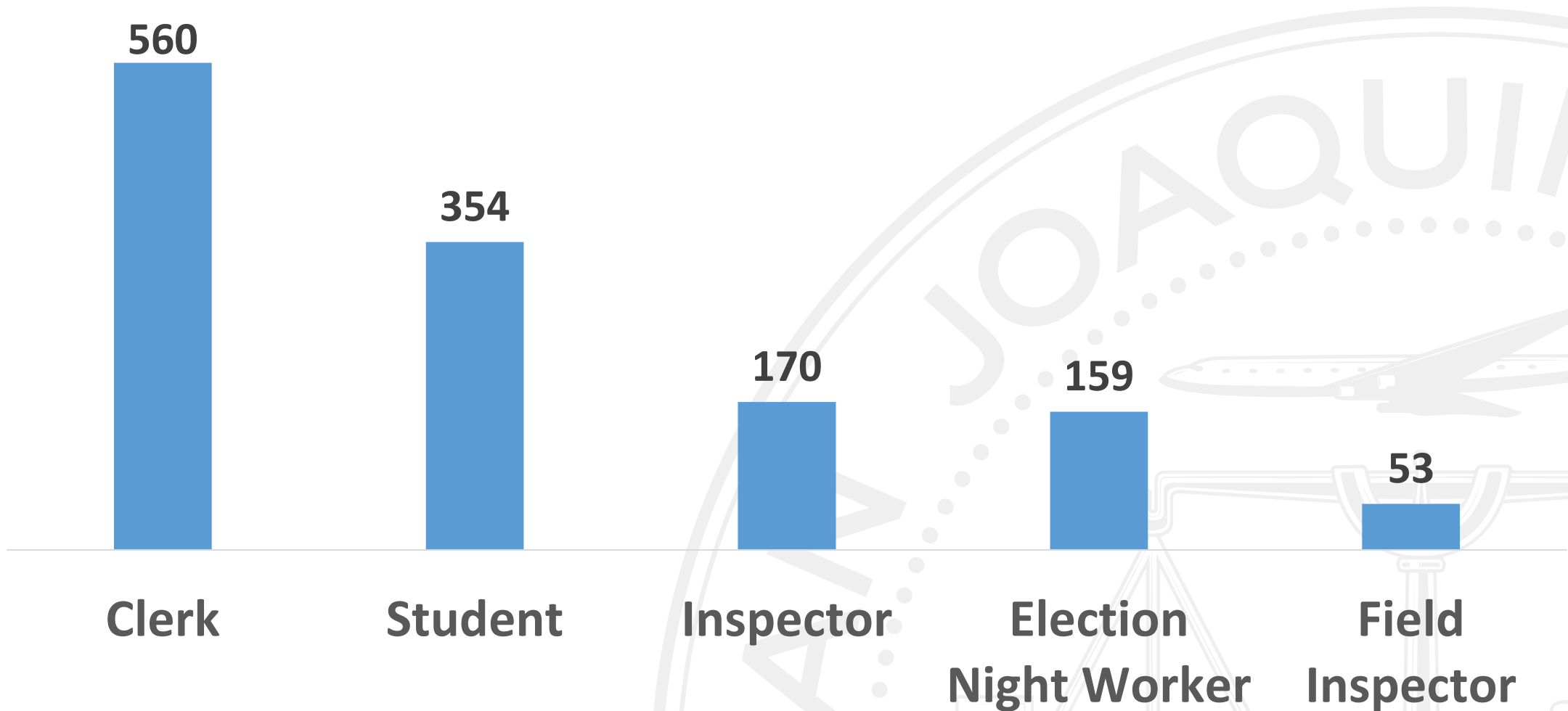
Vote-by-Mail Returns:

- 105,194 by US mail
- 76,722 from drop boxes
- 678 returned to the ROV office
- 34,200 returned to polling locations on Election Day

Drop Box Ballots Returned by Location



Election Officer Statistics



In-Person Voting

- 171 Polling Precincts
- 48,900 in-person ballots cast including CVRs and Provisionals
- Additional 34,200 voters dropped off their mail ballots in-person at polling places on election day
- Combined total in-person voting: 83,100
- Over 31% of the total votes cast were done utilizing in-person voting options during this election

Election Security

- All 25 Drop Boxes had security cameras live streaming 24/7, available to the public on ROV website
- Sheriff Escorts on Election Night for final pickups from Drop Boxes. Additional Sheriff Escorts were also provided for transport from all 5 receiving centers to the ROV warehouse for Election Night Reporting
- All ballots were under camera surveillance at all times once received at the County Administration Building, including during opening, sorting, inspection, scanning, and tabulation.

Department of Justice Election Observers

Department of Justice Election Feedback

- **Disability Access Evaluation:**
 - Emphasis on ensuring ADA compliance at all polling locations.
 - Need to access all or additional locations to improve ADA accessibility.
- **Current ADA Access Success:**
 - Most existing locations successfully meet ADA requirements.
 - Continuous monitoring and improvements planned for better accessibility.
- **Issues Reported:**
 - One location failed to have the Verity Touch Writer operational at 7 AM.
 - Immediate corrective measures taken to ensure accessibility.
- **Blind Voter Assistance:**
 - A blind voter required a provisional ballot, highlighting the need for accessible voting options.
 - Additional training required for election officers on how to effectively assist blind voters needing provisional ballots.

Department of Justice

Election Observers

- **Language Support at Polling Locations:**

- All locations were equipped with translated materials available in multiple languages.

- **Challenges with Spanish Language Support:**

- Six locations identified with Spanish speakers not proficient enough to effectively communicate with voters.
- Some translators struggled with providing accurate interpretations, though most performed well countywide.

- **Action Required:**

- Emphasize the need for proficient Spanish speakers at all polling locations.
- Ensure all language support staff can provide clear and accurate voting instructions.

Voter Roll Maintenance

- **Voter Roll Maintenance Overview:**

- San Joaquin County Registrar of Voters (ROV) follows California Elections Code.
- Continuous year-round maintenance to ensure accuracy and compliance.

- **Proactive Address Verification:**

- A citizen reported voters registered at business addresses.
- Investigation confirmed all flagged registrations were at legitimate residential addresses.
- Utilized Google Maps and other tools to verify the accuracy of addresses.
- Findings were forwarded to the San Joaquin County Sheriff's department for further verification.

- **Enhanced Death Record Verification:**

- Regular death records provided monthly by San Joaquin County Public Health.
- ROV office requested death records for the past five years to ensure comprehensive verification.
- Initiative part of due diligence to prevent any discrepancies in voter rolls.

Provisional/CVR Envelope Update

- **Provisional/CVR Envelope Redesign:**
 - **Objective:** Simplify and streamline the voting process at polling locations.
- **New Envelope Features:**
 - Introduction of a carbon copy style envelope.
 - Combines all necessary forms into a single, integrated envelope.
- **Benefits for Election Officers:**
 - Eliminates the need to manage multiple separate forms.
 - Reduces potential for errors and speeds up processing time at polling stations.
- **All-Purpose Functionality:**
 - Designed to serve all purposes for which a voter might visit a polling location.
 - Enhances efficiency and ensures consistency in handling voter needs.
 - Significantly reduces processing times for ROV staff post-election.

Questions?

