Q.) Why are updates taking so long to post? With less voter turnout than last election it should be easier. In 2020 there were updates every day. Why are they now taking a week?

A.) Due to an issue with the barcode on the ballot, ballot counting is going slower than previous elections but will still be completed by the statutory deadline of July 7, 2022. Updates every single day are unnecessary and take resources away to get the job done. 1-2 updates a week is fairly standard across California counties and we believe Tuesday updates are appropriate.

Q.) Why is the vote count for the following races different than the total vote count of 22,081 which is posted on the SJC website? How can the recorded votes exceed ballots cast?

Board of Equalization (22,593)
Full-term Senate seat (22,427)
Insurance Commissioner (23,103)

A.) This year we have a 3-card ballot. While processes are in place to handle the barcode issue, we have scanned more of card #2 than that of card #1 or card #3. The Hart Inter-civic voting system uses card #1 to calculate the amount of ballots cast. Card #2 and #3 show increases votes for the races they have on those two cards. These races in question are on card #2.

Q.) Why is it that a majority of other counties report nearly 100% precincts on election night?

A.) ALL California counties must report 100% of their precincts reporting on Election night. That means precincts reporting, not completed vote tabulation. There is a difference. San Joaquin had 100% of their 127 polling place precincts reported on Election night.

Q.) Why couldn't the rejected blurry ballots be set aside and all of the others (approx. 70%) be counted and reported election night? I guess I don't understand. If you run the ballot and it gets rejected, set it aside but count the rest.

A.) The barcode issue is not known until the specific card is actually scanned; it cannot be determined by the naked eye. Therefore, we must run all ballots through the scanner and pull the sheets with the barcode issue, the report will show, “one or more barcodes could not be read” and that sheet is then removed for the duplication process.

Q.) Does the ROV have sufficient checks and balances to report factual data? Is there enough support to get the job done?

A.) The ROV’s office already implements multiple checks and balances during ballot counting activity, including two-person integrity at all points in the process. We have added additional
checks & balances due to the barcode issue. We can assure all San Joaquin County residents their votes will be accurately counted regardless of the barcode issue.

Yes, our office is supported by the county and community with many county staff and local temporary workers stepping in to help tabulate votes. But we could always use more assistance so we are asking the community to come work for us over the next few weeks to help with the process. [Announcement: Elections Technician Assistant - San Joaquin County (jobapscloud.com)]

Q.) What plans does the ROV’s office have to address questions remaining from 2020 from voters who have concerns as to why the ballot machines were replaced after the election. In addition, people had concerns over internet connectivity. Has the ROV removed all internet connecting devices from the elections now?

A.) We have the same equipment as the 2020 election cycle. In 2019, San Joaquin County purchased the Hart Inter-Civic voting system to replace the old Diebold Voting system. The current voting system has not been replaced since the 2020 election. We do not connect to the internet anything related to the voting system that is used to tabulate votes cast. We do have a poll pad which is an electronic roster that replaced our paper rosters in 2020. This is connected to our election management system which only reports the status of a person’s voting record and voter history, indicating in real time if the voter has cast a ballot but not how that ballot was voted. This technology helps to eliminate voters attempting to vote more than once.

Our educational video is here explaining the vote-by-Mail process:

https://sjgov.box.com/s/5mjoj3v8jlve5tcq0ggve9tdanhimcu4