



**ORANGE COUNTY
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

Three Scans, One Truth

Crisis Communications Response

The Challenge

- On January 16, 2025, a video surfaced online showing an Orange County Registrar of Voters (ROV) employee allegedly scanning the same batch of ballots three times during the November 2024 election. The footage, posted by a partisan outlet, quickly went viral amassing over **2 million views**, fueling speculation of ballot duplication and election fraud.
- [Video](#)

Our Response

- The ROV communications team acted swiftly to clarify the facts: only one scan was saved and counted, while the other two were discarded due to routine scanner cleaning and ballot rejections. By releasing a transparent, evidence-based statement supported by audit logs and procedural documentation, the ROV successfully neutralized misinformation and reinforced confidence in election integrity.

BREAKING EXCLUSIVE: ORANGE COUNTY, CA ELECTION WORKER SHOVES HUGE STACK OF BALLOTS THROUGH MACHINE THREE TIMES

January 16, 2025 by Joe Hoft



An election worker in Orange County, California is caught on camera shoving a large batch of ballots through an election machine three times. What is going on?

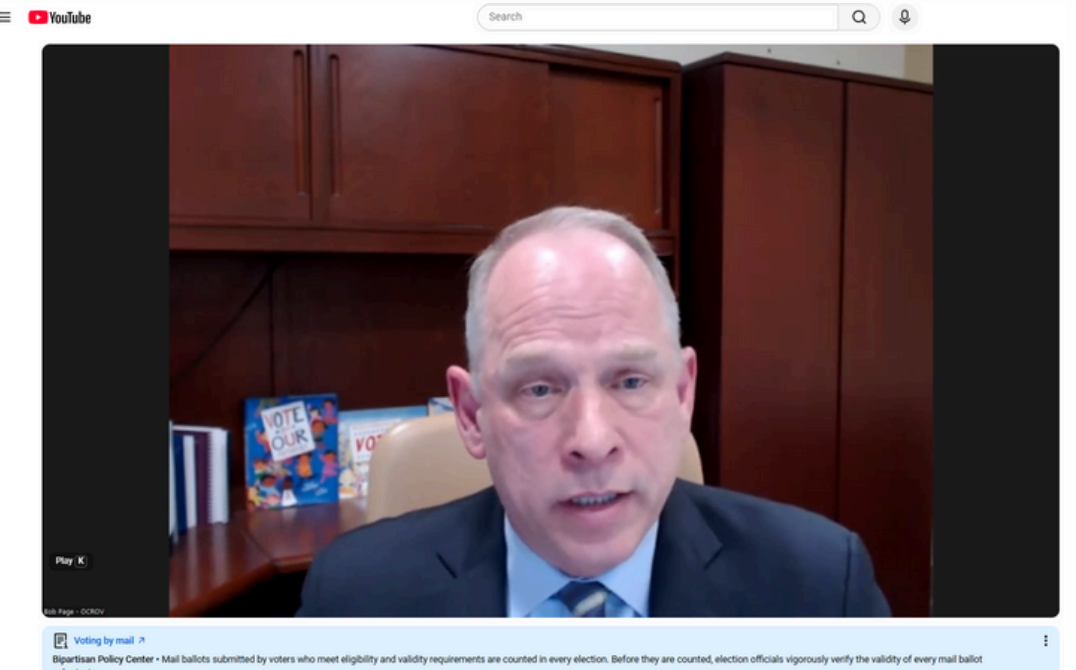
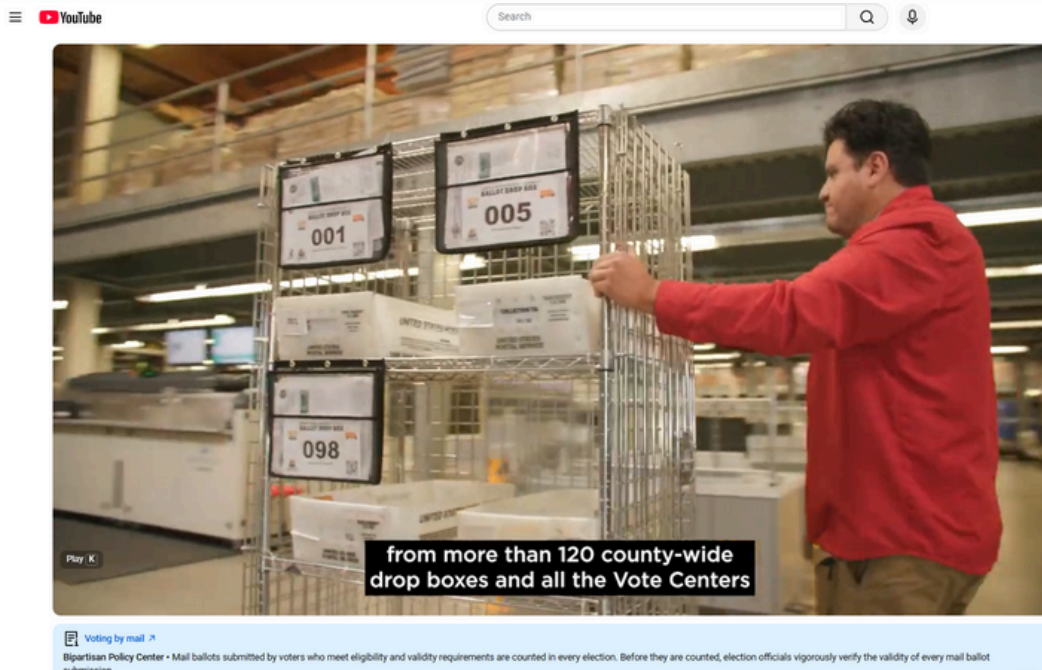
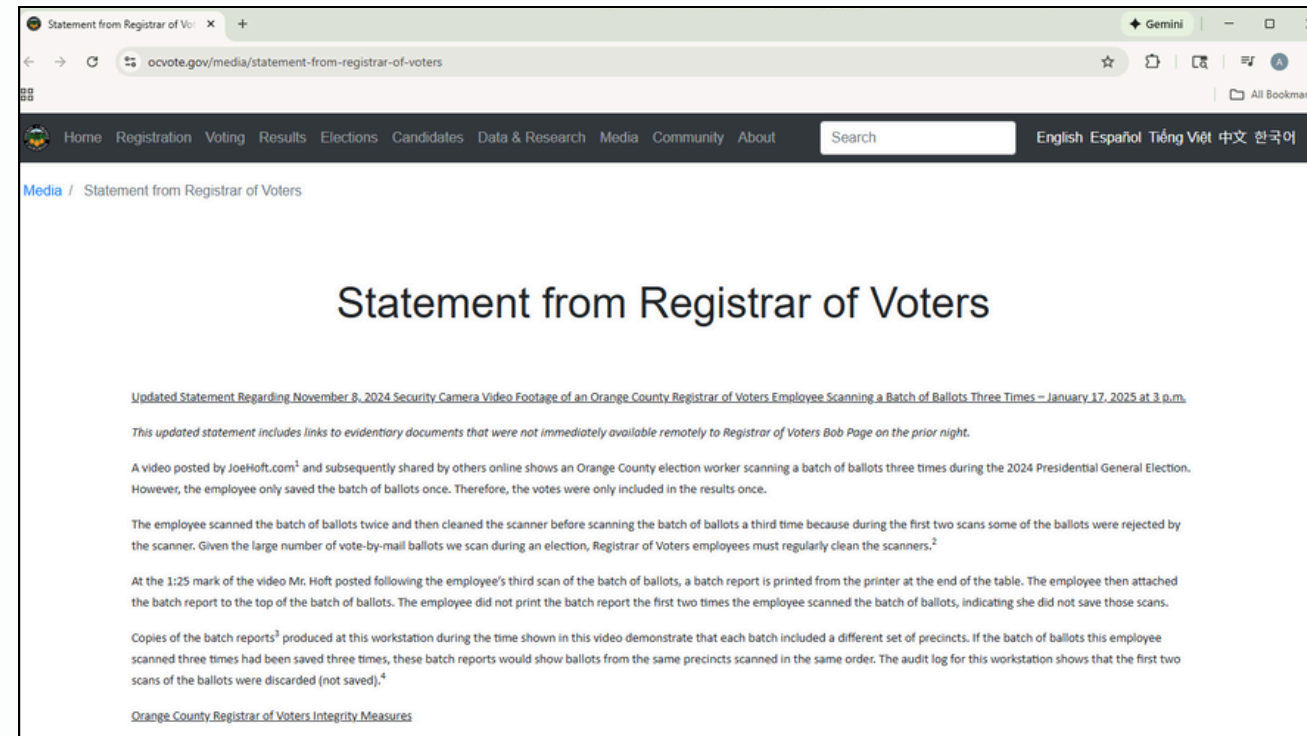
Strategies and Tactics

- The ROV assessed the situation, recognizing the reputational risk and potential erosion of voter confidence.
- Research focused on reviewing scanning protocols and audit procedures to confirm accuracy; identifying all supporting documentation, including batch reports, scanner logs, and quality-control checklists; and determining priority stakeholders that —voters, media, oversight bodies, and community leaders— and how to reach them.
- The messaging strategy centered on three pillars transparency, assurance and credibility. Communications focused on reinforcing the integrity of certified audit processes.
- Materials were prepared in advance of public release, including official statements, FAQs, and links to procedural documents.
- Coordination with County Counsel and the Secretary of State ensured compliance with legal standards.



Rapid Response

- Response initiated within 24 hours of the crisis.
- Initial statement issued the same evening; comprehensive update posted the next day on the official ROV website.
- Press releases distributed to local and regional media outlets.
- Dedicated transparent webpage launched featuring:
 - official statements
 - emails
 - audit logs
 - batch summary reports
 - explanatory visuals
 - article and resource links
- Social media posts directed audiences to official ROV sources to counter misinformation.
- Direct briefings provided to state officials, election monitors, and community partners with supporting evidence.
- Follow-up campaign emphasized verifiable facts, including documentation of hand audits covering 40,000 ballots, to demonstrate system integrity



RESULTS

Third-party Validation from the Orange County Grand Jury, Media and Elected Officials

- After three months of observation and inquiry, the Orange County Grand Jury issued a report praising the ROV and recommending no changes to election conduct. [View the report.](#)
- This endorsement, combined with visible community defense of the ROV on social media and strong engagement with behind-the-scenes content, reflected restored public trust built through transparency and education.
- Sen. Blakespear, Chair, Senate Committee on Elections & Constitutional Amendments praised ROV communication efforts for restored “confidence in our elections.” [Watch the video.](#)
- Orange County Board of Supervisors complimenting ROV’s integrity. [Watch the video](#) (click on Item No. 28 to advance the video)



More

- 1** [Registrar of Voters webpage containing statement and documents related to November 8, 2024 Security Camera Video Footage of an Orange County Registrar of Voters Employee Scanning a Batch of Ballots posted by Joe Hoft on January 16, 2025.](#)
- 2** [Registrar of Voters webpage related to June 25, 2025 Lawsuit Filed by U.S. Department of Justice Against Orange County Registrar of Voters Bob Page Regarding Access to Voter Registration Information](#)
- 3** [**Elections Study Session of the Huntington Beach City Council**](#)
- 4** [**Orange County Board of Supervisors response to Grand Jury report complimenting OCROV's integrity – click on Item No. 28 to advance the video**](#)



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