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# County of Orange Registrar of Voters



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# Community Election Working Group

January 29, 2025





# Housekeeping

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- Please mute yourself unless speaking or presenting
- Pause for questions
- May submit questions and comments in chat or raise hand



# Welcome & Introductions

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- Adria M. Jimenez, Chair
- Bob Page, Registrar of Voters
- Registrar of Voters Staff
- CEW member roll call



# Agenda

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- Approve minutes of September 4, 2024 CEW meeting
- Recognize Renewing Members
- Election of Chair and Vice Chair
- Open Forum
- 2024 Presidential General Election Review



# Agenda

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- 2025 Special Elections
- SB 1450 Implementation & CEW Bylaw Amendments
- 2025 Election Administration Plan Review/Update
- Updates from VAAC and LAAC
- Future Business Items

Approve September 4, 2024 Minutes



Recognize Renewing Members







# Renewing CEW Members

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Terms Expire 12/31/2026

- City Clerks – Adria Jimenez
- City Clerks – Jennifer Hall
- Asian Community – Tim Cheng
- Latino Community – Alba Ramiro and Eddie Marquez
- Vote Center CSRs - Lisa Tarlton
- Democratic Party – Jeffrey Cardenas
- Republican Party – Randall Avila
- Veterans Affairs – Lyle Brakob
- At Large – Garrett M. Fahy



# CEW Members not Renewing

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- Disability Community – Evelyn Farooquee
- Asian Community – Charles Kim
- Vote Center CSRs – Moneka Walker-Burger

Unable to connect with a few members.  
Actively engaging and recruiting.

Also have a vacancy in a Disability Community seat that expires on December 31, 2025.

# Election of Chair and Vice Chair



# Open Forum



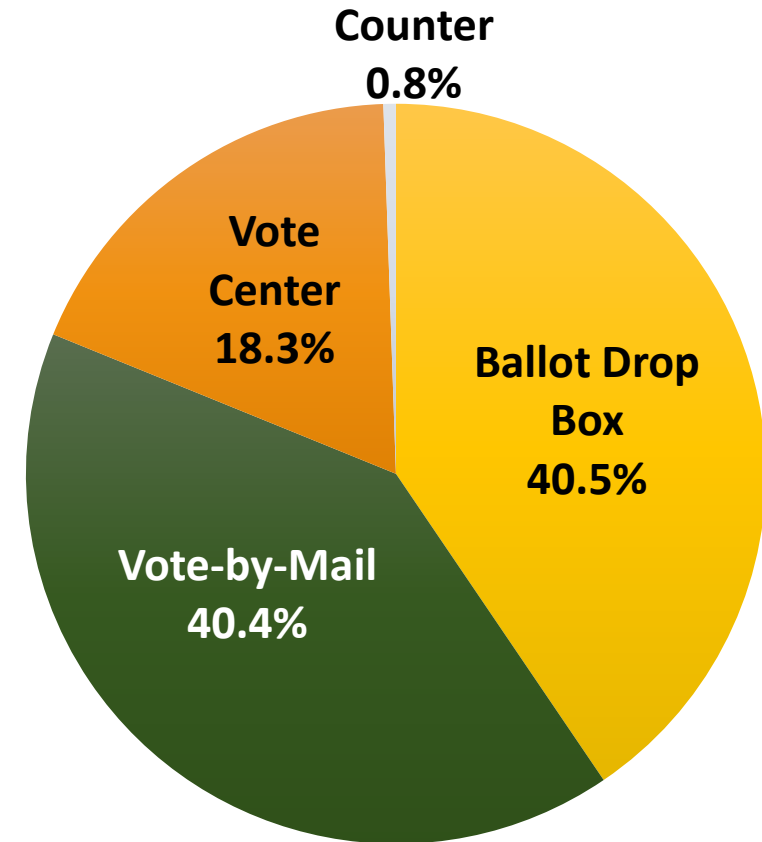
# 2024 Presidential General Election Review



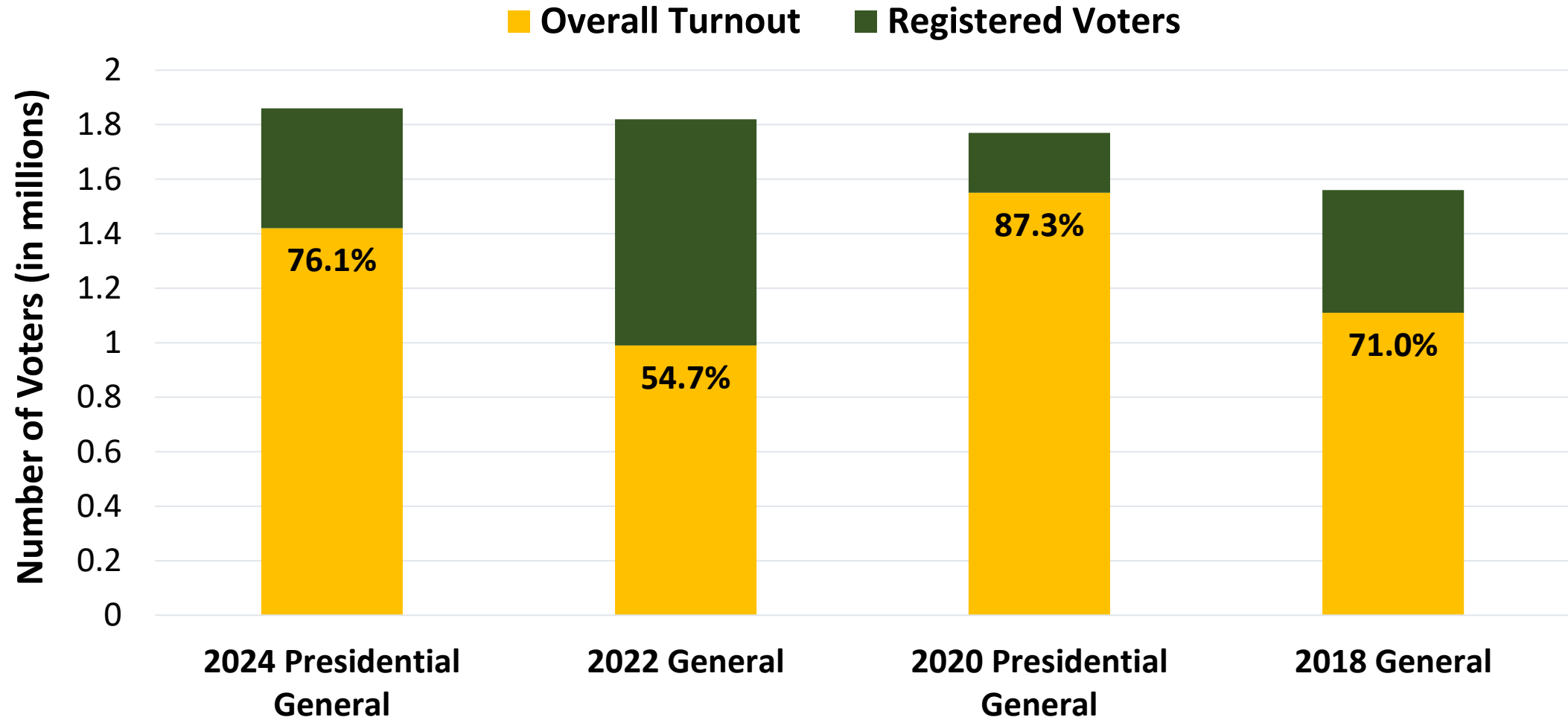
# 2024 Presidential General Election

- 1,861,450 Registered Voters
- 1,417,397 Votes Counted
- 76.1% Total
  - 323,223 Vote Center
  - 1,094,174 Vote-by-Mail

## Vote-by-Mail ballots Return Method



# November 2024 General – Overall Turnout





# Campus Conditional Voter Registrations

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## **38,804 Total** Provisional Ballots Cast

- Most provisional ballots in an election since 2018 General
- 5,198 cast at the 12 Vote Centers on college and university campuses
  - 13.4% of provisional ballots at 6.5% of Vote Centers

## **Highest Use**

- UCI – 1,539 provisional ballots compared to 732 regular ballots





# Speed of the Count

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- **89.3%** of early Vote-By-Mail ballots in Election Night Results
- Completed signature verification of VBM ballots by **E+8**
- Historically, complete VBM ballot signature verification from **E+7 to E+10**
- All canvass activities completed by **E+22**, except new cures
- Added about **850 cured** VBM ballots to results after E+20



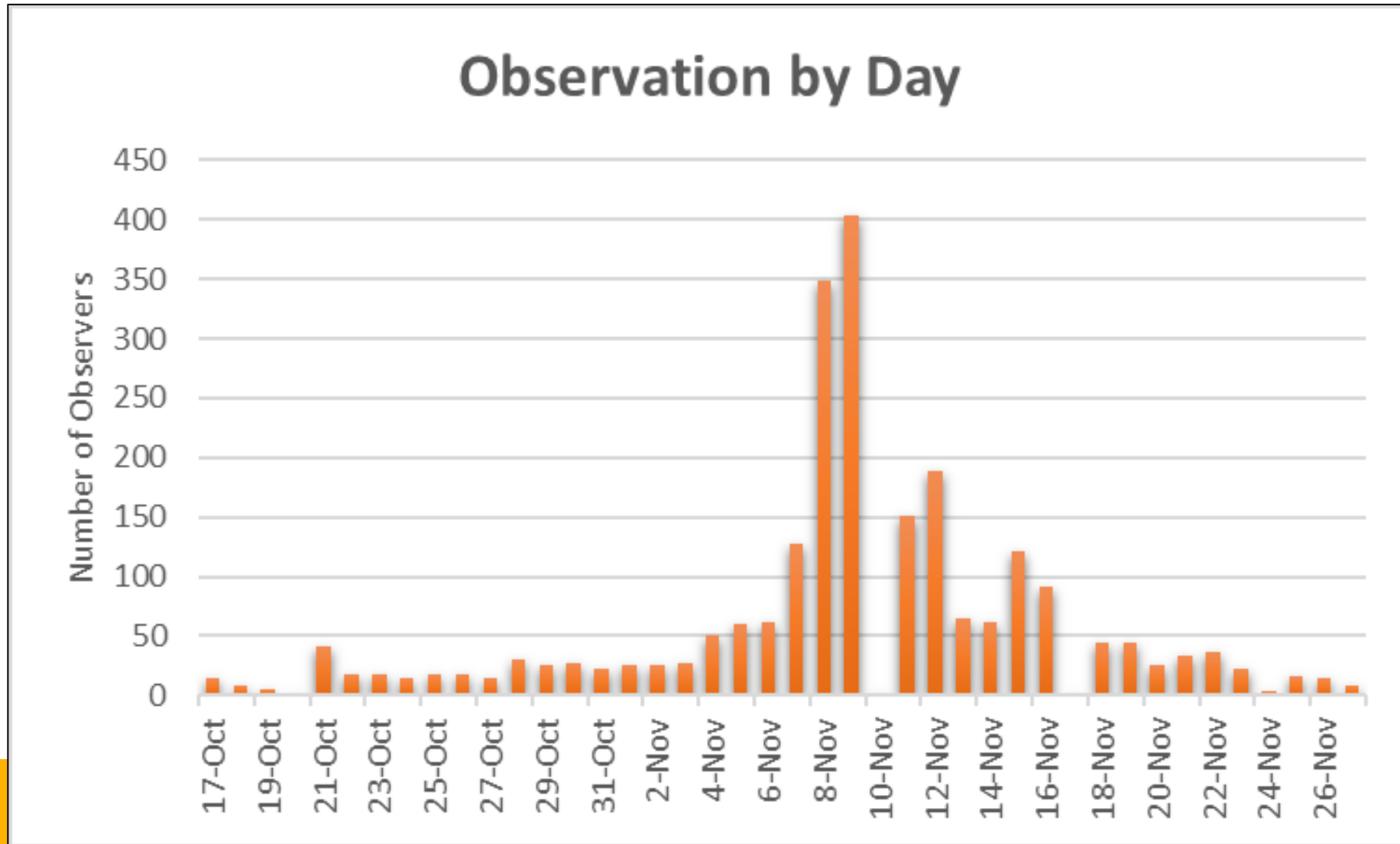
# Large Number of Observers

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- Due to high observation interest, Registrar of Voters on November 9 started to limit the number of observers during each two-hour ballot processing period.
- More than 2,300 observers visited the Registrar of Voters from October 5 to December 2.
- More than 400 observers visited the Registrar of Voters to observe on November 9.



# Large Number of Observers





# Emailed Bomb Threat

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*I've planted a bomb (lead azide) in your office's building at 1300 South Grand Avenue. It is small and hidden very well. It probably won't damage the building very much but it will wound lots of people when it explodes. I plan on remotely triggering the device's detonation as soon as there is a large police presence.*



# Emailed Bomb Threat - Timeline

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## November 8, 2024

- 5:42 p.m. – email sent to [ocvoter@ocvote.gov](mailto:ocvoter@ocvote.gov)
- 6:08 p.m. – email forwarded to Registrar
- 6:?? p.m. – Registrar radioed onsite Sheriff's Sergeant
- 6:45 p.m. – Ballot processing stopped, Sheriff's team evacuated observers then OCROV staff
- 8:00 p.m. – Bomb squad search completed



# Emailed Bomb Threat - Misinformation

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## **November 8-9, 2024**

- Questions if unmarked trucks delivered fake ballots

## **December 8, 2024**

- Claims that more ballots issued and counted

## **January 16, 2025**

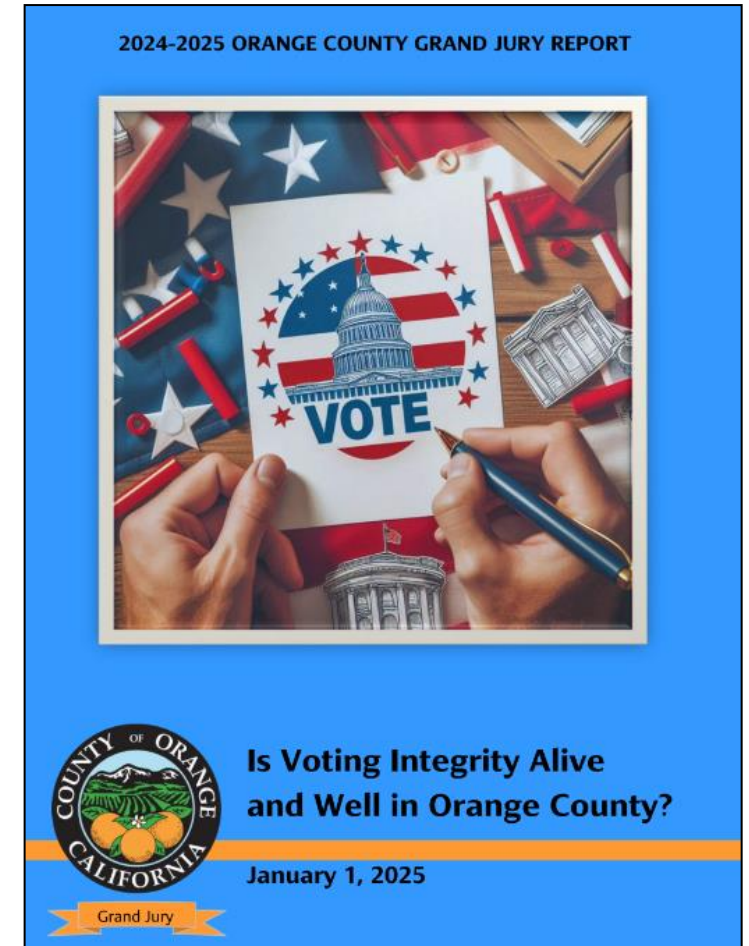
- Claims video showed ballots triple counted

ROV statement and documents – [ocvote.gov/statement](https://ocvote.gov/statement)



# 2024-2025 Grand Jury Report

- Grand Jury report published on January 7
  - *Is Voting Integrity Alive and Well in Orange County?*
- 2024 – 2025 Orange County Grand Jury Report:  
[www.ocgrandjury.org](http://www.ocgrandjury.org)



# 2025 Special Elections



# 2025 Senate State District 36 Special Primary

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- In-person voting begins Saturday, February 15 at select Vote Centers until Tuesday, February 25.
- 20 Vote Centers
  - 10 11-Day Vote Centers open 2/15/2025
  - 10 1-Day Vote Centers open 2/25/2025
- 36 Ballot Drop Boxes in State Senate District 36
- 4 staffed Ballot Drop-Off Locations

# 2025 Senate State District 36 Special Primary

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## Important dates:

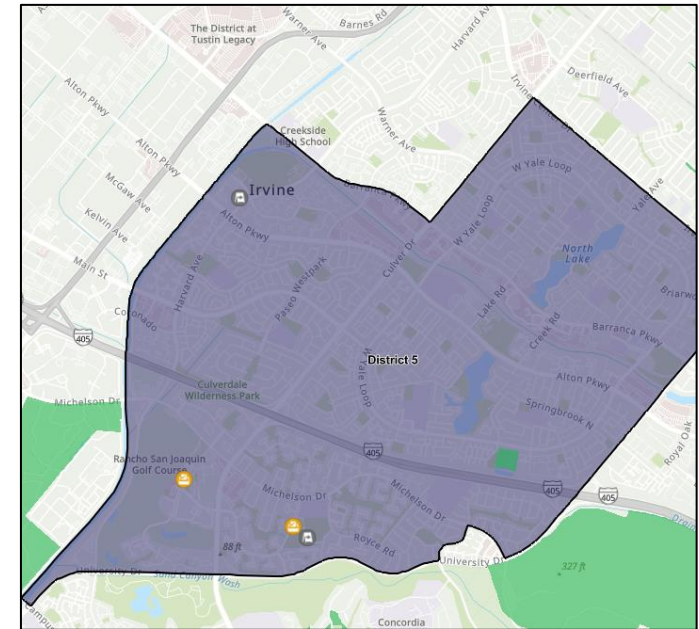
- January 2: Deadline for filing declaration of candidacy
- January 27: Start mailing Ballots & Voter Information Guides
- February 10: Last date to register to vote
- February 15: Select Vote Centers open
- February 25: Election Day (All Vote Centers open)
- March 6: Certification of election results

# 2025 City of Irvine Special Municipal Election



## City Council District 5

- April 5 – April 15: In-person Voting
- Two Vote Centers  
Irvine City Hall: 11 Days  
University Park Community Center: 4 Days
- Two Ballot Drop Boxes  
Rancho Senior Center  
University Park Branch Library



# 2025 City of Irvine Special Municipal Election



## Important Dates

- January 17: Deadline for filing declaration of candidacy
- March 17: Start mailing Ballots & Voter Information Guides
- March 31: Last date to register to vote
- April 5: One Vote Center opens
- April 12: Second Vote Center opens
- May 9: Deadline to certify election results



# Pending 2025 Special Elections

## **Senate State District 36 Special General Election**

- April 29: Top two candidates from Special Primary Election if no one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast

## **City of Huntington Beach Municipal Election**

- February 18: City Council action expected
- May 20: If Council orders a special election (88 to 103 days)
- November 3, 2026: If Council orders consolidated election

# SB 1450 Implementation & Bylaws Amendments

# New Law SB 1450

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## Re-establishes VCA Taskforce

- Led by CA Secretary of State
- Representation from elections officials, and disability and language communities
- Provide comments and recommendations relating to VCA



# New Law SB 1450

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## Voter Education and Outreach Advisory Committee

- Required advisory committee that focuses on voter education, education and community outreach
- Existing Community Election Working Group will serve as the advisory committee





# CEW Bylaws – Amendments

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## Article I. Name, Purpose, and Authority

**Section 2. Purpose.** It is the purpose of the Working Group to discuss and provide input on minority voting, access ~~of the disabled population~~ to the elections process, **voter education and community outreach,** and the elections process in general, provide the Registrar of Voters with a forum to update the community as a whole on elections issues and promote community involvement in elections issues within Orange County.

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# CEW Bylaws – Amendments

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## Article I. Name, Purpose, and Authority Section 2. Purpose.

...

**The Working Group will also receive regular updates from the Language Assistance Advisory Committee and the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee about their recommendations to the Registrar of Voters regarding language and accessibility issues for voters, allowing the Working Group to provide additional input on these matters.**

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# CEW Bylaws – Amendments

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## Article I. Name, Purpose, and Authority Section 2. Purpose.

### The Working Group shall:

- Provide the Registrar of Voters with a forum to advise all community sectors on elections issues in an equitable and timely manner, **helping to distribute information about Orange County elections to voters throughout the county;**
- Act in an advisory capacity to the Registrar of Voters, on elections issues as requested by the Registrar of Voters;
- **Act as the Registrar of Voters' voter education and outreach advisory committee, pursuant to Elections Code section 4005(a)(9)(C); and**



# CEW Bylaws – Amendments

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## Article I. Name, Purpose, and Authority

**Section 3. Authority.** The Registrar of Voters established the Working Group in January 2010 to promote consultation with the public on election administration issues as well as to comply with federal and state mandates related to language and disability access for voters. On February 25, 2019, the County of Orange Board of Supervisors approved the implementation of the California Voter's Choice Act (Elections Code section 4005) for all future elections in Orange County.



# CEW Bylaws – Amendments

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## Article I. Name, Purpose, and Authority Section 3. Authority.

**2010 to 2019**

**The County of Orange** is required under the **Federal Voting Rights Act, Section 203** (VRA) to provide elections services to voters with limited English proficiency. The Department of Justice (DOJ) provides guidelines for complying with the VRA which state “The cornerstone of every successful program is a vigorous outreach program to identify the needs and communication channels of the minority community.”

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# CEW Bylaws – Amendments

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## Article I. Name, Purpose, and Authority Section 3. Authority.

...**2019 to Present**

**The California Voter's Choice Act requires the County of Orange to conduct its elections pursuant to an Election Administration Plan that is developed and regularly reviewed and amended in consultation with the public. The Election Administration Plan must describe how the Registrar of Voters will fully inform voters about Orange County elections. Additionally, the Registrar of Voters must establish and regularly convene a Language Assistance Advisory Committee, a Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee, and a Voter Education and Outreach Advisory Committee. ...**



# CEW Bylaws – Amendments

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## Article I. Name, Purpose, and Authority Section 3. Authority.

...

**The Registrar of Voters established a separate and independent Language Accessibility Advisory Committee pursuant to Elections Code section 4005(a)(9)(A) to obtain input on issues regarding language access for voters, assisting the Registrar of Voters with complying with the VRA.**

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# CEW Bylaws – Amendments

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## Article I. Name, Purpose, and Authority Section 3. Authority.

...

The Registrar of Voters also established a separate and independent Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee pursuant to Elections Code section 4005(a)(9)(B) to obtain input on issues regarding disability access for voters, assisting the Registrar of Voters with complying with the federal and state laws that mandate accommodations be made for people with disabilities.

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# CEW Bylaws – Amendments

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## Article I. Name, Purpose, and Authority Section 3. Authority.

...

**Because Orange County has more than 500,000 registered voters, the Registrar of Voters must establish a Voter Education and Outreach Advisory Committee that is comprised of voter engagement, education, and community outreach advocates pursuant to Elections Code section 4005(a)(9)(C). The Working Group will serve as Orange County's Voter Education and Outreach Advisory Committee.**



# CEW Bylaws – Amendments

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## Article III. Membership

### Section 1. Membership.

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~~Poll~~ **Vote Center** Workers (2)

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# CEW Bylaws – Amendments

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## Article III. Membership

### Section 5. Terms.

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Terms shall be staggered in one- or two-year appointment increments to ensure a continuity of representation.

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# CEW Bylaws – Amendments

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## Article III. Membership

### Section 6. Vacancies.

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Persons appointed to fill an unexpired term shall not be precluded from appointment to a two-year term once the position they filled has expired.

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# Recommendation

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Adopt amendments to the CEW Bylaws

- Article I, Sections 2 & 3
- Article III, Sections 1, 5 & 6

# 2025 Election Administration Plan Review



# What is the Election Administration Plan?

- Provides the guiding outline to implement the Vote Center model of voting in Orange County
- A collaborative effort between OCROV and the community
- Ensures efficient and transparent election operations
- The 2021-2025 EAP was created using feedback from the public and can be viewed at: [ocvote.gov/eap](https://ocvote.gov/eap)



# 2025 Draft EAP Timeline

Draft Time Frame	Description
March 2025	Advisory Group Visioning Discussion
April – May 2025	<i>Initial community workshops on EAP changes and community needs</i>
June 2025	Draft EAP update & publish with a 30-day review period (14-day minimum)
July – August 2025	<i>2025 Additional public workshops</i>
August 2025	Public hearing & Notice
August – September 2025	Revise EAP as needed & required public review period
October 2025	Submission to SOS
November 2025	EAP Deadline



# 2025 EAP Timeline

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## Visioning Discussion:

- In-Person
- Thursday, March 20 at 9 a.m.
- CEW, LAAC, and VAAC collaboration





# Message from Registrar

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"Earlier this month, the County's Interim CEO informed departments that vacant positions cannot be filled without her approval and directed departments to identify cost savings by reducing discretionary services.

The Registrar of Voters continues to be committed to outstanding service and accessible elections. But, we do have to review all of our programs to determine what is mandated and what is discretionary. This will include how we conduct the EAP review, such as how many public workshops we hold.

As we fill in the details of the EAP review plan, we will share those details with you."



# Institute for Local Government

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## Public Outreach & Engagement Training for OCROV Staff

- Tuesday, February 4
- Training Objectives:
  - Strategies to effectively engage populations typically underrepresented or under-engaged
  - Tools for designing and facilitating public workshops
  - Practice facilitation and listening techniques to manage diverse viewpoints and navigate contentious meetings



# The Community Academy at Stanford

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Community engagement/conflict resolution training program offered by Stanford and The Ohio State law schools

- Six CEW members, Sheriff, and Registrar attended
- Combined instruction, simulation exercise, and facilitated team brainstorming and discuss of program improvement
  - Meet voters where they live – Accessibility
  - Vote together – Outreach to faith and community partners
  - Increasing voter confidence – Trust building in polarized world

Toolkit – [go.osu.edu/dcptoolkit](https://go.osu.edu/dcptoolkit)



# Voter Experience Survey

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- Partnering with CalTech
- Survey was distributed last week to a stratified sampling of voters after the election
- Questions were aligned with ones asked in other jurisdictions to allow for comparison
- Some questions were specific to method voter casts a ballot
- Data will help with decision making during EAP Update

# CEW VAAC and CEW LAAC Updates



# VAAC Meeting Update

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- New members, partnerships – expanding outreach
- VAAC feedback - voter education videos (ASL)
- Outreach opportunities with new partners



# LAAC Meeting Update

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- OCROV In the News page – Voter Education Resource
- April High School Voter Education Weeks
- Outreach Event Partnerships – Cost-free Opportunities



# Future Business Items



# Next Meeting Date

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- TBD





**THANK  
YOU!**

