

# VOTING IN CONTRA COSTA

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June 7, 2022 Primary Election

Debi Cooper, Clerk-Recorder-Registrar

Tommy Gong, Deputy Clerk-Recorder

Helen Nolan, Assistant Registrar

April 26, 2022

# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

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June 7, 2022 Election Plans

Election Safety and Security

Outreach and Education

# 2022 Elections

(Much the same as 2020 and 2021)



All Voters will Receive a Vote by Mail Ballot!

## Secure Drop Boxes (37)

- In 2020, we added over 20 more
- Most are available 24/7
- Serviced daily by 2 Elections staff

## Early Voting locations (5+ our office)

- Open 4 days (Fri., Sat., Mon., Election Day)
- All Services: Registration-Voting-Language-Accessibility

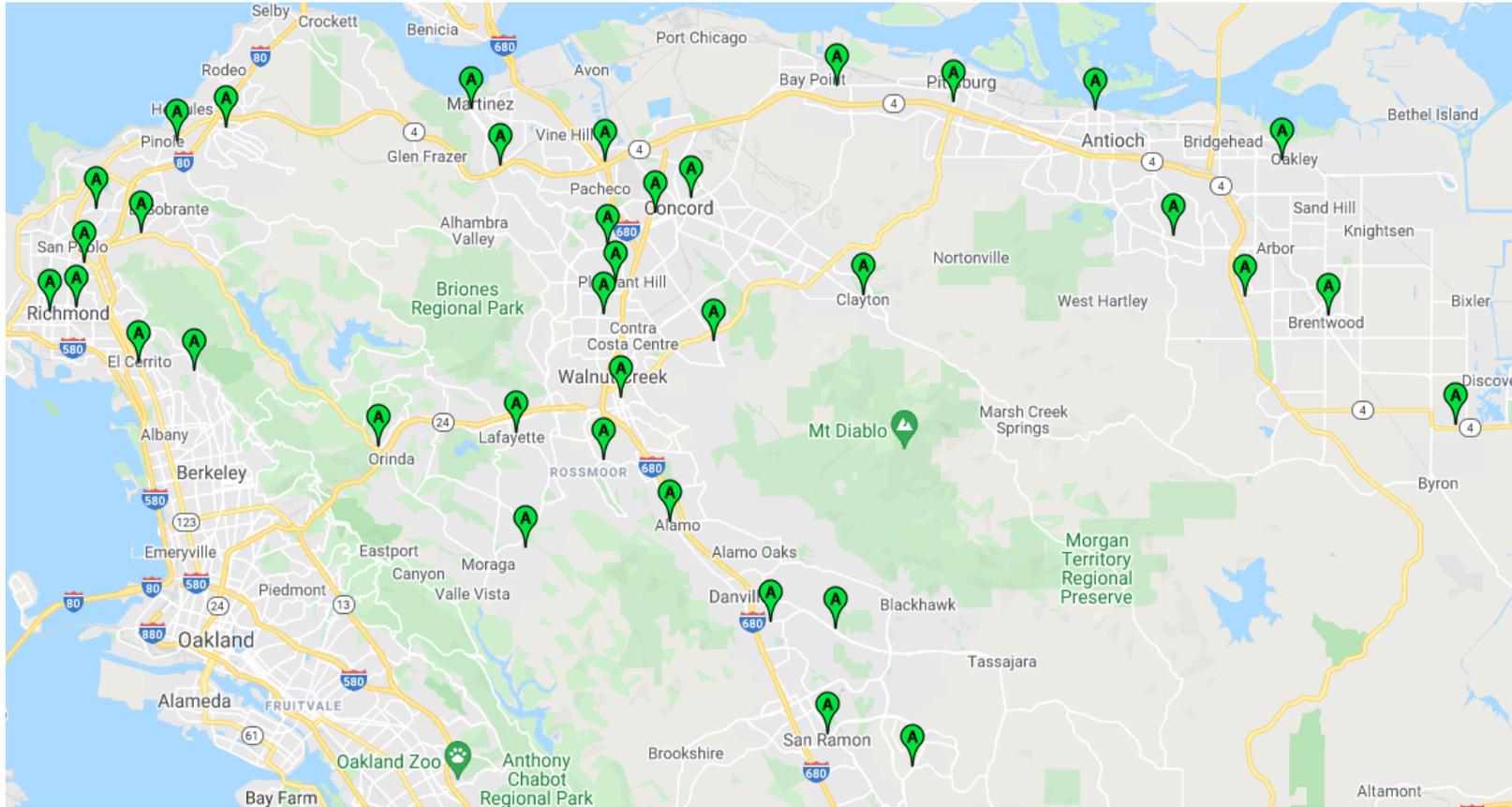


## Polling Places (153)

- Electronic check-in eliminates the need for most provisional ballots
- All ballots will be transported back to our central office to be counted

# 2022 Elections

## 37 Drop Boxes



# 2022 Elections

## Things to Remember:



- Return your ballot by US Mail or secure drop box (return postage is prepaid)
- County Public Health and the Elections Division recommend voting by mail as the pandemic continues
- Return your ballot **early!** so it can be included in our Election Night count
- In-person services are available at our office (29 days before) at early voting sites (3 days before) and at polling places on Election Day
- All precinct ballots will be transported to our main office in Martinez to be counted on Election Night

# Elections Safety and Security



- Elections are designated as critical infrastructure of this country by the Department of Homeland Security
- We coordinate with Federal/State agencies to assure the highest security
  - During election time, we have regular meetings and briefings with the FBI, Homeland Security, Secretary of State and State security agencies
- Contra Costa Elections is an active member of, and participates in, several IT security groups at the national, state, and local levels
- We work with Federal CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency)
  - Security planning, safeguards, incident detection
  - 4 Primary areas: **Networks, Facilities, Processes, People**
- Recently consolidated Department IT and added a dedicated position to oversee cybersecurity and network security for the department

# Securing our Networks

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- Voting Systems are not connected to the Internet
- All voting systems and updates must be approved by the Secretary of State
- All staff receive initial and ongoing training of how to secure networks and data
- We have multiple firewalls and 24/7 intrusion monitoring
- Networks are subjected to cyber-hygiene scanning and penetration testing to harden systems against intrusion
- Recently received .gov top level domain for our websites

# Securing our Facilities

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- All facilities are locked and access is only as needed
- Proximity cards limit and monitor who enters areas
- Only top level management have access to high security systems and areas
- Each voting location has a security assessment conducted as part of the selection process
- Upgrading our video monitoring system
- Law enforcement is on site Election Night at our main facility, warehouse and depot ballot transfer locations

# Securing our Processes

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- Our processes are highly regulated by Election Code and State law
- Every vote-by-mail ballot must be signed by the voter. Every signature is checked by a staff member and compared to the voter's known signature in our system
- Only the first ballot we receive is counted (the system intercepts others)
- At polling places, electronic poll books are connected in real time
- We create and submit a security plan to the SOS each election
- Strict chain of custody is maintained for ballots and equipment
- All equipment goes through logic and accuracy testing before use
- Post election audits ensure equipment performed as expected
- All election processes and audits are available for the public to view

# Securing our Voting Systems



- Our voting system is a paper-based, digital scan tally system
- The voting system is NEVER connected to the internet or county network
- The voting system is physically restricted, locked at all times, and only authorized personnel are allowed in the area
- Strict chain of custody procedures and ballot inventory controls are maintained throughout the election process
- The voting system is password-protected and all activity is logged
- Election staff assure procedures are followed for programming, deployment, and use of voting equipment during elections
- Voting equipment goes through logic and accuracy testing before each election
- Post election audits ensure equipment performed as expected (1% hand count)
- All election processes and audits are available for the public to view
- If any part of a voting system or chain of custody has been compromised, or security or information has been breached, immediate notification to the SOS is required; investigation, verification and sanitation protocols must be followed

# Securing our People

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- All staff (permanent and temporary) must pass background checks before hire
- All staff must wear ID badges at all times
- Staff have access to only those areas and times appropriate for their assignment
- Only top level management have access to the most secure areas
- All staff receive training before each election on system security, in particular password security, phishing, and other email scams
- All staff and poll workers are trained in appropriate response to various safety or security incidents

# Outreach and Education



# Outreach and Education



- Our outreach activities are expanding, particularly to areas and demographics that are historically underrepresented
- We continue to implement our strategic communication plan
  - Social media policy and program
  - YouTube videos explaining what we do
- Providing our services in our communities
  - “So you want to run for office?” potential candidate workshops
  - Candidate Forums for June and November (coordinated with LWV)
  - Monthly community pop-up services in East and West County
  - Quarterly Elections Citizens Engagement (ECE) meetings with community partners and interested citizens
  - Ballot drop-off and voter registration drives in our schools, colleges, and communities
  - Continue to reach out and work with community organizations (like the LWV)



## Coalition of Bay Area Election Officials



- Bay Area Votes – Coalition of 11 greater Bay Area Counties
- Election Officials are continually combatting false/misleading info
  - Mis-information – false but not created or shared with harmful intent
  - Dis-information – deliberately created to mislead, harm, or manipulate
  - Mal-information – based on fact, but used out of context to mislead, harm
  - All 3 can undermine confidence in elections
- Joining forces and resources to combat incorrect information
  - Share media markets (TV, print, radio)
  - Goal - educate all Bay Area voters
  - Provide accurate, timely information about voting processes
  - Transparent views of the elections processes
  - Be the trusted source of election information
- “Prebunking” vs. Debunking
  - Providing accurate information before negative information surfaces



## Coalition of Bay Area Election Officials

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- Website: [BayAreaVotes.org](http://BayAreaVotes.org)
- Key Message

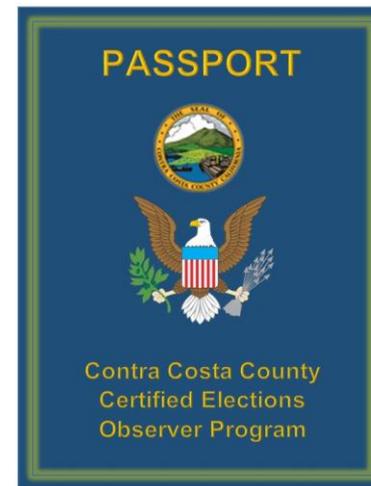
“Your local election official  
is your trusted source of  
nonpartisan election information.”

# Certified Election Observer Program



Passport Program – observe all critical election functions

- Tour facility, warehouse, in-person voting location
  - Voter Registration
  - Public Logic and Accuracy tests
  - Election security
  - Vote by Mail processes
  - Signature verification
  - Extraction
  - Ballot Tabulation
  - In-person voting
  - Conditional Voter Registration
  - Provisional Voting
  - Final balancing and reconciliation
  - 1% Manual Tally
  - Certifying the election!
- Inaugural group is limited due to safety and social distancing



# What's Ahead?

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- May 3, 2022 Special Election  
(with Alameda County - 150 voters)
- June 7, 2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election  
(Statewide)
- Redistricting - all spring and summer  
(25-50 Cities, Schools, and Special Districts)
- November 8, 2022 Gubernatorial General Election  
(Statewide)

# Stay in Touch



Website: **[www.ccclerkrec.us](http://www.ccclerkrec.us)**

Email: [debi.cooper@cr.cccounty.us](mailto:debi.cooper@cr.cccounty.us)  
[tommy.gong@cr.cccounty.us](mailto:tommy.gong@cr.cccounty.us)  
[helen.nolan@vote.cccounty.us](mailto:helen.nolan@vote.cccounty.us)

Check out our Social Media sites:



Facebook: @ContraCostaElections



Twitter: @cocoelections



Youtube: Contra Costa County Clerk Recorder Elections



Instagram: [contra\\_costa\\_elections](https://www.instagram.com/contra_costa_elections)

Thank you!

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QUESTIONS?