




Office of the City Manager

INFORMATION CALENDAR

September 26, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From:  Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Sherry M. Kelly, City Clerk

Subject: Early Voting and Absentee Voting Options for November 2006 Election

INTRODUCTION

The City Clerk and the Registrar of Voters of Alameda County will provide early voting opportunities at the City Clerk Department in the Berkeley Civic Center Building, the Berkeley Main Public Library, the Center for Independent Living, and the ASUC Student Union Building at UC Berkeley.

BACKGROUND

Any person registered to vote anywhere in Alameda County and wishing to vote prior to Election Day, November 7, 2006, may come to the City Clerk Department located on the first floor of the Civic Center Building at 2180 Milvia Street from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. on weekdays starting on Monday, October 16th through Monday, November 6th. Alameda County registered voters may also vote in the City Clerk Department from 7:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, Election Day. Voters may also return absentee ballots to the City Clerk Department up through 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

- The Alameda County Registrar of Voters is also making early voting available at the following locations in Berkeley:
- Berkeley Main Library, 2090 Kittredge Street, the Community Room, on Saturday, October 21st, 10:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m.
- Center for Independent Living, 2539 Telegraph Avenue, Wednesday, October 18th, 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m.
- ASUC Student Union Building, on UC Berkeley campus, Wednesday and Thursday, November 1st and 2nd, 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m.

All early voting sites will be using the newest version of touchscreen voting equipment, manufactured by Sequoia Pacific, and recently purchased by Alameda County. This equipment provides: 1) a verified paper audit trail (VPAT); 2) large reading screen displaying ballot material in either English, Spanish or Chinese; 3) audio and visual aids to assist persons with

hearing, visual and other physical impairments; and 4) preventive measures against overvoting. Persons wishing to vote a paper ballot should vote on Election Day at their polling place or may request an absentee ballot.

To vote on November 7th, Election Day, a person must be registered to vote in Alameda County by October 23rd. Voter registration forms are available from the City Clerk, the Alameda County Registrar of Voters, public libraries, post offices, and department of motor vehicle offices. Persons may also download a registration form from the Secretary of State's web site at <http://www.ss.ca.gov>. To register to vote in California a person must be a U.S. citizen and resident of California; not in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony; and at least 18 years of age on the date of the next election.

To vote at an early voting site, a person must have submitted his/her registration form to the Alameda County Registrar of Voters at least one week prior to the voting. Voter registration forms may be delivered or mailed to the Registrar of Voters, 1225 Fallon Street, Room G-1, (P.O. Box 24224), Oakland, CA 94623 or turned in to the City Clerk Department.

Any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot. Voters may request an absentee ballot by completing the request form on the back of their sample ballot and mailing it to the Registrar of Voters or by dropping it off at the City Clerk Department. In addition, a voter may request an absentee ballot by sending a card, letter or fax (510-272-6982) to the Registrar of Voters at any time. This request must state your name, residence street address, the address to which the ballot is to be mailed (if different from your residence) and your signature. All requests for an absentee ballot must be made no later than October 31st. The voter's absentee ballot must be received in the Registrar of Voter's office no later than November 7th, Election Day; may be dropped off at any polling place in Alameda County on Election Day; or may be hand delivered to the Berkeley City Clerk Department from now through 8 p.m. on Election Day.

FISCAL IMPACTS

The City consolidates the November General Municipal Election with other elections administered by Alameda County. The City pays its fair share of costs associated with printing ballots and ballot material, voting equipment and supplies, staffing polling places, and tabulating election results. The City Clerk Department will provide staffing for early voting from its current staff. Alameda County will provide staffing for all other early voting sites. Election expenses are budgeted for in the City Clerk Department budget.

CONTACT PERSON

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