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DATE: June 9, 2018
FROM: Barbara J. Levey, Registrar of Voters
SUBJECT: **June 5, 2018 Merced County Elections Update**

Since my update on June 6, 2018, Merced Elections staff have continued the canvass process of the Statewide Direct Primary Election. On Election Day I reported unofficial results from ballots counted from 18,431 voters. Yesterday afternoon, we updated the unofficial election results to reflect results from ballots tabulated from 3,907 more voters. The update unofficial election results may be viewed at the mercedelections.org website.

Merced County voters received two ballot cards which contained all the races, propositions, and measures for this election. Together both cards are considered 'one' complete ballot, however, not all voters choose to return both ballot cards. Canvass processing includes the verification of the signature on each ballot envelope against the signature on each voter's registration record and updating the voter record to reflect that they participated in the election. Following the signature verification, ballots must be sorted into their proper precinct before being opened and flattened for tabulation. Merced County has 268 voting precincts.

Rosters signed by voters at each polling location, once reviewed and balanced against the number of ballots issued, will be scanned and uploaded so that the voter history, detailing only that a voter participated in the election, can be updated. Once the processing of the vote by mail ballots and rosters is completed, staff will begin to process Provisional ballots that were cast on Election Day.

The review of ballots to identify votes for Qualified Write-In Candidates is underway.

The public drawing of the random 1% of precincts to be manually tallied and balanced against the machine tabulation results has been done. The hand count, which is required, will begin Monday.

The Registrar of Voters office is continuing to reach out to voters who did not sign their vote by mail ballot envelopes. Election Code provides that voters who have not signed their vote by mail envelopes can come into the office to sign them or may submit an *Unsigned Ballot Envelope Statement*. The signatures are necessary before an envelope may be opened for tabulation. Voters needing to sign envelopes have until 5:00pm Wednesday, June 13th to provide a signature.

The canvass will continue until complete. California law requires certification of this election to be on or before July 5, 2018.

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