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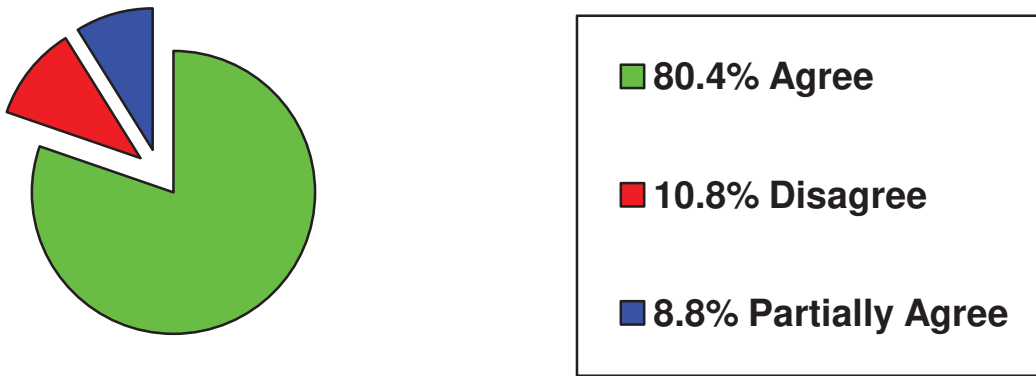
civilgrandjury.org is a project of UnGovr.org, a US-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to government transparency and public accountability.



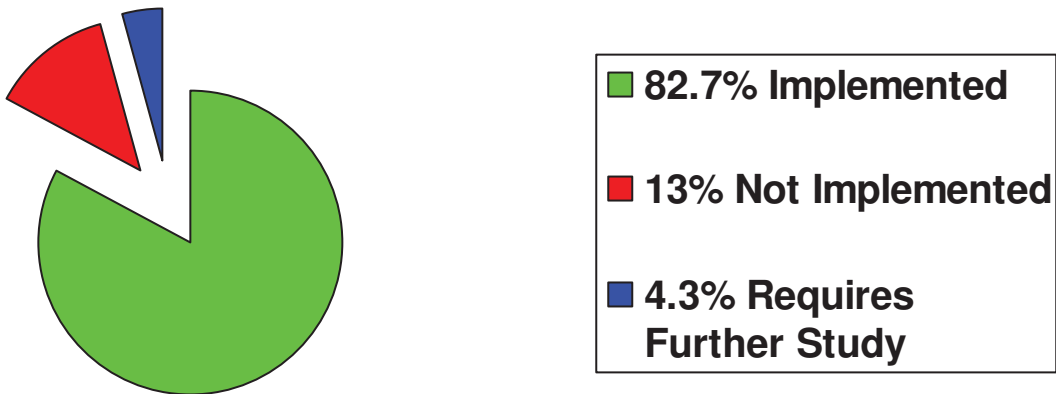
FINDINGS

1. There were a total of 23 Grand Jury reports in the 2009-2010 Final Report, 22 of which required 141 responses from 101 different entities.
2. There were 327 findings and 124 recommendations.
3. The following diagrams indicate the percentages of concurrence with or disagreement to the findings; and implementation or non-implementation of recommendations made to the responding entities.

2009-2010 Findings:



2009-2010 Recommendations:



CONCLUSIONS

Instructions are provided to all entities from whom responses are required. Not all entities respond by the response date and as required. Some do not respond at all. Entities need to respond in a timely and proper manner.

RECOMMENDATION

1. All government entities should attend the annual county-sponsored Government training. California Penal Code §933.05 requires a response to be filed. Failure to comply may result in court mandated sanctions.

RESPONSES REQUIRED

None

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DID YOUR VOTE COUNT?

BACKGROUND

The right to vote is yours and should not be taken lightly. In our country, too often it is taken for granted and not acted upon.

When you vote you express a formal opinion: a decision to elect someone or pass a law.

The Tulare County Election Department, located at 5951 South Mooney Boulevard, Visalia, across from Mooney Grove Park, is here to serve the public, which they do daily Monday through Thursday from 8am to 5pm and 8am to Noon on Friday.

By law, they receive their instructions from the Secretary of State in Sacramento.

Over the years, the right to vote standards have changed. In 1965, Federal legislation known as the Voting Rights Act, was enacted. The act prevented states (mostly southern) from discriminating against African Americans.

In 1975, the Act was amended to include languages other than English for minorities. Again in 1982, it was amended to better clarify the 1975 amendments.

In 2002, the Help America Vote Act was passed. ¹

The 2010-2011 Tulare County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) gathered the following information. As you will see in the following, mail-in ballots have created an accountability problem. The convenience factor of the mail-in ballots has led to many ballots being uncounted.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION

The Grand Jury was made aware of possible fraudulent voting in two nearby counties in the past few years. Consequently, we made the decision to look into the possibility of voter fraud at the local level; primarily, the fallibility of the mail-in ballots. With the full cooperation of the Tulare County Election Board, the Grand Jury has investigated the possibility of voter fraud concerning mail-in ballots and rules followed at precincts.

PROCEDURES FOLLOWED

1. Election Board personnel were interviewed.
2. Precinct workers (chosen randomly from the election board records) were interviewed.
3. A Computer Disc (CD) which is available to the public was acquired from the Elections Office with names, addresses, and phone numbers of all registered

voters along with their party affiliation.

4. The CD was carefully scrutinized for the possibility of multiple voters at the same address as well as name variations. Any questionable addresses were researched by the Grand Jury.
5. Signature verification of mail-in ballots was observed.
6. Required identification was researched.
7. Members of the Grand Jury attended precinct worker training.
8. Members of the Grand Jury were “watchers” at the polls on November 2, 2010.

FINDINGS

1. Precinct workers who were interviewed were all satisfied with the current system in place at their precincts.
2. Precinct workers who were interviewed stated that they had never seen intimidation or any other suspicious happening while they were working.
3. Voters do **NOT** have to read or speak English.
4. Voter registration closes 15 days prior to the next County wide election.
5. Voters must live in Tulare County for a minimum of 15 days prior to the election.
6. Precinct workers were reminded during training NOT to ask for identification, unless the voters’ names were red flagged.
7. Mail-in/absentee ballots can be uncounted for the following reasons:
 - a. person is deceased
 - b. no signature
 - c. signatures do not match
 - d. received too late
 - e. resident’s address is an issue
8. The table below speaks for itself. The most significant is the 2008 General election where 452 ballots had unmatched signatures. In some cases, it can take less than 200 to change the outcome of an election.