

This document is an extract of a larger publication.

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locate non-custodial parents who are missing and in arrears.

F6. CSSA works with noncustodial parents who are behind in payments. The goal is to work out a plan for repayment that will benefit the child and clear the non-custodial parent's record.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

None.

Disclaimer

Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).



DID YOUR VOTE COUNT IN THE 2016 GENERAL ELECTION?

BACKGROUND:

On April 20, 1852, Governor John Bigler signed the enactment that created Tulare County. The first county election was held on July 10, 1852, resulting in the election of nine county officials with a total of 109 votes. On August 18, 1920, women were allowed to vote due to the 19th Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The right to vote in Tulare County is a privilege that every U. S. Citizen of at least 18 years of age is guaranteed, unless they are mentally incompetent, in prison, or on parole for the conviction of a felony. Voter registration in California takes place at the county level. Registering to vote is a prerequisite to voting in federal, state and local elections of candidates and ballot measures that are within the district where the voter resides. Whenever a registered voter moves or changes their name, they must re-register in their district of residence. If the voter's name does not appear on the county's registry list at a polling site, the voter will be issued a provisional ballot.

A provisional ballot is a regular ballot that is placed in a special envelope and returned to the election's office for verification of the voter's qualification. Voters may vote utilizing a provisional ballot at any polling place in the county in which the voter is registered. Only the candidates and measures the voters are eligible to vote for will be counted. Every voter who casts a provisional ballot has the right to find out from the county elections officials if the ballot was counted and, if not, the reason why it was not counted.

The Registrar of Voters is required to conduct fair and impartial Federal, State and local elections as mandated by the State of California Elections Code. By law, Tulare County Elections Department receives its instructions from the Secretary of State in Sacramento.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The Tulare County Grand Jury received a complaint from a private citizen alleging voting irregularities in the 2016 general election.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

- Interviewed witnesses
- Reviewed documentation

FACTS:

1. Volunteer poll workers receive two to three hours of required training before each election.
2. Poll sites are staffed with a minimum of six volunteers.
3. Election's Office staffing consists of eight full-time positions.
4. An Interim Registrar of Voters was appointed on December 20, 2016, by the Board of Supervisors.
5. November 8, 2016, county registration was 154,003, a 9.43% increase from the 2012 General Election.
6. The Secretary of State requires that ballots be ordered 60 days prior to an election.
7. Total number of votes cast was 116,106 or 75.39% of registered voters.
8. Vote by mail and all mail-in ballots totaled 75,105.
9. Election turn out at voting polls totaled 41,001, of which 27.5% were Provisional Ballots.

FINDINGS:

- F1. The number of voters may have been underestimated in the 2016 General Election.
- F2. Some polling sites did not have sufficient ballots.
- F3. Two positions in the department were vacant during the election process.
- F4. Significant voter registration occurred after ballots were ordered.
- F5. A total of 11,281 provisional ballots were cast in the 2016 General Election. Of these ballots, 1,459 were cast by unregistered voters.
- F6. There were 2,881 provisional ballots partially counted due to outside designated precinct voting.
- F7. There were 1,866 provisional ballots not counted due to insufficient information.
- F8. The number of provisional ballots cast contributed to the shortage of ballots.
- F9. The increase in provisional voters caused delays at some polling sites.