

June 11, 2024

TO: Clerk of the Board, VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Supervisors,

I write to you as a resident of Thousand Oaks (Supervisor Gorell's District) addressing the concerns of some members of our larger community regarding the Voters Choice Act.

I am privileged to be part of the part-time team who works for the Election Division during our elections. I work at the Call Center answering questions for all the VC voters. I would like to address the following issues:

The Election Doubters want:

An independent Election Fraud Hotline and Election Inspector's Office. We receive all kinds of calls at the call center. Every call is taken seriously and if there are issues, each concern is addressed and sent to the people who properly handle the call. If there is an issue of greater concern, the Clerk's office investigates immediately. There is no reason to create a bureaucracy beyond that.

The Doubters want to limit voting to one day. Aside from being a violation of the Voters' Choice Act, I have seen from experience the relief voters feel when they have options of many days and locations where they can vote, in addition to be able to mail their ballots from home.

The Doubters have expressed concern about the use of tabulation machines. These machines are accurate, tested and proven. In September 2023, AB 969 was passed, prohibiting hand counting in an election when there are more than 1,000 registered voters. Ventura County mails out approximately 500,000 ballots, therefore we are LEGALLY required to use a tabulation machine. Following the counting of ballots, we, in Ventura County, hand count 1% of the ballots cast. I have participated in this process several times. We have had occasions where there are discrepancies. Each time, as we repeated the counting process, it has been proven that the machines were right and the human ballot counters made errors.

The Doubters have also expressed concerns about ballots being scanned before the polls close. The operative word is SCANNED. This enables us to start the ballot COUNTING process as soon as the polls are closed. Eliminating it would seriously delay the Elections Division from reporting a meaningful quantity of results on Election Night.

Our system works beautifully. I am proud to be a part of it. While so many states are making it harder for citizens to vote, the State of California and Ventura County are doing it right. It's time to put this division to bed.

Respectfully,

Pamela Lopez
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