DATE: August 25, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Shannon Bushey, Registrar of Voters

SUBJECT: Ballot Collection Locations

At the August 17, 2020, budget hearing (Item No. 37), at the request of Supervisor Ellenberg, the Board directed Administration to report to the Board on August 25, 2020 relating to estimated funding for a sufficient number of ballot collection locations throughout the County for the November 2020 election in light of United States Postal Service (USPS) reductions.

Since the implementation of the Voter’s Choice Act, the County has expanded its ballot drop-box program well beyond the legally-required minimum level to give voters added flexibility and convenience with more options for returning their ballots. These drop boxes have proved popular with voters, and the Registrar of Voters (ROV) is preparing for an increase in their usage for the upcoming election due to recent concerns about the USPS. For the November 3, 2020 election, the County is required to establish a minimum of 65 drop-box locations, but the ROV has arranged to open 96 sites. These locations are in addition to the 100 vote centers that the ROV will operate where voters can receive and vote their ballots in-person as well as return vote-by-mail ballots.

In anticipation of increased usage of the drop boxes, the ROV is making the following changes for the November election:

- ROV is placing an additional drop box at over 20 locations that had the highest volume of usage based on the March primary election to increase capacity at those sites.
- ROV is planning to make more frequent trips to retrieve ballots from all drop boxes in anticipation of higher usage across the county.
- ROV is adding strong messaging to its voter education and public outreach efforts to let voters who are concerned about returning their ballots by mail that ROV drop-box sites are a secure, reliable alternative option with many convenient locations spread across the county.
- ROV is partnering with the California Secretary of State to enhance voters’ ability to track their ballots, including both while in transit from ROV to the voter’s home as
well as on the return trip back to the ROV, through the state’s [WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov](http://WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov) website.

- ROV is coordinating with local representatives of the USPS to help facilitate ballots being processed and delivered in as timely a manner as possible.

ROV is able to make these enhancements in a cost-neutral way utilizing existing staff resources and materials. As such, no additional funding would need to be appropriated for the current fiscal year.