

Date: September 1, 2020

To: Placer County Voters and Election Workers

From: Dr. Aimee Sisson, Placer County Health Officer

Subject: Voter Service Centers

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In March 2020, the State Public Health Officer issued an order requiring most Californians to stay at home to slow the spread of COVID-19 and closing many businesses and community facilities. While the situation is dynamic, the coronavirus pandemic is expected to persist until immunity is established through a vaccine. A vaccine is unlikely to be widely available until 2021. Therefore, plans for the November 3, 2020, General Election need to account for coronavirus and include steps to protect voters and election workers from COVID-19.

Recent Executive Orders (N-64-20 and N-67-20) and bills passed by the California Legislature (AB 860 and SB 423) direct all counties to issue vote-by-mail ballots to all registered voters with an active status and to provide in-person voting opportunities to ensure that every eligible voter can cast their ballot. All registered voters in Placer County will receive a vote-by-mail ballot for the November 3, 2020 General Election.

Utilizing the ratio mandated by recent legislation, Placer County will offer 28 locations throughout the county where voters may visit a Voter Service Center. The 28 locations will be open Saturday, October 31, 2020 through Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

In order to protect themselves and the Placer community from coronavirus, election workers and voters at these locations are advised to adhere to the following COVID-19 prevention practices:

- Physical distancing to the maximum extent possible;
- Use of face coverings by all participants in the election process (with signage at each Voter Service Center as a reminder);
- Use of PPE (face shields, face masks, gloves) by staff at Voter Service Centers;
- Frequent hand-washing;
- Regular cleaning and disinfection of high-contact surfaces;
- Training of workers on the use of PPE; and
- Refraining from going to work or voting in-person when ill.

Executive Order N-67-20 directs county elections officials to consider using all mechanisms provided by existing law to secure voting locations. Although certain

locations may be closed for day-to-day use by state and local health orders, they can be used for essential government functions. Facilitation of elections is an essential government function, and Voter Service Centers are essential facilities. Therefore, for the period from Tuesday, October 27, 2020 through Friday, November 6, 2020, facilities being utilized by the Placer County Elections Office as Voter Services Centers can be open for the purposes of conducting the November 3, 2020 General Election.



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Health Officer and Public Health Director