As students across the nation bask in the summer sunshine, the San Mateo County poll workers are hitting the eSlates in the second annual Poll Worker Academy. Throughout the county, poll workers are being certified as inspectors and electronic judges in preparation for the approaching unprecedented year of four elections.

As Chief Elections Officer, I revised the Academy to offer four classes focusing on key election components. One such class, “Anatomy of an Election,” guides students through the Logic and Accuracy testing, security measures, and federal and state election guidelines. After the lecture, students break into teams of five to practice on the eSlate voting system. Poll workers complete exercises simulating real Election Day scenarios, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to address a variety of issues from voting in a different language to issuing provisional ballots.

Another exciting class entitled “21st Century Precincts” aspires to open students’ eyes to the voting realities of disabled voters by having poll workers cast ballots using the tactile input buttons and headphones. I am proud to say that the class provides awareness and a sense of pride as poll workers learn of the great strides taken to ensure every voter has the ability to cast a private ballot.

Additionally, the Academy offers classes entitled “6, 7 and 8” and “eSlate Diagnosis and Triage.” In these classes, poll workers master setting up and breaking down the eSlate voting system and troubleshooting techniques. It is my primary goal that every student gains the tools necessary to prevent the most frequently occurring Election Day problem, improper set up of voting systems, and is prepared to identify and solve common eSlate operational issues.

The Poll Worker Academy is a dynamic opportunity for San Mateo County to continue its election tradition by training the frontlines to provide accurate, fair elections. Moreover, every poll worker will have the opportunity to fine tune their skills in the eSlate labs set to open in August. I am grateful to those poll workers with the desire to become certified inspectors and electronic judges and encourage all of you to utilize the eSlate labs and participate in future poll worker academies. The Academy continues until August 18th.
After working as a driver for Willig for many years, Walter Jungerman has not let retirement diminish his drive to stay active in his community.

A Millbrae resident of 25 years, Jungerman has served in 11 elections as a Traditional Judge between June 2001 and November 2006. Having always worked at Precinct 1510 or 1511, he relishes the opportunity to see his neighbors and interact with people in his hometown while working the roster and street index on Election Day. When asked if he might consider being an eJudge at some point, he states, "maybe in the future when I’ve had more experience with the new equipment and am more comfortable with it."

Jungerman’s experience attests that people of all ages are willing to try using the eSlate, and that most walk away with positive experiences. He is optimistic about the adoption of the eSlate machine, and states that, “when voters are more used to seeing the eSlate and using it, they will be fine with it.”

Jungerman is married, and both he and his wife speak Spanish. Besides serving as a poll worker, he keeps himself busy working a wide assortment of odd jobs.

The Secretary of State’s “Top-to-Bottom” review of the various electronic voting system is officially underway.

Under extremely tight security, a team of UC computer science professors, computer security experts, and independent hackers have been commissioned to try and break into and rig the electronic voting machines. As part of this examination, they are enacting a series of scenarios where a voting machine could be tampered and potentially disrupt a ballot count. These procedures seek to address lingering concerns regarding the reliability and vulnerability of electronic voting equipment. The review is set to conclude the end of July.

The result of the review will determine whether voting systems used in California, including those manufactured by Hart InterCivic that San Mateo County currently uses, will retain their certification, be conditionally certified or completely decertified for use.

Reminder: If you have not Signed Up for the PWA II, do so TODAY! Call (650) 286-2810 or go online to www.shapethefuture.org

Center Stage

Update on Top-to-Bottom Review

POLLcat Statistics

Responses | Poll Worker Academy II Enrollment | Total Number of PWA Classes: 193
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Online 33.4% |Seats filled 637 | Alberto Rodriguez
By Phone 32.6% |Total possible seats 945
By Mail 34%

“Online registration was so easy. I found it intuitive and quick.”

by Eugene White

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