



# County of Orange

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County Executive Office

June 6, 2017

Honorable Charles Margines  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: Response to Grand Jury Report, "No Voter Fraud Here: The Transparent Election Process"

Dear Judge Margines:

Per your request, and in accordance with Penal Code 933, please find the combined County of Orange response to the subject report as approved by the Board of Supervisors. The respondents are the Orange County Board of Supervisors and the Registrar of Voters.

If you have any questions, please contact Lilly Simmering of the County Executive Office at 714-834-6748.

Sincerely,

Frank Kim  
County Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: FY 2016-17 Orange County Grand Jury Foreman  
Lilly Simmering, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, County Executive Office



Responses to Findings and Recommendations  
2016-17 Grand Jury Report:

*“No Voter Fraud Here: The Transparent Election Process”*

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SUMMARY RESPONSE STATEMENT:

On March 13, 2017 the Grand Jury released a report entitled: “No Voter Fraud Here: The Transparent Election Process” This report directed responses to findings and recommendations to the Orange County Board of Supervisors and the Registrar of Voters, which are included below.

FINDINGS AND RESPONSES:

**F.1. There is no evidence of widespread or organized voter fraud or voter interference in Orange County.**

**Response: Agree with finding:** The Grand Jury is correct in their assessment that there is no indication of widespread voter fraud in Orange County. The Registrar of Voters monitors data and patterns, looking for any unusual trends that warrant additional scrutiny. While there are occasionally incidents that require an investigation (such as voter registration violations) none of these have given any indication of something more than isolated incidents (which have not affected the outcome of an election). The Registrar of Voters works closely with both State and local law enforcement agencies to ensure that the integrity of every election is sound.

**F.2. The Grand Jury has confidence in the integrity of the ballot process and the accuracy of election results.**

**Response: Agree with finding:** The ballot creation, tabulation and production of results is a complex, highly scrutinized process. The Registrar of Voters uses Crew Resource Management (CRM) during this critical phase of the operation. CRM training encompasses a wide range of knowledge, skills and attitudes including communications, situational awareness, problem solving, decision making, and teamwork; together with each of the sub-disciplines that each of these areas entail. The result is a process that utilizes checklists and detailed procedures to produce error free results.

Federal and State audits have shown the level of accuracy built in to the operations over the past decade. In addition, multiple recounts have proven the reliability and accuracy of the election system.

**F.3. The ROV office has reviewed and updated voter registration rolls per State and Federal guidelines improving voter turnout percentages.**

**Response: Agree with finding:** Beginning in 2013 the Registrar of Voters embarked on an aggressive list maintenance program utilizing third-party data to determine voter movements long before traditional methods would provide updated addresses. Since that time nearly 400,000 individual records have either been updated, moved to inactive status, or cancelled due to voter notifications. This has provided for a much more accurate reflection of voters actively engaged in the process (which in turn provides a turnout that is more correct).

In addition to third-party data, the Registrar of Voters utilizes national death data, third-party notifications and non-deliverable data to ensure voter rolls that are much cleaner when compared to other California counties.

**F.4. The Grand Jury viewed pilots of Voter Service Centers for the 2016 General Election and found they increased accessibility and operated in accordance with Federal and State voting requirements.**

**Response: Agree with finding:** The November 2016 General Election was an ideal opportunity to apply the California Voter's Choice Act. The anticipation of high voter participation provided the opportunity for a viable pilot in multiple aspects of the Vote Center model, including vote-by-mail drop-off and drive-thru drop-off, multi-day availability and extended daily schedules. Reviewing historical early voting processes helped conceptualize the requirements of the Vote Center legislation, which allowed for the design of a voting process that met both State and Federal requirements. Feedback from nearly 7,000 voters that utilized these pilot Vote Centers showed a high level of acceptance and satisfaction with the process.

**F.5. The ROV communications and outreach programs promote transparency and encourage outside observations by the voting public.**

**Response: Agree with finding:** The Registrar of Voters has won regional and national awards for its Community Engagement programs. In 2016, nearly 130 events were attended, created, or transformed by the Registrar of Voters in advance of the Presidential election cycle. As a result, there were nearly 500,000 impressions throughout Orange County, resulting in heightened awareness of the election, options to volunteer, register to vote, or serve as a poll worker.

Other programs, such as the Orange County Election Academy, are an excellent way to discover how elections are produced amidst an environment where transparency is a critical component.

These programs offer a broad range of election specific sessions that were developed to encourage outside observation of the process (and increase transparency).

**F.6. The management skills demonstrated by ROV staff and volunteers were effective and will support moving the voting process into the new voting model under SB450.**

**Response: Agree with finding:** The Registrar of Voters is ready to respond to the Voter's Choice Act and has taken preliminary steps to prepare for possible implementation. As noted previously, voter survey responses strongly support the Vote Center model. The skill sets needed to successfully implement a change in the method of voting have been developed over time and lessons learned have aided in this potential transition.