

Grand Jury Report

RESPONSE FORM

Grand Jury Report Title : Elections Redux

Report Dated : June 22, 2017

Response Form Submitted By:

Susan Ranochak, Mendocino County Clerk/Registrar of Voters
Mendocino County
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, Ca 95482

Response MUST be submitted, per Penal Code §933.05, no later than:
August 22, 2017

I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the FINDINGS portion of the report as follows:

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered:
1 THROUGH 8
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered below, and have **attached, as required**, a statement specifying any portion of the Finding that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons therefore.
-

I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the RECOMMENDATIONS portion of the report as follows:

- The following Recommendation(s) have have been implemented and **attached, as required**, is a summary describing the implemented actions:
3,5
- The following Recommendation(s) have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, **attached, as required** is a time frame for implementation:
-

The following Recommendation(s) require further analysis, and **attached as required**, is an explanation and the scope and parameters of the planned analysis, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared, discussed and approved by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed: (This time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report)

1, 2, 4, 6

The following Recommendations will NOT be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not deemed reasonable, **attached, as required** is an explanation therefore:

I have completed the above responses, and have attached, as required the following number of pages to this response form:

Number of Pages attached: 2

I understand that responses to Grand Jury Reports are public records. They will be posted on the Grand Jury website: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury. The clerk of the responding agency is required to maintain a copy of the response.

I understand that I must submit this signed response form and any attachments as follows:

First Step: E-mail (word documents or scanned pdf file format) to:

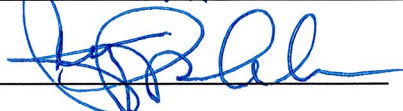
- The Grand Jury Foreperson at: grandjury@co.mendocino.ca.us
- The Presiding Judge: grandjury@mendocino.courts.ca.gov

Second Step: Mail all originals to:

Mendocino County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 629
Ukiah, CA 95482

Printed Name: SUSAN M. RANOCZAK

Title: ASSESSOR CLERK-RECORDER

Signed: 

Date: 8/22/17

R1. The BOS and the Registrar of Voters review SB 450 and either adopt the provisions of SB 450 or change the current ballot counting procedures for more timely results. (F1, F2, F4-F8)

This recommendation has not been implemented. SB 450 is new legislation that may be adopted by counties. There are 13 counties that are eligible to implement this legislation for the 2018 election cycle. Mendocino County is not one of these 13 counties. The first opportunity that Mendocino County will have to implement SB 450 is the 2020 election cycle.

We will be looking for ways to speed up our results for upcoming elections by looking at newly certified equipment and hiring more extra help. However, I will not sacrifice accuracy for speed.

R2. Regardless of the adoption of the provisions of SB 450, the Registrar of Voters requests updated more efficient equipment and software. (F2-F8).

A discussion has been started with the CEO Budget Group about the need for new election equipment including the need to set aside money for the purchase of this equipment. The first discussion occurred during the Assessor Clerk-Recorder's budget conference held on April 6, 2017. Whether the Board of Supervisors decides to implement SB 450 will determine the type of equipment and software that needs to be purchased.

R3. The Registrar of Voters hires and trains more workers to provide more timely results. (F1, F2, F5-F7)

This recommendation has been implemented. For every election we attempt to hire more poll workers and extra help. Our poll workers and extra help hires are mostly retired individuals. This is the group of folks that are willing to work the polls and as extra help. We place a request to fill with the County's Human Resources Department for extra help on an annual basis.

For every election cycle our poll worker recruitment begins at least 6 months prior to an election. We concentrate our efforts with poll worker recruitment in areas where we know we have a shortage of workers. We have found that contacting local media in those areas has been effective in filling some of our vacancies. We have again contacted the media in these areas for help in recruiting poll workers for the November 7, 2017 election.

We have signup sheets located at each polling place for voters that may be interested in being a poll worker. It gives the voters that are actually utilizing the polling place an opportunity to become a poll worker. Our inspectors are very good about pointing the signup sheets out to these potential poll workers.

R4. The Registrar of Voters updates election results weekly before the issuance of the State required certified results. (F2, F4, F5, F6)

This recommendation is being considered but has not yet been implemented.

R5. The Registrar of voters provides training and outreach education instructing voters how to correctly cast a vote with the aim to reduce the number of spoiled and provisional ballots. (F6, F8, F9)

This recommendation has been implemented. For every election instructions are provided to voters on how to complete their ballots properly. There is a page dedicated to this in the sample ballot voter information pamphlet that every registered voter receives prior to receiving their vote by mail ballot or going to the polls. The instructions are also printed on every official ballot that is used by a voter in Mendocino County.

R6. The Registrar of Voters install microphones so that observers can hear the counting proceedings between staff and implement a procedure to allow observers to view signature comparisons. (F9)

This recommendation has not been implemented. I will discuss options that are available with our Information Services Department and go through any meet and confer issues that may result from the implementation of this recommendation with each affected employee bargaining unit.