



MERCED COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

DEPARTMENT UPDATE TO THE MERCED CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 18, 2023



Merced County Registrar of Voters Focus Areas

DELIVERING RESULTS FOR THE VOTERS OF MERCED COUNTY



TEAM / TALENT

- Filled every vacancy in the Department by conducting a rigorous and in-depth talent search
- Acquired deep elections, cybersecurity, and database experience through hires
- Conducted needs-based assessment of Department personnel to match relevant skills to duties and responsibilities, reorganizing the Department as needed



TRAINING

- Identified training gaps and opportunities; implemented training calendar including weekly Department-level training sessions
- Building cohesiveness through individual and team-oriented events and tasks
- Revamped onboard training to include additional formal and standardized training modules
- Training staff on use of upgraded equipment with assistance of vendor support



TECHNOLOGY

- Conducted assessment of current systems to identify areas for improvement
- Applied intra-department budget savings to upgrade equipment to improve security, accuracy, and capacity
- Created the Merced County Registrar of Voters Data and Mapping Center to provide continuous capability to integrate, analyze, and apply GIS and other technology into our data and mapping needs

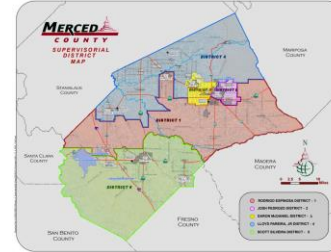
Merced County 2023 GIS Project

- To ensure complete accuracy and confidence in our maps, boundaries, and precincts, the Merced County Registrar of Voters / Elections Department completed a full review of all district boundary and precinct lines in Merced County.
- This project included integrating modern technology and training into our processes, converting our data to more accurately reflect voter information, and improving our ability to maintain accurate mapping data moving forward.

Phase I

CONFIRM ALL DISTRICT BOUNDARY LINES

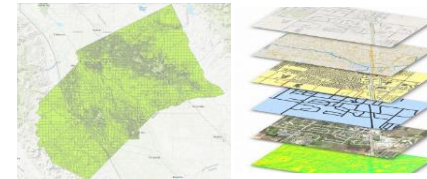
- Receive current district shape files / maps
- Input and overlay all maps against current County GIS data
- Identify all gaps, overlaps, or boundary discrepancies
- Using multiple data points, including tax rate area, parcel data, LAFCO documents, adjudicate gaps and overlaps
- Confirm all district boundary lines with district authorities
- Receive re-certified maps for all districts



Phase II

CONFIRM ALL PRECINCT LINES

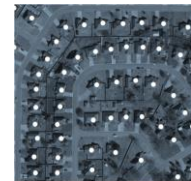
- Draw all precinct lines according to Election Code
- Implement standard numbering convention for all precincts
- Ensure every county address is in appropriate precinct
- Confirm all voters are in correct precincts and districts



Phase III

IMPLEMENT SINGLE-POINT ADDRESSING

- Working with partners, convert all voter address data to a single-point convention
- Ensure single-point convention matches voter data
- Confirm single-point addressing, precinct, and boundary data



Phase IV

CONTINUOUS MAINTENANCE

- Regularly confirm maps, boundary lines, and precinct boundaries
- Regularly confirm voter location in precincts
- Update voter data for newly registered voters and voters who have updated registration information

Upgraded Capabilities

- In 2023, the Registrar of Voters / Elections Department received approval for intra-department budget transfers to allow for the procurement of the following equipment:

ELECTIONS SERVER UPGRADE

Approved in last fiscal budget; final transfer to complete upgrade

Modernize security technology and ensure all elections equipment and technology is up to date



POLL PAD UNIT UPGRADE

To replace end-of-life poll pads, improve security and usability

Modernize security technology and ensure all elections equipment and technology is up to date



BALLOT DROP BOXES

To add eight (8) secure ballot drop boxes in underserved locations throughout the county

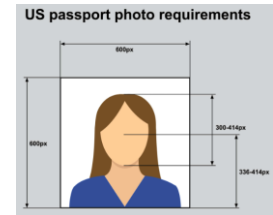
Enhance accessibility for voters seeking to drop off ballots to a secure box



PASSPORT PHOTO EQUIPMENT

To add the capability of offering passport photo services

Improve passport services, moving to a true one stop experience for those seeking to submit passport applications



Next Steps

- Hire and train nearly 200 poll workers to serve during the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election
- Continued public outreach via municipal and community groups, as well as multi-channel advertising
- Elections Central Count Facility (Warehouse) reorganization to increase efficiency and transparency
- Passport application events in the community
- Successful execution of the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election

MERCED COUNTY ELECTIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE CONDUCTED IN A FREE, FAIR, AND TRANSPARENT MANNER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW WHILE PROVIDING EVERY VOTER THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE