

# **2020 – 2021 Civil Grand Jury**

## **Was the Riverside County November 2020 Consolidated General Election Administered Fairly and Impartially?**

### **Summary**

Before the November 2020 election, several politicians and media personalities claimed that the changes in state election laws would increase the chances of election irregularities and fraud. After the November 2020 election, they claimed that election irregularities and fraud did occur.

With the continued national focus on fair and impartial elections, the 2020-2021 Riverside County Civil Grand Jury decided to investigate whether election processes were adhered to during the November 2020 election. Its investigation included the following:

1. Were Riverside County election officials aware of Federal and California laws, regulations, and executive orders as they changed during the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. Did Riverside County election officials effectively communicate with voters?
3. Did Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department provide sufficient training to those who would implement the November 2020 election?
4. Did Riverside County election officials conduct the November 2020 election as required by applicable Federal and California laws, regulations, and executive orders?
5. Were there instances of “election irregularities” during the November 2020 election?
6. Were ballots accurately counted?
7. Is there any evidence of election fraud that occurred during November 3, 2020 election as it was held within Riverside County?

After conducting an extensive series of interviews, the Riverside County Civil Grand Jury identified several concerns and controversies. The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury met with election officials from all 28 Riverside County cities, county office holders, county department officials, county political party leaders, and those individuals employed to conduct the election. This included extensive document reviews and several in-person site visits. Careful examination of those concerns and controversies revealed that they were mostly state issues, not Riverside County specific issues. By law, a county civil grand jury is restricted to reporting findings and recommendations relating to matters under the control of the county.

The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury found the following:

1. Election officials were well aware of federal and state election laws, regulations, and executive orders including changes due to the pandemic.
2. Election officials communicated extensively with the public leading up to and after the election.
3. Those involved with the election were trained, including COVID-19 safety measures.
4. The election was conducted as required.
5. There were minor departures from expected election procedures that were corrected by the Registrar of Voters Department while processing ballots.
6. Votes were accurately counted and verified.
7. There was no evidence of election fraud.

Since election professionals continually seek to improve the election process, the Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recommends enhancements in the following areas:

- making it easier to find specific voter information guides and sample ballots online
- mailing materials to voters
- expanding the number of videos illustrating the election process, especially ballot security, ballot signature confirmation, and use of technology
- “live streaming” ballot processing
- generating results faster, but accurately
- larger signs near in-person voting locations
- adjustments in training sessions
- confirming that technology functions as expected
- reducing long lines to vote
- drop-off box monitoring
- official drop-off box appearance
- county departments coordinating efforts before elections

## Background

Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution establishes the Executive Branch of the U.S. government.<sup>1</sup> Since the first Presidential election was held from December 15, 1788 to January 10, 1789, the United States has held a Presidential election every four years. Each of the subsequent Presidential

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<sup>1</sup> U. S. Constitution. (1787, September 17). <https://constitutioncenter.org/media/files/constitution.pdf>. Accessed March 20, 2021.

elections occurred in its own unique historical context. The recent Presidential election held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, was no different. Many of the Presidential election activities leading up to the November 2020 election occurred just weeks before and after the World Health Organization officially declared, on March 11, 2020, a pandemic.<sup>2</sup>

In response to the pandemic, at least 30 states made changes to their election laws<sup>3</sup> (see Appendix 1 for the list of states). Changes included making it easier to obtain absentee ballots, allowing ballot drop-off boxes, providing prepaid postage for mail-in ballots, sending registered voters applications for absentee ballots, and mailing ballots directly to voters.

Before the November 2020 election, several politicians and media personalities claimed that the changes in state election laws would increase the chances of election irregularities and fraud. After the November 2020 election, they claimed that election irregularities and fraud did occur.<sup>4</sup>

Allegations of potential election fraud resulted in at least 230 pre-election-related federal lawsuits.<sup>5</sup> After the November 2020 election, there were another 62 federal and state lawsuits filed, challenging the presidential election procedures and results. Of 62 lawsuits filed, challenging the presidential election, 61 lawsuits failed and were dismissed due to a “lack of standing” or lack of “merit.” The one exception occurred in Pennsylvania, where a court ruled that voters had 3 days after the election day to provide proper identification to “cure” ballots. Even that ruling was overturned.<sup>6</sup> Those court decisions were made by judges appointed by both major political parties, including the United States Supreme Court, which declined to hear

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<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization. (n.d.). *Timeline: WHO's COVID-19 response*. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/interactive-timeline/#>. Accessed March 20, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Scanlan, Q. (2020, September 22). ABC News. *Here's how states have changed the rules around voting amid the coronavirus pandemic*. <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/states-changed-rules-voting-amid-coronavirus-pandemic/story?id=72309089>. Accessed March 20, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Fox News. (n.d.). *Voter Fraud Concerns*. <https://www.foxnews.com/category/politics/elections/voter-fraud-concerns>. Accessed March 20, 2021.

<sup>5</sup> Gomez, A., & McCoy, K. (2020, October 30). USA Today. *Federal election lawsuits have already set a recent record. A look at 2020 in the courts*. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/10/30/courts-reject-voting-rights-extensions-in-covid-shadowed-elections/5998149002/>. Accessed March 20, 2021.

<sup>6</sup> Garrison, J., & Sergent, J. (2021, January 6). USA Today. *By the numbers: President Donald Trump's failed efforts to overturn the election*. <https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/politics/elections/2021/01/06/trumps-failed-efforts-overturn-election-numbers/4130307001/>. Accessed March 20, 2021.

legal appeals.<sup>7</sup> Concurrently, the U.S. Justice Department indicated that there was no evidence of election fraud.<sup>8</sup>

Additionally, professional researchers, who applied various types of statistical analyses (e.g., Benford's law) to the November 2020 election results, did not detect fraud during the election. Although there were exceptions, the consensus among professional researchers was that there was no evidence of election fraud, manipulation, or uncorrected errors.<sup>9</sup>

Even so, there are voters who still doubt the fairness and impartiality of the November 2020 election.<sup>10</sup> Those who doubt the fairness and impartiality of the November 2020 election include individuals who live and vote within California.<sup>11</sup> In California, some of the concerns surrounding the November 2020 election were derived from legislation and executive orders: May 8, 2020, Executive Order N-64-20;<sup>12</sup> June 3, 2020, Executive Order N-67-20;<sup>13</sup> June 18, 2020, Assembly Bill 860;<sup>14</sup> and August 6, 2020, Senate Bill 423.<sup>15</sup> In part, those executive orders and new laws required the following:

- County election officials to mail all California registered voters a vote-by-mail ballot.
- County election officials to use the California Secretary of State's ballot tracking system.
- In-person voting was extended from one-day to four-days (i.e., Saturday, October 30, 2020 through Tuesday, November 3, 2020).

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<sup>7</sup> Hurley, L. (2021, March 8). Reuters. *U.S. Supreme Court dumps last of Trump's election appeals*. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-court-election-idUSKBN2B01LE>. Accessed March 21, 2021.

<sup>8</sup> Ballsamo, M. (2020, December 1). Associated Press. *Disputing Trump, Barr says no widespread election fraud*. <https://apnews.com/article/barr-no-widespread-election-fraud-b1f1488796c9a98c4b1a9061a6c7f49d>. Accessed March 20, 2021.

<sup>9</sup> Bastian, H., Frye, E., & Gary, C., Houck, D., Schneider, M., Thomason, F. & Werner, B. MITRE Corporation. (2021, February). *Data Analytics to Enhance Election Transparency*. <https://www.mitre.org/sites/default/files/publications/pr-21-0431-data-analytics-to-enhance-election-transparency.pdf>. Accessed March 20, 2021.

<sup>10</sup> Easley, J. (2021, February 25). MSN News. *Majority of Republicans say 2020 election was invalid: poll*. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/majority-of-republicans-say-2020-election-was-invalid-poll/ar-BB1e1ggc?ocid=BingNewsSearch>. Accessed March 20, 2021.

<sup>11</sup> Elections Integrity Project® California. (n.d.). <https://www.eip-ca.com/index.htm>. Accessed March 21, 2021.

<sup>12</sup> *California Executive Order N-64-20*. (2020, May 8). State of California. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/05.08.2020-EO-N-64-20-signed.pdf>. Accessed March 25, 2021.

<sup>13</sup> *California Executive Order N-67-20*. (2020, June 3). State of California. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/6.3.20-EO-N-67-20.docx.pdf>. Accessed March 20, 2021.

<sup>14</sup> Assembly Bill No. 860. (2020, June 18). California Legislative Information. [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200AB860](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB860). Accessed March 30, 2021.

<sup>15</sup> Senate Bill No. 423. (2020, August 6). California Legislative Information. [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200SB423](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB423). Accessed April 3, 2021.

- County elections officials to permit all voters to cast their ballots using the state’s certified “Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail” system. (Previously, this voting method was only used by voters with disabilities to print, mark, and mail their vote-by-mail ballots in a private and independent manner.)
- Extend the deadline by which a vote-by-mail ballot must be received by the county elections official from 3 days to 17 days after election day.
- Allow jurisdictions having the necessary computer capability to start processing mail-in ballots on the 29th day before the election, rather than 10 days before the election, but under no circumstances may a vote count be accessed or released until 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

Those who express concerns about the integrity of California elections cite the following issues:<sup>16</sup>

- A. “Eliminated absentee ballots and massively expanded vote-by-mail (“VBM”) through which even voters who could vote in person receive less-secure VBM ballots;
- B. Legalized unrestrained and unrestricted ballot harvesting by removing mandates of “chain of custody” unleashing the exploitation of vulnerable populations such as non-citizens, college students and senior citizens;
- C. Eviscerated protections on in-person voting;
- D. Implemented laws and procedures that automatically add non-citizens to voter rolls and protect against detection and prosecution of non-citizen voting; and
- E. Failed to comply with federal laws requiring maintaining accurate voter rolls, allowing deceased persons, non-citizens, non-residents, and other ineligible voters to remain on rolls and receive ballots.”

During the November 2020 election, Riverside County voters contributed 5.72% of all California votes cast statewide. Of the 1,016,896 votes cast within Riverside County, 89.28% of those votes were cast by “vote-by-mail voters,” while only 10.72% of the votes were cast by those who voted in person at Riverside County’s 130 Voter Assistance Centers.<sup>17</sup> (More detailed information appears in Table 1.)

Due to (1) the importance of fair and impartial elections, (2) the persistent allegations of election irregularities and fraud, and (3) Riverside County’s large number of voters, the 2020-2021 Riverside County Civil Grand Jury determined that it was appropriate to examine the fairness and impartiality of

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<sup>16</sup> Elections Integrity Project® California. (2021, March 8). United States District Court, Central District of California, Case 2:21-cv-00032-AB-MAA Document 68. [https://www.eip-ca.com/press\\_releases/2-21-cv-00032\\_Complaint-1.pdf](https://www.eip-ca.com/press_releases/2-21-cv-00032_Complaint-1.pdf). Accessed March 21, 2021.

<sup>17</sup> *Statement of Vote: General Election November 3, 2020*, page 3. (2020, December 11). California Secretary of State. <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/sov/2020-general/sov/complete-sov.pdf>. Accessed March 31, 2021.

the November 2020 Consolidated General Election as it was held within Riverside County.

**Table 1**

**Comparisons of November 2020 Riverside County Votes to State of California Votes**

Locations	Eligible to Register*	Registered Voters	Precinct Voters**	Vote-By-Mail Voters	Total Voters	Percent Turnout Registered
Riverside County Total Number	1,492,076	1,241,552	109,028	907,868	1,016,896	81.91%
Riverside County Percent	NA	83.21%	10.72%	89.28%		
State of California Total Number	25,090,517	22,047,448	2,361,850	15,423,301	17,785,151	80.67%
State of California Percent	NA	87.87%	13.28%	86.72%		
Source: California Secretary of State, "Statement of Vote: General Election November 3, 2020," by California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, December 11, 2020, page 3,						
* Qualifications to Register to Vote: (1) A United States citizen and a resident of California, (2) 18 years old or older on election day, (3) not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony, and (4) not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.						
** Voter's Choice Act - precinct voters voted at Voter Assistance Centers in November 2020.						

(See Appendix 2 for detailed Riverside County voter registrations by political party as of October 26, 2020, official report of registration to the Secretary of State for the November Election. Appendix 3 for general Riverside County demographics.)

## METHODOLOGY

### Scope of Study

Similar to the Federal Government requiring state governments to follow federal election laws, state governments require counties and parishes within their jurisdictions to follow their state election laws. Similarly, election officials within Riverside County were required to follow State of California election laws, regulations, and/or executive orders<sup>18</sup> when preparing for and conducting the various November 3, 2020 elections throughout Riverside County.

The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury acknowledges there are controversies surrounding the constitutionality of California's laws, regulations, and

<sup>18</sup> *California Election Code*. (n.d.). California Legislative Information. <https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codesTOCSelected.xhtml?tocCode=ELEC&tocTitle=+Elections+Code+-+ELEC>. Accessed March 22, 2021.

executive orders<sup>19,20</sup> and acknowledges the controversies surrounding implementation of existing election laws.<sup>21,22</sup>

The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury focused its investigation on how Riverside County conducted the November 2020 election in accordance with applicable California laws, regulations, and executive orders at the time of the November 2020 election.<sup>23</sup> Its investigation focused on the following research questions.

## Research Questions

1. Were Riverside County election officials aware of Federal and California laws, regulations, and executive orders as they changed during the COVID-19 pandemic?

*“Riverside County election officials” include Riverside County Registrar of Voters personnel, city managers, deputy city managers, elected and appointed city clerks, deputy city clerks, and assistant city clerks who were responsible for implementing California laws, regulations, and executive orders during the November 2020 election cycle.*

2. Did Riverside County election officials effectively communicate with voters?
3. Did Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department provide sufficient training to those who would implement the November 2020 election?
4. Did Riverside County election officials conduct the November 2020 election as required by applicable Federal and California laws, regulations, and executive orders?
5. Were there instances of “election irregularities” during the November 2020 election?

*For this research question, an “election irregularity” is defined as a deviation or perceived departure from prescribed Federal and California laws, regulations, and executive orders.*

6. Were ballots accurately counted?

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<sup>19</sup> Solis, N. (2020, November 2). Courthouse News Center. *Newsom Election Orders an Overreach, California Judge Rules*. <https://www.courthousenews.com/newsom-election-orders-an-overreach-california-judge-rules/>. Accessed March 23, 2021.

<sup>20</sup> Willon, P. (2020, November 17). Los Angeles Times. *Appeals court grants stay in lawsuit over Gov. Gavin Newsom’s use of executive power*. <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-11-17/appeal-court-stay-lawsuit-gov-gavin-newsoms-executive-power>. Accessed March 23, 2021.

<sup>21</sup> Staggs, B. (2021, January 28). Orange County Register. *Orange County man who became face of GOP ballot drop box controversy says it ‘destroyed’ his life*. <https://www.ocregister.com/2021/01/27/orange-county-man-who-became-face-of-gop-ballot-drop-box-controversy-says-it-destroyed-his-life/>. Accessed March 23, 2021.

<sup>22</sup> Horseman, J. (2021, March 4). The Press Enterprise. *Riverside County registrar accuses DA of bullying, interfering with election*. <https://www.pe.com/2021/03/03/riverside-county-registrar-accuses-da-of-bullying-interfering-with-election/>. Accessed March 23, 2021.

<sup>23</sup> California Penal Code § 925. (2018, October 25). <https://law.onecle.com/california/penal/925.html>. Accessed March 22, 2021.



7. Is there any evidence of election fraud that occurred during November 3, 2020 election as it was held within Riverside County?

*For this question, “election fraud” is defined as deliberate and illegal actions intended to interfere with and/or change the results of an election.*

**Methods of Gathering Information**

The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury used the following methods of gathering information surrounding the November 3, 2020 election:

Remote Interviews	Accessing Websites
Online Surveys	Contacting Candidates
Telephone Calls	Review Public Documents
Emails	View Websites
In-Person Visits	View Videos
Review Confidential Documents	

**Interviews**

- The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury interviewed 42 City Managers, Deputy City Managers, City Clerks, Deputy City Clerks, Assistant City Clerks, and/or Office Specialist from each of Riverside County’s 28 cities.

Banning	Corona	Lake Elsinore	Palm Springs
Beaumont	Desert Hot Springs	La Quinta	Perris
Blythe	Eastvale	Menifee	Rancho Mirage
Calimesa	Hemet	Moreno Valley	Riverside
Canyon Lake	Indian Wells	Murrieta	San Jacinto
Cathedral City	Indio	Norco	Temecula
Coachella	Jurupa Valley	Palm Desert	Wildomar

- Additionally, the Riverside County Civil Grand Jury interviewed 17 individuals from the following categories:
  - election officials from all 28 cities within Riverside County
  - Registrar of Voters Department employees
  - District Attorney’s Office investigators
  - candidates on the November 2020 ballot
  - political party leaders
  - Board of Supervisors
  - Sheriff’s Department employees
  - Executive Office employees



## **Online Surveys**

- Surveys were sent to 78 Voter Assistance Center Supervisors who supervised Voter Assistance Centers from each of the Riverside County's five Supervisor Districts.

## **Telephone Calls**

- Twenty individuals employed to monitor drop-off boxes and securely transport ballots from those drop-off box locations to the Riverside Registrar of Voters Department were selected, by stratified random sampling, to be interviewed by telephone. The survey included at least two individuals from each of the Riverside County's five Supervisor Districts.

## **In-Person Visits**

- Voter Assistance Centers across Riverside County on November 3, 2020.
- Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department facilities during the processing of November 3, 2020 election ballots on November 4, 2020.

## **Invited States Congress, California State Senate, and California State Assembly Candidates**

- There were 13 United States Congress, California State Senate, or California State Assembly races on the November 2020 ballot. The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury contacted, by emails and/or telephone calls, all 13 individuals who won and all 13 individuals who did not win in those races. Some of those 26 individuals responded to the Riverside County Civil Grand Jury's election irregularities and election fraud questions and some did not.

## **Reviewed and Used 76 Documents for the Report**

- The list of 76 documents reviewed and used for this report appears, in alphabetical order, after the "Important Note: Riverside County Civil Grand Jury Jurisdiction" section.

## **Reviewed and Used 18 Websites and Videos for the Report**

- The list of 18 websites and videos used for this report and not listed appears before the appendices.

## FINDINGS

**Research Question 1:** Were Riverside County election officials aware of Federal and California laws, regulations, and executive orders as they changed during the COVID-19 pandemic?

**Finding 1:** After extensive interviews, website reviews, and document reviews, there is significant evidence that Riverside County election officials were well informed of applicable November 2020 Federal and California election laws, regulations, and executive orders. Many city officials who were directly responsible for election activities within their jurisdictions expressed gratitude to the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department personnel for keeping them well informed of changes in California's laws and procedures, especially changes required by Executive Order N-64-20 and Executive Order N-67-20 during the pandemic.

**Research Question 2:** Did Riverside County election officials effectively communicate with voters?

**Finding 2:** After extensive interviews, website reviews, and document reviews, there is significant evidence that Riverside County election officials, both those individuals working directly for Riverside County, as well as those individuals who worked directly for cities, made extensive efforts to inform voters of their voting options and locations through news releases, social media, announcements during official public meetings, and websites. Additionally, city officials throughout the county indicated that, except on rare occasions, they received answers to their questions from the Registrar of Voters Department in a timely manner, so they could provide voters accurate information.

Even with the extensive efforts to communicate with the voters during the November 2020 election cycle, there were four noteworthy communication issues that came up:

- timely distribution of “Consolidated General Election Guides” and mail-in-ballots
- use of the state’s new ballot tracking system
- generating certified election results faster
- demystifying ballot processing

1. **Timely Materials Distribution:** For the November 2020 election, Riverside County had a total of 864 voting precincts requiring 369 separate ballot types to cover all the different combinations of elected offices, candidates, and measures throughout the county. To prepare for the election, the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department contracted with a vendor to print the required number of “Consolidated General Election Guides” and another vendor to print the required number of mail-in ballots. The Registrar of Voters

Department provided approximately 1.2 million voter registration records to the vendor in early September 2020 so that mailing could commence on October 5, 2020 as required by California law.<sup>24</sup>

In some parts of the County, mail-in ballots arrived days before “Consolidated General Election Guides.” Consequently, (1) some voters returned their ballots before they had the opportunity to review the information contained within the “Consolidated General Election Guide” and (2) some candidates were upset. Candidates spend considerable time, effort, and funds preparing their candidate statements for voters and expect their statements to arrive in the “Consolidated General Election Guides” so that voters are well informed before casting their ballots.

Based on interviews and documentary evidence, it was clear that the delivery problem was caused by the U. S. Postal Service and not by the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department. For future elections, the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department intends to increase the number of days from 2 to at least 7 days between mailing “Consolidated General Election Guides” and mail-in ballots.

It is important to note that the Registrar of Voters Department had two ways in which voters could view their information guides and sample ballots on its website. However, many voters were not aware that information guides, with candidate statements, and sample ballots were available to them online. For those who did know, the information was available online, the information was not easy to find.

2. State Ballot Tracking System: California Executive Order N-67-20 required all county elections officials to use the Secretary of State's vote-by-mail ballot tracking system, created pursuant to Elections Code section 3019.7, and to use Intelligent Mail Barcodes on all vote-by-mail ballot envelopes. For the November 2020 election, the California Secretary of State approved BallotTrax to track ballots through a system titled “Where’s My Ballot?”. The tracking system was designed to send voters automatic emails, SMS (texts), or voice call notifications about a voter’s ballot as it was (1) mailed to them, (2) received by the county’s Registrar’s office, (3) counted, and (4) notified if there was a problem with their ballot. The Riverside County

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<sup>24</sup> *Report of Registration as of October 19, 2020 Registration by County*, page 9. (October 19, 2020). California Secretary of State. <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/ror/15day-gen-2020/county.pdf>. Accessed March 31, 2021.

Registrar of Voters Department announced the “Where’s My Ballot?” option to voters on its website.<sup>25</sup>

The California Secretary of State’s Office activated its “Where’s My Ballot?” system on September 28, 2020. The automated system informed voters in some California counties that they would receive their ballots through the U. S. Postal Service within the next 7 days. However, the mailing of ballots had not yet commenced, According to California law, an “elections official shall not commence to mail the combined county voter information guide and mail ballot before the 29th day before the election and shall complete the mailing by the 10th day before the election.”<sup>26</sup> In compliance with the law, the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department commenced mailing November 2020 election materials on October 5, 2020. The lack of coordination between the state’s tracking system and when ballots were legally mailed to voters caused some voters to question the integrity of the election process.

Additional voter concerns were evident when the state’s tracking system did not function as some voters expected. The state’s BallotTrax tracking system did not track ballots in “real time,” nor was it designed to do so. The California Secretary of State’s website informed voters that they would not receive a “ballot received” notice for 5 to 7 days after the ballot was cast.<sup>27</sup> However, some voters assumed that they could track their ballot immediately after they dropped their ballot into a mailbox, inserted it into a ballot drop-off box, or dropped their ballot into a Voter Assistance Center ballot collection box. In actuality, the state’s tracking system informed voters that their ballots were “received” only after their ballots (1) arrived at the Registrar of Voters’ processing facility and (2) their ballots passed the signature verification process. Problems associated with the new California Secretary of State ballot tracking system occurred at the state level and can only be corrected at the state level.

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<sup>25</sup> *Where’s My Ballot?*. (n.d.). Riverside County Registrar of Voters. <https://www.voteinfo.net/Elections/20201103/docs/Wheres%20my%20ballot.pdf> . Accessed March 22, 2021.

<sup>26</sup> California Elections Code, Division 4, Chapter 2, 4101. (2016, September 21). California Legislative Information. [https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=ELEC&sectionNum=4101](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=ELEC&sectionNum=4101) . Accessed April 5, 2021.

<sup>27</sup> *Where’s My Ballot? Troubleshooting – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)*. (2020, February 4). California Secretary of State. <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov//statewide-elections/2020-general/ballottrax-troubleshooting.pdf>. Accessed April 2, 2021.

3. Generating Certified Election Results Faster: In several interviews, interviewees expressed their desire to have future election results produced faster without causing inaccuracies in processing ballots. Their comments were derived from their experiences with past elections in general and not focused on November 2020 specifically.

As for the November 2020 election, interviewees were aware the Registrar of Voters Department was processing a very high number of mail-in ballots, and even with the necessary precautions taken, the Registrar of Voters Department had several employees who could not work as originally planned, due to COVID-19.<sup>28</sup> To make processing ballots even more challenging, it was difficult to find enough temporary workers during the pandemic to help process ballots when some companies increased their incentives for applicants to work for them. Yet, the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department certified the November 2020 election results on time as required by state law.<sup>29</sup>

Even with the challenges confronting the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department, it processed 1,016,896 ballots of which 89.28%<sup>30</sup> were vote-by-mail ballots. Interviewees expressed appreciation for the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department's efforts to process such a high volume of vote-by-mail ballots as fast as they did, as well as for keeping the public informed of the vote counts as ballots were processed. From November 3, 2020 to December 3, 2020, the Registrar of Voters Department updated its website 28 times to keep anyone interested informed as counting continued. Even so, Registrar of Voters Department personnel are exploring options that would produce future election results faster, while maintaining accuracy.

4. Demystify Ballot Processed through Communication Avenues: The intense scrutiny of the November 2020 election process has many voters across the United States questioning the fairness and impartiality of the election process, and that includes the November 2020 election held within Riverside County. Most of those concerns

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<sup>28</sup> Thropay, C. (2020, November 30). KESQ Channel 3 Palm Springs. *Riverside County provides update after several Registrar's office staff test positive and quarantine a week before the deadline to certify election results*. <https://kesq.com/news/2020/11/30/riverside-county-provides-update-after-several-staff-test-positive-and-quarantine-a-week-before-the-deadline-to-certify-election-results/>. Accessed April 5, 2021.

<sup>29</sup> November 3, 2020 General Election Calendar, pages 8-21. California Secretary of State. (2020, October 5). <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov//statewide-elections/2020-primary/section-8-general-calendar.pdf>. Accessed May 9, 2021.

<sup>30</sup> *Voter Participation Statistics by County November 3, 2020, General Election*, page 3. (n.d.). California Secretary of State. <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/sov/2020-general/sov/03-voter-participation-stats-by-county.pdf>. Accessed April 8, 2021.

are outside the purview of Riverside County Civil Grand Jury to address (i.e., federal and/or state issues). However, some of those concerns expressed by Riverside County voters can be addressed through a better understanding of the election process. For example, the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department employs procedures to certify and confirm the accuracy of ballot counting machines, confirm ballot signatures, and in cases where multiple ballots are cast by the same voter, there is a process to ensure that only one ballot counts.

To summarize Research Question 2 findings:

1. Although there were communication challenges, Riverside County election officials effectively communicated with voters.
2. Vote-by-mail ballots arriving before “Consolidated General Election Guides” was caused by the U. S. Postal Service.
3. Incorrect and misleading information associated with the state’s new ballot tracking system was caused by both computer programming errors within the Secretary of State’s tracking system and the assumption by many individuals that the tracking involved “real time” tracking when it was not designed to function that way.
4. The Registrar of Voters Department frequently updated November 3, 2020 election results as ballots were processed.
5. There is interest in generating accurate election results faster.
6. The lack of knowledge about the election ballot counting process resulted in questions about the fairness and impartiality of the election.
7. It was not easy for voters to locate their specific election information guides, with candidate statements, and sample ballots online.

**Research Question 3:** Did Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department provide sufficient training to those who would implement the November 2020 election?

**Finding 3:** Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department personnel provided training sessions and materials to individuals who worked at the county’s ballot processing facility, to city officials involved in the election process for their communities, to individuals who worked at the 130 Voter Assistance Centers, and to individuals responsible for monitoring vote-by-mail drop-off boxes, including transporting ballots from drop-off boxes to the county’s ballot processing facility.

**Training Sessions:** Hundreds of individuals were involved in Riverside County’s November 2020 election process. Documentary and electronic media evidence conclusively illustrated that the Registrar of Voters Department personnel clearly identified the tasks that needed to be

performed and trained personnel to accomplish those tasks, including the safety measures needed due to COVID-19.

City Officials: The vast majority of city officials, throughout Riverside County, indicated that they received the training they needed to conduct the November 2020 election. Additionally, there were comments about how the training sessions noticeably improved in the last few years. The few exceptions were newly hired city personnel who expressed appreciation for the training they received but felt more personalized training was needed.

Voter Assistance Centers: There were 130 Voter Assistance Centers across Riverside County where voters went to cast their votes. Each Voter Assistance Center had at least 10 personnel assigned to it with an identified person as the “Supervisor” and another person identified as the “Assistant Supervisor.” Voting Assistance Center supervisors and assistant supervisors received many hours of training over four weeks, while others who worked at the Voting Assistance Centers received a few hours training.

When Voter Assistance Center supervisors were asked to evaluate the effectiveness of the training they received, 89.28% responded that their training was either “Extremely Useful” or “Very Useful.” When Voter Assistance Center supervisors were asked to evaluate how well the others who worked with them were trained, 67.86% responded that the training their staff received was either “Extremely Useful” or “Very Useful.”

Drop-Off Box Workers: Drop-off box workers monitored drop-off boxes and/or collected ballots across Riverside County and transported ballots to the Riverside County Registrar of Voters processing facility. When asked if they received the training they needed to perform their responsibilities, 100% indicated that they did.

To summarize Research Question 3 findings: The evidence was conclusive that the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department conducted a comprehensive series of training sessions for several months leading up to the November 2020 election and that the training sessions prepared personnel to fulfill their responsibilities. Survey results revealed the need for hands-on training, role-playing scenarios, and more training for non-supervisor staff members.

**Research Question 4:** Did Riverside County election officials conduct the November 2020 election as required by applicable Federal and California laws, regulations, and executive orders?

**Finding 4:** With one exception, the November 2020 election was conducted as required by applicable Federal and California laws, regulations. The one exception occurred on the first day of the four days of in-person voting (i.e.,



Saturday, October 31, 2020). Some voters across Riverside County could not cast their votes as planned due to a technical problem.

For the November 2020 election, Riverside County used an election software system that permitted employees working at the 130 Voter Assistance Centers to verify voter eligibility by accessing a centralized voter registration database. From October 5<sup>th</sup> through October 30<sup>th</sup>, the election software system functioned properly during early voting sessions at four Riverside County locations, but failed to function properly when all 130 Voter Assistance Center locations opened for in-person voting on the morning of Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

The technical problem was resolved by 1:00 p.m. and did not occur again during the rest of four days of in-person voting. The technical problem did delay voters that morning from casting their ballots as they planned to do. Reportedly, some voters waited until the technical issue was resolved to vote, while other voters returned later that day, or sometime during the next three in-person voting days to cast their votes. There is no way to determine how many eligible voters did not vote due to the technical problem.

Even without technical problems, some in-person voting locations had long lines of voters waiting to cast their ballots. In some cases, voters waited over an hour. It was not possible to determine how many individuals did not vote due to long waiting lines. However, certainly more individuals would have voted if the waiting time were reduced and did not interfere with their previous plans for the day (e.g., get to work on time).

Furthermore, some city election officials mentioned that an improvement could be made for future elections if larger signs were available to them. Some voters could not find in-person voting locations easily. Larger signs indicating where to park their cars and where to walk over to vote in person would be helpful.

It is important to note that several city election officials mentioned how important it was that they gathered personnel from across their various city departments, including law enforcement personnel, to ensure that the election was conducted fairly, securely, and legally.

To summarize Research Question 4 findings: Riverside County election officials conducted the November 2020 election as required by applicable Federal and California laws, regulations, and executive orders. The technical problem occurred at the very beginning of the four-day in-person voting days and it was corrected in time for voters to still cast their ballots. The voting process can be enhanced if voters do not have to wait in long lines to vote. Also, if larger signs are posted near the in-person voting locations it will improve visibility of the voting locations and parking.

**Research Question 5:** Were there instances of “election irregularities” during the November 2020 election?

**Finding 5:** Some interviewees expressed concerns that the November 2020 election was not conducted as required by Federal and California laws, regulations, and executive orders. Those concerns were in three general areas: (1) accuracy of voter rolls, (2) ballot drop-off box uncertainty, and (3) ballot “chain of custody.”

1. Accuracy of Voter Rolls: According to the California Secretary of State, Riverside County had 1,241,552<sup>31</sup> registered voters eligible to vote in the November 2020 election. As in previous statewide elections, errors were made across the state. Examples included some voters who received multiple ballots, residences receiving ballots for deceased persons, and/or ineligible persons who received ballots and may have even attempted to vote.

Errors were made because there were inaccuracies in the state-controlled voter registration database that all California county Registrar of Voters officials were required to use. Voter rolls were established by provisions in Federal law<sup>32</sup> and maintained at the state level by California Code of Regulations.<sup>33</sup> There were provisions within those laws and regulations that focus on correcting inaccurate information.

For example, in California, its centralized voter registration database is called VoteCal. To minimize inaccuracies, the VoteCal database is frequently compared with the following databases:<sup>34</sup>

- VoteCal database is compared with the California Department of Public Health database to prevent someone from registering to vote in the name of a deceased person and to cancel the voter registration for deceased persons.
- VoteCal database is compared with the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) database to update voter addresses. Additionally, VoteCal retrieves signatures from the California Department of Motor Vehicles, appends them to the voter's

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<sup>31</sup> *Voter Participation Statistics by County November 3, 2020, General Election*, page 3. (n.d.). California Secretary of State. <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/sov/2020-general/sov/03-voter-participation-stats-by-county.pdf>. Accessed April 8, 2021.

<sup>32</sup> National Voter Registration Act, 1993. (2019, May 21). United State Department of Justice. <https://www.justice.gov/crt/about-national-voter-registration-act>. Accessed April 9, 2021.

<sup>33</sup> *Statewide Voter Registration Database*. (n.d.). California Secretary of State. <https://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/regulations/current-regulations/elections/statewide-voter-registration-database#section-20108.18>. Accessed April 8, 2021.

<sup>34</sup> *VoteCal Overview*. (n.d.). California Secretary of State. <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/votecal-project>. Accessed April 8, 2021.

application, and stores them for access by county elections officials.

- VoteCal database is compared with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation database to reject voter registration applications from confirmed felons. Existing felons' voter registrations were cancelled.
- VoteCal exchanges information with the California Employment Development Department to get national address change information from the U. S. Postal Service for voter registration records. If a voter's address has changed, his or her information is updated in VoteCal and the voter's registration record and voting history is transferred to the voter's new county.

Conversely, there are provisions within federal<sup>35</sup> and state laws<sup>36</sup> that may introduce errors in the California Secretary of State's VoteCal database. For instance, a 2018 California law involving "applicants completing a driver license, identification card or change of address transaction online, by mail or in person at the DMV, will be automatically registered to vote by the California Secretary of State, unless they choose to opt out of automatic voter registration."<sup>37</sup> The intent of the "California New Motor Voter Program" was to reverse low voter turnouts and to diversify California's electorate. It succeeded in doing so as Figure 1 and Table 2 illustrate. However, some citizens expressed concerns that the rapid increase in registered voters indicates inaccuracies in voter rolls which threaten the integrity of election results.<sup>38, 39, 40</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> National Voter Registration Act, 1993. (2019, May 21). United State Department of Justice.

<https://www.justice.gov/crt/about-national-voter-registration-act#prov>. Accessed April 9, 2021.

<sup>36</sup> *California New Motor Voter Program*. Elections Code, Division 2, Chapter 4.5, Section 2262. (February 26, 2018). California Legislative Information.

[https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=ELEC&sectionNum=2262.&highlight=true&keyword=Department%20of%20Motor](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=ELEC&sectionNum=2262.&highlight=true&keyword=Department%20of%20Motor). Accessed April 9, 2021.

<sup>37</sup> *California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)*. (n.d.). California Secretary of State.

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/votecal-project>. Accessed April 8, 2021.

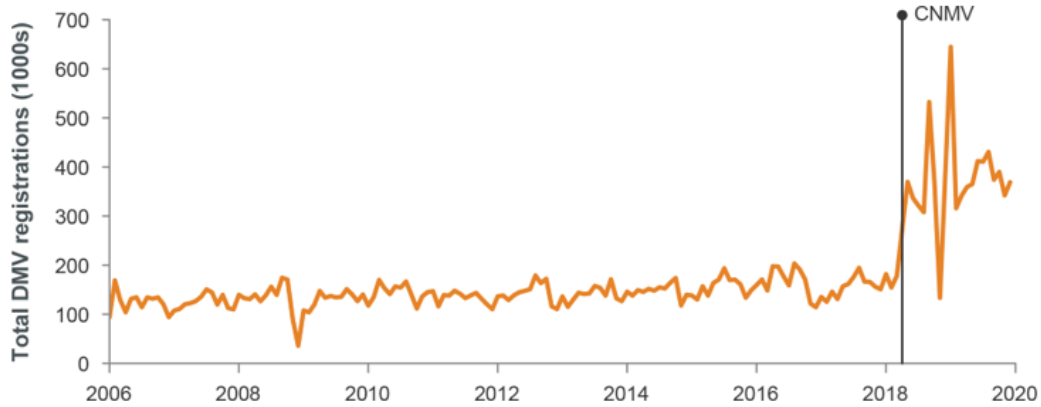
<sup>38</sup> Shelley, S. (2019, August 17). Los Angeles Daily News. *The many flaws of California's motor voter program*. <https://www.dailynews.com/2019/08/17/the-many-flaws-of-californias-motor-voter-program/>. Accessed April 9, 2021.

<sup>39</sup> Associated Press. (2019, August 9). KFMB CBS News 8, San Diego. *Audit finds problems with California 'motor voter' program*. <https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/local/audit-finds-problems-with-california-motor-voter-program/509-8fbb1592-87f0-41d8-9ae7-17cf622b34c6>. Accessed April 9, 2021.

<sup>40</sup> Price, S. (2019, August 30). KFMB CBS News 8, San Diego. *Verify: Are hundreds of thousands of non-U.S. citizens voting in CA elections?*. <https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/verify/verify-are-hundreds-of-thousands-of-non-us-citizens-voting-in-ca-elections/509-9a73d20f-c9e1-42ac-a475-24afb5c12259/>. Accessed April 9, 2021.

**Figure 1**

**Monthly Average Voter Registrations Increased Significantly After the 2018 “California New Motor Voter Program” Enactment**



Source: Public Policy Institute of California, “Implementing Automated Voter Registration in California,” by Eric McGhee, Radhika Mehlotra, and Mindy Romero, March 2020, page 5.

**Table 2**

**Comparing Average Monthly Voter Registrations Before and After the 2018 “California New Motor Voter Program” (CNMV) Enactment**

California’s 15 Largest Counties	Pre-CNMV Average	Post-CNMV Average	Change (%)
Los Angeles	36,698	94,705	158
San Diego	13,825	34,530	150
Orange	12,664	31,974	152
Riverside	9,082	22,413	147
San Bernardino	7,259	19,984	175
Santa Clara	7,736	19,140	147
Alameda	6,311	16,611	163
Sacramento	6,149	15,247	148
Contra Costa	4,513	12,164	170
Fresno	2,970	7,877	165
Kern	2,689	7,086	164
San Francisco	3,901	9,386	141
Ventura	3,315	8,653	161
San Mateo	2,918	8,076	177
San Joaquin	2,712	6,656	145

Source: Public Policy Institute of California, “Implementing Automated Voter Registration in California,” by Eric McGhee, Radhika Mehlotra, and Mindy Romero, March 2020, page 6.

Even with the state’s efforts to minimize inaccuracies, Riverside County experienced the same types of errors caused by the state’s

VoteCal database as in other California counties. For instance, the Riverside County District Attorney’s Office received approximately 90 ballots from some desert-area voters claiming that some ballots were sent to deceased people, some people received multiple ballots, and some ballots went to homes where the residents said that they “never heard of the person listed on the mail-in ballot.”<sup>41</sup> (As for potential election fraud, please see the Findings for Research Question 7.)

Other statewide errors were caused by logistical issues. To illustrate, the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department had to provide its vendors, who printed the Consolidated Election Guide and vote-by-mail ballots, voter registration information in early September 2020. This was so the materials could be produced, mailed, and delivered before the November 2020 election. There was a two-month gap between providing the vendors with voter registration information and the election.

Fortunately, when ballots were processed at the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department facility, many voting errors were caught and rectified. For example, voters were identified by their names or slight variation in their names, date of birth, Social Security number, and driver’s license or official state-issued identification number. When a voter cast multiple ballots, the first one counted, and others were automatically eliminated. Another example, when a voter turned in a ballot and forgot to sign the ballot envelope as required, or the signature on the envelope did not match official records, then the Registrar of Voters Department notified the voter and gave the voter the opportunity to submit their signature. If the voter did not respond in a timely manner, as specified in the Registrar of Voters Department letter, or responded with a signature that did not match official records, then the ballot did not progress through the counting process.<sup>42</sup> Inaccuracies in the Secretary of State’s VoteCal database are not caused by the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department. Creating a more accurate voter roll database is a state issue, not a county issue.

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<sup>41</sup> “Riverside County registrar accuses DA of bullying, interfering with election,” The Press Enterprise, by Jeff Horseman, March 4, 2021, <https://www.pe.com/2021/03/03/riverside-county-registrar-accuses-da-of-bullying-interfering-with-election/>, Accessed March 23, 2021.

<sup>42</sup> *Signature Verification Statement*. (2020, October 24). Riverside County Registrar of Voters. <https://www.voteinfo.net/Elections/20201103/docs/Signature%20Verification%20Statement.pdf>. Accessed April 9, 2021.

2. Ballot Drop-Off Box Uncertainty: By California law,<sup>43</sup> the California Secretary of State was required to establish and circulate guidelines for “vote-by-mail ballot drop boxes” on or before January 1, 2017. The guidelines included vote-by-mail drop-off box design requirements, accessibility, locations, hours, collection procedures, chain of custody, and ballot retrieval.<sup>44</sup> In accordance with California law, regulations, and Executive Order N-67-20, the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department established 80 vote-by-mail drop-off locations<sup>45, 46</sup> for the November 2020 election. The 80 vote-by-mail drop-off boxes were available to voters from October 5 through November 2, and available at the 130 Voter Assistance Centers from October 31 through November 3, 2020. There was extensive use of drop-off boxes. Of Riverside County’s 1,016,896 November 2020 votes cast, 907,868 (89.28%) were mailed or inserted into vote-by-mail drop-off boxes.<sup>47</sup>

Even so, some voters told city officials they were wary of vote-by-mail drop-off boxes because (1) the boxes did not look like the drop-off boxes they saw on television, (2) they were uncertain if the drop-off boxes were official drop-off boxes, and (3) the colors on the drop-off boxes looked like political party drop-off boxes.

3. Ballot “Chain of Custody:” During city official and political party leader interviews, one of the questions the Riverside County Civil Grand Jury asked was, “What types of election concerns did voters express to you?” Frequently, voters asked questions along the lines of, “Is my ballot safe if I put it into that box?” or “What will happened to my ballot when I put it into that box?” The answer depended on where the drop-off box was located.

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<sup>43</sup> *Vote by Mail*. (2016, July 22). California Elections Code section 3025 (a) (b). California Legislative Information. [https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=3025&lawCode=ELEC](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=3025&lawCode=ELEC). Accessed April 10, 2021.

<sup>44</sup> *Vote-by-Mail Ballot Drop Boxes and Vote-by-Mail Drop-Off Locations*. (n.d.). California Secretary of State. California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 7, Chapter 3, Article 1. <https://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/regulations/current-regulations/elections/vote-mail-ballot-drop-boxes-and-drop-locations>. Accessed April 10, 2021.

<sup>45</sup> *Ballot Drop Off Locations*. (n.d.). Riverside County Registrar of Voters. <https://www.voteinfo.net/Elections/20201103/docs/BALLOT%20DROP%20BOX%20LOCATIONS.pdf>. Accessed April 10, 2021.

<sup>46</sup> *Drop Off Location Map*. (n.d.). Riverside County Registrar of Voters. <https://countyofriverside.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=854f401de46f4acc9524162ec633735e>. Accessed April 10, 2021.

<sup>47</sup> *Statement of Vote: General Election November 3, 2020*, page 3. (2020, December 11). California Secretary of State. <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/sov/2020-general/sov/complete-sov.pdf>. Accessed March 31, 2021.

- Vote-by-mail ballots placed in drop-off boxes within Voter Assistance Centers were taken each night, by Voter Assistance Center staff members, to the Registrar of Voters Department processing facility.
- Drop-off boxes located within city facilities were monitored by city employees during normal business hours and not accessible to the public during non-business hours (e.g., city hall doors locked up for the night). Ballots were collected and returned to the Registrar of Voters Department processing facility by two Registrar of Voters Department employees. Before ballots left city facilities, ballots were counted, counts recorded, and ballots secured by the two Registrar of Voters Department employees for transporting to the Registrar of Voters Department processing facility. Once ballots arrived at the processing facility, ballot counts were verified to ensure no ballots were misplaced.
- Stand-alone drop-off boxes were monitored by two Registrar of Voters Department employees during the day. At the end of the day, ballots were secured and transported to the Registrar of Voters Department processing facility. When not monitored by Registrar of Voters employees, the stand-alone drop-off boxes were secured in a way that ballots could not be inserted.
- The only exception to the drop-off box procedure occurred at the Registrar of Voters Department processing facility. There were two drop-off boxes outside the Registrar of Voters Department processing facility where voters could deposit their ballots 24-hours a day. Those two drop-off boxes were as secure, if not more so, than stand-alone U. S. Postal Service boxes.

When asked about “unofficial” vote-by-mail drop-off boxes within Riverside County, city officials stated that they were not aware of any “unofficial” vote-by-mail drop-off boxes. A county employee mentioned that he was aware of one or two “unofficial boxes” that sprang up within Riverside County, but they were immediately removed without incident.

To summarize Research Question 5 findings:

1. Although county Registrar of Voters departments across the state assist in correcting inaccuracies within the state’s VoteCal database, establishing and maintaining the VoteCal database is the responsibility of the Secretary of State.
2. There was extensive use of the 80 vote-by-mail drop-off boxes.
3. Minor improvements in the appearance of drop-off boxes will instill more confidence in drop-off box usage.
4. The conclusive evidence establishes that ballot “chain of custody” was maintained throughout the November 2020 election.



The 2020-2021 Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recognized two controversial issues associated with the vote-by-mail drop-off boxes during the November 2020 election cycle: (1) drop-off box locations and (2) “Authorized Return Agent” signatures on the mail-in ballot return envelopes.<sup>48,49</sup> As previously stated in the “Limitations of Study” section of this report, the Riverside County Civil Grand Jury acknowledges there are controversies surrounding the constitutionality and implementation of certain California laws, regulations, and executive orders and, as such, remains neutral on those issues because they are state level issues, not county level issues. Any disagreements about drop-off box locations and “Authorized Return Agent” signatures on the mail-in ballot return envelopes are beyond the purview of the Riverside County Civil Grand Jury

### **Research Question 6: Were ballots accurately counted?**

**Finding 6:** Following the November 2020 election, there were numerous media reports about efforts to stop counting ballots<sup>50</sup> and allegations against the use of certain voting technologies to count ballots.<sup>51</sup> Although more of the media attention was directed toward other states, there were Californians who expressed concerns about Dominion Voting Systems used in California counties as well.<sup>52</sup>

Before each election, voting technology “must be certified for use, prior to being sold and/or used in any California election”<sup>53</sup> by California’s Secretary of State. More specifically, California’s Secretary of State certifies voting technology after the California Secretary of State’s Office of Voting Systems Technology Assessment evaluates the technology to ensure that a voting system complies with California laws, standards, and security

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<sup>48</sup> Reyes, J. (2021, March 10). KESQ Channel 3 Palm Springs. *Riverside County District Attorney responds to election interference allegations*. <https://kesq.com/news/2021/03/10/riverside-county-district-attorney-responds-to-election-interference-allegations/>. Accessed March 26, 2021.

<sup>49</sup> Horseman, J. (2021, March 4). The Press Enterprise. *Riverside County registrar accuses DA of bullying, interfering with election*. <https://www.pe.com/2021/03/03/riverside-county-registrar-accuses-da-of-bullying-interfering-with-election/>. Accessed March 23, 2021.

<sup>50</sup> Chalfant, M. (2020, November 5). The Hill. *Trump tweets 'stop the count' as legal vote counting continues*. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/trump-tweets-stop-the-count-as-legal-vote-counting-continues/ar-BB1aJ3N9>. Accessed April 10, 2021.

<sup>51</sup> Durkee, A. (2021, March 26). Forbes. *After Lawsuit Against Fox News, Here’s Who Dominion Has Sued So Far—And Who Could Be Next*. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alisondurkee/2021/03/26/after-lawsuit-against-fox-news-heres-who-dominion-has-sued-so-far-and-who-could-be-next/?sh=201e47aa1ab8>. Accessed April 10, 2021.

<sup>52</sup> Grimes, K. (2020, November 16). California Globe. *How Many California Counties Use ‘Glitchy’ Dominion Voting System?* <https://californiaglobe.com/section-2/how-many-california-counties-use-glitchy-dominion-voting-system/>. Accessed April 10, 2021.

<sup>53</sup> *Certification and Approval*. (n.d.). California Secretary of State. <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ovsta/certification-and-approval/>. Accessed April 10, 2021.

requirements.<sup>54</sup> For the November 2020 election, Riverside County's Registrar of Voters Department used the Dominion Democracy Suite Voting System software, certified by the state, as part of its ballot processing procedures.<sup>55</sup>

Before using the Dominion Democracy Suite Voting System software with official voter ballots, the Registrar of Voters Department proceeded through several steps to ensure that the hardware and software performed accurately. Those steps included the following:

1. Information Technology personnel completely removed software used in the previous election.
2. Information Technology personnel installed the newly certified Dominion Democracy Suite software.
3. On October 12, 2020, the Registrar of Voters Department released a Public Notice on its website that invited "all interested parties to witness the testing of the voting system logic and accuracy" which would be held on October 14, 2020.<sup>56</sup>
4. On October 14, 2020, the logic and accuracy of the voting system was tested. Testing involved the use of "test ballots" to determine if scanners collected and processed votes accurately. The data was removed, and subsequent retests were conducted to ensure consistent and accurate results. Additionally, "test ballot" counts were compared to the counts provided by the ballot printer to ensure the counts matched.
5. To ensure that ballots were not counted more than once, comparisons were made between the number of ballots that went through scanners to the number of verified ballot signatures.

Coinciding with the Dominion Democracy Suite Voting System software installation and verification work, the Registrar of Voters Department released Public Notices and News Releases, associated with processing ballots and verifying counts. Those Public Notices and News Releases were as follows:

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<sup>54</sup> Office of Voting Systems Technology Assessment. (n.d.). California Secretary of State.

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ovsta>. Accessed April 10, 2021.

<sup>55</sup> *Voting Technologies in Use by County*. (2020, September 28). California Secretary of State.

<https://votingsystems.cdn.sos.ca.gov/oversight/county-vsystech/vot-tech-by-counties-2020-8.pdf>.

Accessed April 10, 2021.

<sup>56</sup> *Logic and Accuracy Voting System Testing for November 3, 2020 Consolidated General Election*. (2020, October 12). Riverside County Registrar of Voters, Public Notice.

[https://www.voteinfo.net/Elections/20201103/docs/LNA\\_Public\\_Notice\\_EN.pdf](https://www.voteinfo.net/Elections/20201103/docs/LNA_Public_Notice_EN.pdf). Accessed April 12, 2021.

1. October 8, 2020, Public Notice, “Election Observer Panel Orientation for the November 3, 2020 Consolidated General Election”<sup>57</sup>

The Election Observer Panel was convened to (a) provide the public with the opportunity to observe and make suggestions on ways to improve the election process, (b) help ensure the integrity of the election process, and (c) remove some of the mystery associated with the election process in an effort to build voter confidence and encourage more people to take part.
2. October 20, 2020, Public Notice, “Vote-By-Mail Ballot Processing for the November 3, 2020 Consolidated General Election”<sup>58</sup>

This notice informed the public that processing ballots would commence no earlier than October 20, 2020 and that ballot “processing includes opening Vote-by-Mail Ballot return envelopes, removing ballots, and duplicating any damaged ballots and preparing the ballots to be machine read and machine reading them.”
3. October 26, 2020, Public Notice, “November 3, 2020 Consolidated General Election One Percent Manual Tally”<sup>59</sup>

This notice informed the public that, as required by California law,<sup>60</sup> Riverside County election officials scheduled a “one percent manual tally” to confirm vote counts. The “one percent” refers to the random selection of one percent of Riverside County’s 864 precincts to be included in a manual count and, if the random selection of precincts does not include all races in the county, then additional precincts are added to the manual count until all races are included in the manual count.

In conjunction with the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department personnel preparing for and conducting the November 2020 election, interested individuals could observe the election process as follows:

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<sup>57</sup> *Election Observer Panel Orientation for the November 3, 2020 Consolidated General Election*. (2020, October 8). Riverside County Registrar of Voters, Public Notice. [https://www.voteinfo.net/Elections/20201103/docs/EOP\\_Public\\_Notice\\_EN.pdf](https://www.voteinfo.net/Elections/20201103/docs/EOP_Public_Notice_EN.pdf). Accessed April 12, 2021.

<sup>58</sup> *Vote-By-Mail Ballot Processing for the November 3, 2020 Consolidated General Election*. (2020, October 20). Riverside County Registrar of Voters, Public Notice. <https://www.voteinfo.net/Elections/20201103/docs/VBMPProcessingNov32020.pdf>. Accessed April 12, 2021.

<sup>59</sup> *November 3, 2020 Consolidated General Election One Percent Manual Tally*. (2020, October 26). Riverside County Registrar of Voters, Public Notice. <https://www.voteinfo.net/Elections/20201103/docs/Manual%20Tally%20Public%20Notice%20-%20Nov%203%202020.pdf>. Accessed April 12, 2021.

<sup>60</sup> One Percent Manual Tally. (2017, October 15). California Legislative Information, California Elections Code section 15360. [https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=15360&lawCode=ELEC](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=15360&lawCode=ELEC). Accessed April 11, 2021.

- observe the proceedings at the polls, including the opening and closing procedures
- obtain information from the precinct index that is posted near the entrance
- make notes and watch election procedures
- view election-related activities at the central counting site on Election Day
- view the canvass of the vote activities following the election
- view vote-by-mail and provisional ballot processing
- ask questions of poll workers or voters at the polls, but may not interfere with the conduct of any part of the voting process
- ask questions of supervisors at the central counting site, but may not interfere with the conduct of the election procedures<sup>61</sup>

On December 3, 2020, the Riverside County Registrar of Voters certified the November 3, 2020 election for Riverside County and announced that requests for recounts needed to be submitted by December 8, 2020.

To summarize Research Question 6 findings, the evidence is conclusive that ballots were accurately processed, counted, and reported.

**Research Question 7:** Is there any evidence of election fraud that occurred during November 3, 2020 election as it was held within Riverside County?

**Finding 7:** The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury acknowledges that even the topic of “election fraud” is controversial.<sup>62, 63</sup>

In Riverside County, election fraud investigations are initiated when the Registrar of Voters Department suspects fraud and contacts the District Attorney’s Office, or when citizens contact the District Attorney’s Office directly. When allegations of election fraud are received by the Riverside County District Attorney’s Office, they are investigated by the District Attorney’s Bureau of Investigation, Public Integrity Unit. There were dozens of election fraud allegations investigated in the past six years. Types of election fraud allegations investigated include non-citizens who registered to vote, non-citizens who voted in an election, deceased persons voting,

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<sup>61</sup> *Election Observer Panel Plan (Consolidated Presidential General Election – November 3, 2020)*. (n.d.). Riverside County Registrar of Voters.

[https://www.voteinfo.net/Elections/20201103/docs/Riverside\\_EOP\\_Plan\\_Nov\\_2020.pdf](https://www.voteinfo.net/Elections/20201103/docs/Riverside_EOP_Plan_Nov_2020.pdf). Accessed April 8, 2021.

<sup>62</sup> Fund, J. & Von Spakovsky, H. (2018, October 29). The Heritage Foundation. *Voter Fraud Exists – Even Though Many in the Media Claim It Doesn’t*. <https://www.heritage.org/election-integrity/commentary/voter-fraud-exists-even-though-many-the-media-claim-it-doesnt>. Accessed April 12, 2021.

<sup>63</sup> Levitt, J. (2007, November 9). The Brennan Center for Justice. *The Truth About Voter Fraud*. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/truth-about-voter-fraud>. Accessed April 12, 2021.

persons who forged a voter's signature, citizens who voted when they knew they were not eligible to vote, and persons who submitted multiple ballots for the same election.

When investigating November 2020 allegations of election fraud, the District Attorney's Office indicated that there was no systematic or orchestrated voter disenfranchisement or election fraud. It is important to note that the District Attorney's Office has prosecuted individuals for election fraud in the past and will continue to initiate court proceedings when there is evidence of election fraud in the future, but obtaining evidence of election fraud is difficult to obtain without a subpoena, due to California privacy laws. Although both the Registrar of Voters Department and the Riverside County District Attorney's Office recognize that there was a possibility that election fraud can occur,<sup>64</sup> there was no evidence that it did occur during the November 2020 election.

The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury commends the District Attorney's Office for diligently investigating allegations of election fraud and for pursuing legal remedies when justified.

The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury commends members of the Registrar of Voters Department for the extensive and complex work they do to ensure that Riverside County elections are fair and impartial.

When Riverside County city officials were asked if there was any evidence of election fraud during the November 2020 election, none of the officials in Riverside County's 28 cities were aware of any evidence that election fraud occurred.

The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury commends Riverside County city officials for their efforts to conduct a safe, fair, and impartial election within their cities, especially during the pandemic.

When Riverside County political party leaders were asked if there was any evidence of election fraud during the November 2020 election, they expressed concerns about the election process as it is conducted in California, but none of them indicated that there was any evidence of election fraud within Riverside County.

Candidates on the November 2020 ballot were asked if there was any evidence of election fraud. Whether they won or lost their election, they all indicated there was no evidence of election fraud.

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<sup>64</sup> "Riverside County registrar accuses DA of bullying, interfering with election," The Press Enterprise, by Jeff Horseman, March 4, 2021, <https://www.pe.com/2021/03/03/riverside-county-registrar-accuses-da-of-bullying-interfering-with-election/>, Accessed March 23, 2021.

To summarize Research Question 7 findings, there is no evidence of election fraud during the November 2020 election.

## **Conclusion**

Was the Riverside County November 2020 Consolidated General Election administered fairly and impartially? The abundance of evidence leads to the conclusion, “Yes, the November 2020 election within Riverside County was administered fairly and impartially and there is no evidence of fraud.” There will always be ways to improve the Riverside County’s election process, and some of those ways to improve are listed in the “Recommendations” section of this report.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury makes the following recommendations:

### **Communication**

**Recommendation 1:** The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department make it easier for voters to locate their specific election guide, with candidate statements, and sample ballots in two ways by the end of 2021:

1. Highlight “Election Guides and Sample Ballots” on their website as they did for the options below:



2. Include the website link where voters can access their election guides, candidate statements, and sample ballots in their “News Release” announcing that the voter information guides are on the way to voters.<sup>63</sup>

Source: Finding 2

Financial Impact – There are no additional costs associated with this recommendation.

**Recommendation 2:** Anticipating that future elections will require the Registrar of Voters Department print and mail large numbers of vote-by-mail ballots to all registered voters (e.g., AB 37), the Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department submit a

detailed plan to the Riverside County Executive Office that identifies the steps needed to develop, print, and distribute future election guides and vote-by-mail ballots to registered voters. The detailed plan should include requiring printing vendors to have all election materials available for distribution to the U. S. Postal Service at least two workdays before mailing can legally commence. The detailed plan should be submitted to the Riverside County Executive Office no later than the first public Board of Supervisors meeting in 2022.

Source: Finding 2

Financial Impact – There are no additional costs associated with this recommendation.

**Recommendation 3:** The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Registrar of Voters Department produce a video series, by September 30, 2022, that illustrates the steps their department goes through in the election process. It is recommended that the video series emphasize the following topics:

- Vote-by-mail drop-off box use, security, and transportation of ballots to the ballot processing facility.
- How ballots are processed including signature confirmation and duplicate ballots voided.
- Technology usage including certification, continual updates, testing for accuracy, and manual count confirmation.

The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury suggests the Registrar of Voters Department consider inviting high schools, school districts, community colleges, and universities within Riverside County that have video production capabilities to produce the video series under its guidance.\* The video series could be produced and available for the Registrar of Voters website and Riverside County city websites.

*\* In 2017, Education Code sections 51470–51474 established the “State Seal of Civic Engagement” which encourages, and creates pathways for students “in elementary and secondary schools to become civically engaged in democratic governmental institutions at the local, state, and national levels.” High school students who meet five state requirements will be recognized with the “State Seal of Civic Engagement” on the high school diplomas. Creating videos for the Registrar of Voters Department would help students meet criteria 3 to earn this special recognition.*

Source: Finding 2

Financial Impact – Minimal if students from educational institutions are engaged in the production of these video series.



**Recommendation 4:** In collaboration with the Riverside County Executive Office, the Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Registrar of Voters Department develop and present a plan to the Board of Supervisors prior to the next primary election, that, if approved and implemented, would allow the public to view, via live streaming, all ballot processing phases in a way that maintains voter confidentiality.

Source: Finding 2

Financial Impact – There are no additional costs associated with this recommendation.

**Recommendation 5:** In collaboration with the Riverside County Executive Office, the Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Registrar of Voters Department develop a detailed plan to generate election results faster, yet accurately, and present this plan to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors no later than their first public meeting in 2022.

Source: Finding 2

Financial Impact – There are no additional costs associated with developing a detailed plan.

**Recommendation 6:** The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Registrar of Voters Department investigate what it would cost to produce at least two large signs (e.g., 36 by 24-inch square) per in-person voting location informing voters where to park and where to vote prior to the next primary election.

Source: Finding 4

Financial Impact – There are no additional costs associated with developing a detailed plan.

## **Training**

**Recommendation 7:** The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Registrar of Voters Department modify their training sessions as follows:

- For in-person voting location supervisors and assistant supervisors, insert hands-on training activities and role-playing scenarios, especially with the technology to be used in the election.
- For in-person voting location personnel not serving as a supervisor or as an assistant supervisor, modify their training sessions to include a more comprehensive view of how to assist voters when supervisors and assistant supervisors are not available.

These training enhancements should be included in future training sessions prior to the next primary election.

Source: Finding 3

Financial Impact – Additional costs are dependent on how these training enhancements are inserted into the current training sessions.

## **Technology**

**Recommendation 8:** The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Registrar of Voters Department develop and implement a policy that requires all future in-person voting locations to confirm that the technology functions properly prior to opening those locations for in-person voting. It is recommended that this policy be established and implemented prior to the next primary election.

Source: Finding 4

Financial Impact – There are no additional costs associated with this recommendation.

**Recommendation 9:** The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Registrar of Voters Department develop a detailed plan, including technology resources, to eliminate long waiting lines and to present that plan to the Board of Supervisors no later than their first public meeting in 2022.

Source: Finding 4

Financial Impact – There are no additional costs associated with this recommendation.

## **Drop-Off Boxes**

**Recommendation 10:** The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recognizes that many vote-by-mail drop-off box locations were accessible to the public only when monitored by city personnel or by Registrar of Voters Department personnel. The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Registrar of Voters Department develop and implement a plan that reinforces drop-off box security by electronically monitoring drop-off box locations accessible to the public when not otherwise monitored by city or county personnel. The plan should commence prior to the next primary election.

Source: Finding 5

Financial Impact – Since there are only a few drop-off box locations accessible to the public and not monitored by city or county personnel, the cost will be minimal.

**Recommendation 11:** The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Registrar of Voters Department redesign drop-off boxes so that they (1) include the words “Official Riverside County Registrar of Voters Ballot Drop-Off Box,” (2) have the official Riverside County insignia on them, and (3) use of colors that do not suggest affiliation with a particular political party. Drop-off box redesign should commence prior to the next primary election.

Source: Finding 5  
Financial Impact – Unknown

**Recommendation 12:** The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Registrar of Voters Department have a means to electronically track secure containers of ballots as they are transported from drop-off box locations to the county's ballot processing facility. Electronically tracking ballots as they are transported to the processing facility should commence prior to the next primary election.

Source: Finding 5  
Financial Impact – Negligible or no additional cost associated with these recommendations.

**Recommendation 13:** The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Riverside Board of Supervisors establish a policy that requires the Riverside County Executive Office to schedule and preside over at least one coordinating meeting, per election, among various county departments that have direct or indirect responsibility for ensuring safe and fair elections, commencing prior to the next primary election, and continuing thereafter.

It is suggested that representatives from the District Attorney's Office, Registrar of Voters Department, Sheriff's Department, Information Technology Department, and County Public Information Officer attend this meeting, so that logistical and communication issues can be addressed prior to each election held in Riverside County.

Source: Finding 4  
Financial Impact – There are no additional costs associated with this recommendation.

## **REQUIRED RESPONSES**

The following responses are required pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05:

From the following Governing bodies within 90 days:

- Riverside County Board of Supervisors; Recommendations 4, 5, 9 and 13.

From the following Riverside County Agencies and/or Departments within 90 days:

- The Riverside County Executive Office; Recommendations 2, 4, 5 and 13.
- The Riverside County Registrar of Voters Department; Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

## **REQUESTED RESPONSES**

The Civil Grand Jury would like to request a response from the following County Agencies within 60 days:

- The Riverside County District Attorney's Office; Recommendation 13.
- The Riverside County Sheriff's Office; Recommendation 13

### **Legal Reference:**

"No later than 90 days after the grand jury submits a final report on the operations of any public agency subject to its reviewing authority, the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body, and every elected county officer or agency head for which the grand jury has responsibility pursuant to Section 914.1 shall comment within 60 days to the presiding judge of the superior court, with an information copy sent to the board of supervisors, on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of that county officer or agency head and any agency or agencies which that officer or agency head supervises or controls. In any city and county, the mayor shall also comment on the findings and recommendations. All of these comments and reports shall forthwith be submitted to the presiding judge of the superior court who impaneled the grand jury" (Penal Code 933 (c)).

## **Important Note: Riverside County Civil Grand Jury Jurisdiction**

The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury is comprised of 19 jurors who come from various backgrounds and worldviews. It is representative of Riverside County residents in general.

The Riverside County Civil Grand Jury serves as an independent "watchdog" for Riverside County citizens. According to California Penal Code 925, "The grand jury shall investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of the officers, departments, or functions of the county including those operations, accounts, and records of any special legislative district or other district in the county created pursuant to state law for which the officers of the county are serving in their ex officio capacity as officers of the districts. The investigations may be conducted on some selective basis each year, but the grand jury shall not duplicate any examination of financial statements which has been performed by or for the board of supervisors pursuant to Section 25250 of the Government Code; this provision shall not be construed to limit the power of the grand jury to investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of the officers, departments,

or functions of the county. The grand jury may enter into a joint contract with the board of supervisors to employ the services of an expert as provided for in Section 926.”

### **List of 75 Documents Reviewed and Used**

- Ballot Drop Box Location Addresses. Riverside County.
- Ballot Types. Riverside County.
- BallotTrax-Troubleshooting. California Secretary of State.
- BallotTrax-Troubleshooting. California Secretary of State.
- Board of Supervisors Agenda. (2020, December 8). Riverside County.
- California Assembly Bill 860. (2020, June 18).
- California Election Results. (2020, November).
- California Executive Order N-64-20. (2020, May 8).
- California Executive Order N-67-20. (2020, June 3).
- California Senate Bill 244. (2018, September 28).
- California Senate Bill 423. (2020, August 6).
- California Voter Bill of Rights. California Secretary of State.
- California Voting System Standards. (2014, October). California Secretary of State.
- Candidate Filing Seminar 2020. Riverside County.
- Candidate Proof List, November 2020. Riverside County.
- Certification of Voting Systems and Voting System Equipment. California Secretary of State.
- City Elections Manual 2020. Riverside County.
- City Voter Assistance Center Agreement. Riverside County.
- Civil Grand Jury Drop-Off Box Workers’ Survey. Riverside County.
- Conflict Management Guide for Staff Members. Riverside County.
- Consolidated General Election Guide. Riverside County.
- County Voter Information Guides on the Way for November 3 Presidential General Election. News Release. (2020, September 24). Riverside County.
- Customer Service Training for Staff Members. Riverside County.
- Detecting and Correcting Election Irregularities. (2003, October 9). Mebane, Jr., W., Sekhon, J., & Wand, J.
- District Attorney. Confidential Document 1. (2021, March 17). Riverside County.
- District Attorney. Confidential Document 2. (2021, March 17). Riverside County.
- District Attorney. Confidential Document 3. (2021, March 17). Riverside County.
- District Attorney. Confidential Document 4. (2021, March 17). Riverside County.
- Dominion Contract. (2019, May 19). Riverside County.

- Drop-off boxes. Elections Division Letter. (2020, June 26). California Secretary of State.
- Early Voting Available at Registrar's Office and Malls in Riverside, Palm Desert and Temecula. News Release. (2020, October 22). Riverside County.
- Election After Action Report. (2021, May 11). Riverside County Executive Office. Riverside County.
- Election Observer Panel Orientation for the November 3, 2020 Consolidated General Election. Public Notice. (2020, October 8). Riverside County.
- Election Observer Panel Plan for November 2020. Riverside County.
- Election Officer Training November 2020 Video. Riverside County.
- Election Statement and Office Information. United States Representative, 42nd District.
- Election Transparency. (2021, February). MITRE Data Analytics.
- Help America Vote Act of 2002. (2002, October 29). Public Law 107-252.
- Implementation of Automatic Voter Registration in California. (2020, March). Public Policy Institute of California.
- In-Person Voting is Now Open Notice. Riverside County.
- In-Person Voting Options Available at Voter Assistance Centers throughout Riverside County. News Release. (2020, October 30). Riverside County.
- Line Management Training Presentation. Riverside County.
- Logic and Accuracy Testing Invitation. Public Notice. (2020, October 12). Riverside County.
- November 2020 Election Review Presentation. Riverside County.
- One Percent Manual Tally. Public Notice. (2020, October 26). Riverside County.
- Orange County Law Enforcement Guide. Vote Center Card. Orange County.
- Preventing Spread of COVID-19 Training. Riverside County.
- Primary Law Group Legal Complaint. (2021, January 4).
- Registrar of Voters Public Survey. Riverside County.
- Registrar's Office Certifies Results of November 3 Election. News Release. (2020, December 4). Riverside County.
- Return Reminder: Items to Bring Back to ROV Every Night. Riverside County.
- Revised Guidance. Elections Division Letter. (2020, June 30). California Secretary of State.
- Signature Verification Letter. (2020, October 24). Riverside County.
- Statement of Vote: General Election November 2020. California Secretary of State.
- Three Ways to Vote Notice. Riverside County.
- Types of Ballots November 2020. Riverside County.
- United States Constitution. (1787, September 17).

- Unsigned Ballot Envelope Letter. (2020, October 24). Riverside County.
- Vote Safe Flyer. California Secretary of State.
- Vote Safe. California Secretary of State.
- Vote-by-Mail Ballots for November 3 Presidential General Election on the Way to Voters. News Release. (2020, October 5). Riverside County.
- Vote-By-Mail Processing. Public Notice. (2020, October 20). Riverside County.
- Vote-By-Mail. City Agreement 2020. Riverside County.
- Voter Assistance Center Guide. Riverside County.
- Voter Assistance Center IT Equipment Network Connection Layout. Riverside County.
- Voter Assistance Center Opening and Closing Training Academy. Riverside County.
- Voter Assistance Center Supervisor Training Setup and Layout. Riverside County.
- Voter Assistance Centers and Drop-Off Staff Names. Riverside County.
- Voter Intimidation Prohibited. Elections Division Letter. (2020, October 6). California Secretary of State.
- Voter Precincts and Ballot Types. Riverside County.
- Voter Registration Figures for Riverside County October 26, 2020. California Secretary of State.
- Voters Encouraged to Cast a Ballot in the Nov. 3 Presidential General Election. News Release. (2020, November 3). Riverside County.
- Voting Law Compliance. (2021, January). California Secretary of State.
- What Happens to Your Ballot? Riverside County.
- Where's My Ballot. California Secretary of State.

### **List of 18 Websites and Videos Viewed but Not in the Reference Section**

- *Federal Elections Commission*. (n.d.). <https://www.fec.gov/>. Accessed March 26, 2021.
- *California Code of Regulations*. (n.d.). <https://oal.ca.gov/>. Accessed April 10, 2021.
- *Election 2020*. (n.d.). California Secretary of State. <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/election-2020>. Accessed March 26, 2021.
- *Where's My Ballot? - New tool for California Voters to Track their Vote-by-Mail Ballots* (Video). (2020, February 5). California Secretary of State. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwmEvFmgxys>. Accessed April 2, 2021.
- *About Election Division*. (n.d.). California Secretary of State.



- <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/about-elections-division>. Accessed March 26, 2021.
- *November 3, 2020 Consolidated General Election*. (2020, December 3). Riverside County Registrar of Voters. [https://voteinfo.net/elections/20201103/2020\\_11\\_03.asp](https://voteinfo.net/elections/20201103/2020_11_03.asp). Accessed March 26, 2021.
  - *Voter Assistance Centers*. (2020, October 18). Riverside County Registrar of Voters. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6aLDmBiYq4>. Accessed March 26, 2021.
  - *November 2020 Election Voting Options*. (2020, October 17). Riverside County Registrar of Voters. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rcc7a9HSMAl>. Accessed March 26, 2021.
  - *Riverside County Vote by Mail Voting Instructions*. (2019, October 22). Riverside County Registrar of Voters. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bKBwLk8C1Y>. Accessed March 26, 2021.
  - *Remote Accessible Vote by Mail*. (n.d.). California Secretary of State. <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/remote-accessible-vote-mail>. Accessed March 26, 2021.
  - *Riverside County Registrar of Voters Election Officer Training for November 2020*. (2020, October 29). Riverside County Registrar of Voters. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIHtk6P2kuk>. Accessed March 26, 2021.
  - *Voting on ICX YT CUT*. (2019, October 23). Pennsylvania State Video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vN2wYtLh2CQ>. Accessed March 26, 2021.
  - *Rep. Calvert Statement on the Counting of Electoral College Votes*. (2021, January 7). Congressional Representative Calvert. <https://calvert.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-calvert-statement-counting-electoral-college-votes>. Accessed March 25, 2021.
  - *Election Litigation: Voting Irregularities*. (2019, July 15). Federal Judicial Center. <https://www.fjc.gov/sites/default/files/materials/10/EE-VAE-1-17-cv-1295-Cole.pdf>. Accessed March 26, 2021.
  - *Joint Statement from Elections Infrastructure Government Coordinating Council & the Election Infrastructure Sector Coordinating Executive Committees*. (2020, November 12). The National Risk Management Center, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. <https://www.cisa.gov/news/2020/11/12/joint-statement-elections-infrastructure-government-coordinating-council-election>. Accessed March 26, 2021.
  - *Election Risk Profile Tool*. (2020, July). The National Risk Management Center, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

<https://www.cisa.gov/election-risk-profile-tool>. Accessed March 25, 2021.

- Taylor Begley. (2020, November 12). KESQ Channel 3 Palm Springs. *Riverside County halfway through election audit, Registrar of Voters says no red flags*. <https://kesq.com/news/2020/11/12/riverside-county-halfway-through-election-audit-registrar-of-voters-says-no-red-flags/>. Accessed March 26, 2021.
- Justin Tarpenting. (2020, December 2). *Art Tinoco discusses the readiness for the Registrar of Voters to certify election results*. <https://kesq.com/news/your-vote/2020/12/02/art-tinoco-discusses-the-readiness-for-the-registrar-of-voters-to-certify-election-results/>. Accessed March 26, 2021.

## APPENDIX 1

### States Changed Election Laws for November 2020 Election

The following states changed their election laws for the November 2020 Presidential election:

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- California
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- Texas
- Vermont
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin

## Appendix 2

### Riverside County Voter Registration Figures by Political Party (Updated October 26, 2020)

	Democratic Party	Republican Party	American Independent Party	Green Party	Libertarian Party	Peace and Freedom	Miscellaneous	Non Political Party	Total
	493,331	405,411	44,259	3,601	11,791	6,078	11,981	267,589	1,244,041
<b>COUNTY TOTAL</b>	<b>493,331</b>	<b>405,411</b>	<b>44,259</b>	<b>3,601</b>	<b>11,791</b>	<b>6,078</b>	<b>11,981</b>	<b>267,589</b>	<b>1,244,041</b>
36th Congressional District	162,021	119,972	14,098	1,132	3,250	1,994	3,781	78,172	384,420
41st Congressional District	168,799	87,799	10,938	1,120	3,007	2,246	3,470	79,582	356,961
42nd Congressional District	147,069	177,032	16,906	1,203	4,839	1,673	4,230	98,035	450,987
50th Congressional District	15,442	20,608	2,317	146	695	165	500	11,800	51,673
<b>Congressional District Total</b>	<b>493,331</b>	<b>405,411</b>	<b>44,259</b>	<b>3,601</b>	<b>11,791</b>	<b>6,078</b>	<b>11,981</b>	<b>267,589</b>	<b>1,244,041</b>
23rd Senatorial District	71,342	75,217	8,469	614	1,981	1,061	2,266	43,363	204,313
28th Senatorial District	201,638	193,075	20,591	1,521	5,500	2,284	5,069	113,994	543,672
31st Senatorial District	220,351	137,119	15,199	1,466	4,310	2,733	4,646	110,232	496,056
<b>Senatorial Total</b>	<b>493,331</b>	<b>405,411</b>	<b>44,259</b>	<b>3,601</b>	<b>11,791</b>	<b>6,078</b>	<b>11,981</b>	<b>267,589</b>	<b>1,244,041</b>
42nd Assembly District	84,832	71,069	8,073	597	1,857	948	2,028	42,145	211,549
56th Assembly District	62,797	32,576	4,077	389	952	795	1,260	26,825	129,671
60th Assembly District	104,483	79,211	7,719	666	2,239	1,188	2,310	55,832	253,648
61st Assembly District	115,868	57,908	7,480	800	2,071	1,545	2,336	54,400	242,408
67th Assembly District	95,382	122,202	12,341	856	3,341	1,265	3,057	66,197	304,641
71st Assembly District	6,654	11,018	1,144	93	305	94	243	4,565	24,116
75th Assembly District	23,315	31,427	3,425	200	1,026	243	747	17,625	78,008
<b>Assembly Total</b>	<b>493,331</b>	<b>405,411</b>	<b>44,259</b>	<b>3,601</b>	<b>11,791</b>	<b>6,078</b>	<b>11,981</b>	<b>267,589</b>	<b>1,244,041</b>
1st Supervisorial District	93,127	83,111	8,373	796	2,323	1,166	2,231	51,938	243,065
2nd Supervisorial District	95,611	75,499	7,503	657	2,205	1,108	2,195	53,007	237,785
3rd Supervisorial District	86,377	106,150	11,751	777	3,145	1,236	2,879	60,655	272,970
4th Supervisorial District	106,329	64,696	7,511	643	1,778	1,076	2,052	44,927	229,012
5th Supervisorial District	111,887	75,955	9,121	728	2,340	1,492	2,624	57,062	261,209
<b>Supervisorial District Total</b>	<b>493,331</b>	<b>405,411</b>	<b>44,259</b>	<b>3,601</b>	<b>11,791</b>	<b>6,078</b>	<b>11,981</b>	<b>267,589</b>	<b>1,244,041</b>
City of Banning	6,128	5,479	669	36	137	89	149	3,079	15,766
City of Beaumont	10,321	10,525	1,151	70	267	120	251	6,300	29,005
City of Blythe	1,821	1,792	215	9	34	31	59	1,205	5,166
City of Calimesa	1,679	3,181	270	15	70	22	71	1,159	6,467
City of Canyon Lake	1,433	4,713	323	18	85	20	64	1,297	7,953
City of Cathedral City	13,529	5,304	775	77	203	145	256	5,240	25,529
City of Coachella	8,977	1,560	300	52	103	137	122	3,402	14,653
City of Corona	31,917	29,687	2,694	230	836	330	761	18,408	84,863
City of Desert Hot Springs	5,948	3,050	517	63	107	121	143	2,951	12,900
City of Eastvale	14,020	11,077	1,036	67	277	124	306	9,108	36,015
City of Hemet	16,367	15,171	1,934	132	354	285	536	9,614	44,393
City of Indian Wells	774	1,735	127	5	26	0	16	542	3,225
City of Indio	19,542	11,413	1,299	100	315	212	401	8,122	41,404
City of Jurupa Valley	22,054	12,472	1,433	123	391	298	526	11,061	48,358
City of Lake Elsinore	12,043	11,020	1,356	102	410	191	317	8,033	33,472
City of La Quinta	8,482	9,447	948	54	215	69	202	4,649	24,066
City of Menifee	19,447	24,690	2,513	182	667	206	659	12,393	60,757
City of Moreno Valley	50,809	19,955	2,980	281	782	714	952	22,729	99,202
City of Murrieta	18,379	27,313	2,693	153	796	237	613	14,391	64,575
City of Norco	3,407	7,677	477	39	156	36	115	2,575	14,482
City of Palm Desert	12,020	12,081	1,213	70	301	93	259	6,026	32,063
City of Palm Springs	17,779	5,108	834	102	209	96	249	4,940	29,317
City of Perris	17,691	5,125	848	89	232	264	367	7,836	32,452
City of Rancho Mirage	5,155	4,288	372	24	81	25	82	2,232	12,259
City of Riverside	70,151	44,708	5,011	546	1,440	820	1,397	33,249	157,322
City of San Jacinto	9,610	6,489	913	91	243	194	307	5,636	23,483
City of Temecula	19,461	25,838	2,863	166	848	203	615	14,666	64,660
City of Wildomar	5,713	8,721	883	84	240	82	217	4,488	20,428
<b>Cities Total</b>	<b>424,657</b>	<b>329,619</b>	<b>36,647</b>	<b>2,980</b>	<b>9,825</b>	<b>5,164</b>	<b>10,012</b>	<b>225,331</b>	<b>1,044,235</b>
Unincorporated Areas	68,674	75,792	7,612	621	1,966	914	1,969	42,258	199,806
<b>Unincorporated Areas Total</b>	<b>68,674</b>	<b>75,792</b>	<b>7,612</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>1,966</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>1,969</b>	<b>42,258</b>	<b>199,806</b>

## APPENDIX 3

### Demographics: Overall Riverside County

#### Important Notes:

“The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requires federal agencies to use a minimum of two ethnicities in collecting and reporting data: **Hispanic or Latino** and **Not Hispanic or Latino**. OMB defines "Hispanic or Latino" as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race” (<https://www.census.gov/topics/population/hispanic-origin/about.html>.)

#### Definitions:

**Ethnicity:** An ethnic group or ethnicity is a population group whose members identify with each other based on common nationality or shared cultural traditions.

**Race:** The term race refers to the concept of dividing people into populations or groups based on various sets of physical characteristics (which usually result from genetic ancestry).

Race by Total Population		
Race	Population	Percentage
White	1,444,654	59.91%
Black or African American	156,836	6.50%
American Indian and Alaska Native	19,765	0.82%
Asian	157,261	6.52%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	7,485	0.31%
Some Other Race	519,122	21.53%
Two or More Races	106,316	4.41%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>2,411,439</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Demographics: Overall Riverside County

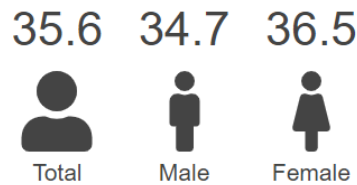
Race by Non-Hispanic		
White	851,702	35.32%
Asian	152,347	6.32%
Black or African American	147,160	6.10%
Two or More Races	57,983	2.40%
American Indian and Alaska Native	10,362	0.43%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	6,471	0.27%
Some Other Race	5,936	0.25%
<b>Total Non-Hispanic</b>	<b>1,231,961</b>	<b>51.09%</b>

**APPENDIX 3 (Continued)**

<b>Race by Hispanic</b>		
<b>Race</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>592,952</b>	<b>24.59%</b>
<b>Some Other Race</b>	<b>513,186</b>	<b>21.28%</b>
<b>Two or More Races</b>	<b>48,333</b>	<b>2.00%</b>
<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>9,676</b>	<b>0.40%</b>
<b>American Indian and Alaska Native</b>	<b>9,403</b>	<b>0.39%</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>4,914</b>	<b>0.20%</b>
<b>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>0.04%</b>
<b>Total Hispanic</b>	<b>1,179,478</b>	<b>48.90%</b>

<b>Riverside County, California Earnings by Educational Attainment</b>			
<b>Formal Education Levels</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>\$38,011</b>	<b>\$44,143</b>	<b>\$31,004</b>
<b>Less Than High School</b>	<b>\$25,027</b>	<b>\$30,021</b>	<b>\$17,434</b>
<b>High School Grad</b>	<b>\$32,022</b>	<b>\$38,914</b>	<b>\$26,108</b>
<b>Some College</b>	<b>\$39,294</b>	<b>\$49,347</b>	<b>\$31,316</b>
<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	<b>\$54,710</b>	<b>\$65,151</b>	<b>\$45,899</b>
<b>Graduate Degree</b>	<b>\$80,929</b>	<b>\$90,458</b>	<b>\$74,612</b>

**Riverside County, California  
Median Age**



**Riverside County, California  
Adults**

There are 1,797,290 adults, (340,575 of whom are seniors) in Riverside County, California.

**Appendix 3 Source: US Census 2019 ACS 5-Year Survey (Table B03002)**

Report Issued: 06/28/2021  
Report Public: 07/01/2021  
Response Due: 10/01/2021