News Release

Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections
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Website: www.votescount.com & www.sccoclerk.com

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No postage necessary to return mail ballots in Santa Cruz County

The more than 91,000 voters in Santa Cruz County who have been mailed ballots for the November Presidential Election won't have to hunt for a postage stamp to return their ballot since postage is now paid for Santa Cruz County voters.

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors took the positive step this summer when the board approved the County Clerk/Elections budget with funds to cover the cost of return postage for vote-by-mail ballots.

There are now several options for returning a vote-by-mail ballot.

1. **Mail it** in the postage paid envelope. Ballots postmarked no later than Tuesday, November 8, and received by the elections official by the 3rd day after the election will be counted once the voter information is verified. Since Friday after the election this year is a holiday, ballots received by Monday, November 14 that are postmarked on or before November 8 are eligible to be counted.

2. **Drop it off 24/7.** There are now five ballot drop boxes in the county where voters can drive up and drop off their ballots:

    - 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, in front of the county building
    - 212 Church St., Santa Cruz, public parking lot
    - 1 Civic Center Dr., Scotts Valley City Hall parking lot
    - 420 Capitola Ave., Capitola City Hall parking lot
    - 316 Rodriguez St., Watsonville public parking lot 14

    A sixth ballot drop box is being installed at Quarry Plaza at UCSC near the bookstore where voters can drop off a ballot.

3. **Walk it in** to the County Elections Office or a City Clerk's Office during regular business hours.

4. **Return it on Election Day** to any polling place in Santa Cruz County on Tuesday, November 8, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voters are reminded they must sign and date the envelope before sealing their ballot inside. Do NOT let someone else sign your name for you. Your signature on your ballot envelope must compare to the signature on your voter registration card on file at the County Elections Office. Also, vote-by-mail ballots must be returned to the county that issued it.

Voters may also obtain a ballot in person at the Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department located at 701 Ocean Street, Room 210 in Santa Cruz, and the Watsonville City Clerk's Office at 275 Main St., 4th

Floor (6th floor of the parking garage) in Watsonville. Both offices are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and will offer extended voting hours on Saturday and Sunday November 4 and 5, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Election Day, November 8, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The last day to register to vote in the November 8, 2016 Presidential Primary Election is October 24. Voters can register online at www.registertovote.ca.gov or pick up a card at any post office, library, city hall or county elections office.

For more information, please contact the County Clerk/Elections Department at 831-454-2060 or visit us online at www.votescount.com.