

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 3.22
(ID # 17663)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, November 16, 2021

FROM : EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Approval of the Registrar of Voters Response to the 2020-2021 Grand Jury Report: Was the Riverside County November 2020 Consolidated General Election Administered Fairly and Impartially?, Direct the Response to the Grand Jury, Presiding Judge, and County Clerk-Recorder (for mandatory filing with the state), All Districts. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve, with or without modification, the attached response to the 2020-2021 Grand Jury Report: Was the Riverside County November 2020 Consolidated General Election Administered Fairly and Impartially? ; and
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to immediately forward the Board's finalized responses to the Grand Jury, the Presiding Judge and to the County Clerk-Recorder (for mandatory filing with the state).

ACTION:Policy


Rebecca Spencer


11/7/2021


Juan C. Perez, Chief Operating Officer

11/10/2021

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A			Budget Adjustment: No	
			For Fiscal Year: 21/22	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

Penal Code Section 933(c) requires Board of Supervisors comment on the Grand Jury's recommendations pertaining to matters under the Board's control. In addition, responses must be provided to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 90 days of receipt of the report.

The attached responses constitutes a joint response from the Board of Supervisors, Registrar of Voters and Executive Office in accordance with the required responses identified in the Grand Jury Report.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Grand Jury Report "Was the Riverside County November 2020 Consolidated General Election Administered Fairly and Impartially?"
- B. Response to Grand Jury Report



 Gregory J. Priamos, Director County Counsel 11/5/2021

**2020/21 Grand Jury Report
Riverside County Registrar of Voters**

Grand Jury Finding #1:

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.

Response to Grand Jury Finding #1:

The Riverside County Registrar of Voters agrees with Finding 1.

Grand Jury Finding #2:

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.

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