



950 Maidu Ave Suite 210, Nevada City, CA 95959
950 Maidu Ave Suite 250, Nevada City, CA 95959
mynevadacounty.com/nc/recorder

• Recorder (530) 265-1221 • Fax (530) 265-9842
• Elections (530) 265-1298 • Fax (530) 265-9829
mynevadacounty.com/nc/elections

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June 3, 2014 Statewide Direct Primary Election News from Nevada County Elections

The June 3, 2014 Statewide Direct Primary Election is rapidly approaching. Ballots have already been sent to our Uniformed and Overseas voters, well before the April 19th E-45 deadline. We have greatly improved our Military/Overseas ballot delivery by implementing Democracy Live, a web-based voter service and electronic ballot delivery system.

The most significant challenge to serving military and overseas voters is the long time it takes to deliver ballots and have them returned. The Democracy Live technology enables us to streamline ballot delivery to our voters anywhere in the world. Democracy Live provides the voter with an intuitive, easy-to-follow process that ensures the correct ballot is delivered every time, and the voter has everything necessary to complete and return their ballot in accordance with State and Federal laws.

Democracy Live features include online voter registration, notification of ballot availability, the ability to retrieve ballots online, and to track ballot return status for military and overseas voters. Current law does not allow voters to mark the ballot online or return the ballot via email. Electronically delivered ballots must be mailed or faxed back to the Elections Department. We anticipate an increase in ballot return rates for military and overseas voters with implementation of Democracy Live software.

For the first time in recent memory, there will be no party ballots given to voters. **All voters can now vote in the June 3, 2014 Statewide Direct Primary Election, regardless of party preference.**

Electronic Poll Book System

When someone appears at a polling place to cast a ballot, a poll worker checks a paper file to see whether the person is properly registered to vote in that precinct. This paper file, called a Poll Book or Poll Roster, is laboriously prepared by hand, four for each of the 56 polling place precincts in our county, two weeks before the election. What's more, these rosters must be supplemented, again by hand, to correct for late absentee voter information – for each polling place precinct.

Each time a voter attempts to vote at an incorrect polling place, a poll worker must phone the Elections Office to verify the correct polling place. It requires eight staff members to handle this telephonic traffic.

There were 1,879 provisional voters in the last election. It costs the county between \$5 and \$20 for each affidavit related to provisional voting, resulting in a substantial cost per election.

Following each election, each name in every roster must be manually scanned into the record, an activity that takes three staff members two weeks to complete.

Predictably, there will be errors in all of these labor-intensive, time-sensitive activities.

There is a better way.

We will be conducting a pilot project which will put a touch screen in fifteen (15) polling places with up-to the-minute, comprehensive voter information available. The electronic poll book system will make the paper process for check-in obsolete and instead transform it into an automated process. Fatigued poll workers (average age 75, working a 13-hour day) can accomplish election night ballot reconciliation in five minutes rather than 45 minutes or more with the paper process. The expediency of this automated process will allow election night information to be processed more quickly, allowing election results to be posted earlier.

The overall benefits of implementing the electronic poll book system in Nevada County will include: increased speed of processing voters, higher level of accuracy, quicker posting of election results, and a reduction in the number of temporary employees resulting in substantial cost reductions per election. This cost reduction will save \$39,300 per election; alternatively \$196,500 for five elections.

Offices on the ballot

The June 3, 2014 Statewide Direct Primary Election is held to vote on statewide and local measures and local offices as well as nominate candidates for voter-nominated offices:

State Voter-Nominated

Governor
Lieutenant Governor
Secretary of State
Controller
Treasurer
Attorney General
Insurance Commissioner
Board of Equalization
United States Representative
State Assembly Member

County Non-Partisan

Board of Supervisor District 3*
Board of Supervisor District 4*
Assessor
Auditor-Controller
Clerk-Recorder/Registrar
District Attorney
Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator
Treasurer/Tax Collector
Superior Court Judge
Nevada County Superintendent of Schools*
Placer County Superintendent of Schools*

State Non-Partisan Office

Superintendent of Public Instruction

City Contests Non-Partisan*

Nevada City Council
Nevada City Treasurer

Local Measures*

North San Juan Fire Protection District Measure Q
Town of Truckee Measure R

***May not be applicable to your ballot. (If residence address is not located within the district)**

Important Dates and Deadlines

May 19, 2014 is the last day to register to vote if you wish to participate and vote on June 3, 2014. You may register online at <http://registertovote.ca.gov>. Vote-by-Mail ballots will be mailed during the week of May 5, 2014. All ballots must be received in the Elections Office or at a polling place by 8 PM on Tuesday, June 3, 2014. Post-marks do not count. Starting with this election, vote by mail voters will be receiving an "I Voted" sticker with their ballot.

It is our pleasure to serve the citizens of Nevada County. We will continue to make improvements to make your voting experience better.

Gregory J. Diaz
Nevada County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar