



Dean C. Logan
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

May 26, 2015

Honorable Alita L. Godwin, CMC
City Clerk, City of Compton
205 South Willowbrook Avenue
Compton, California 90220

UPDATE ON VOTER REGISTRATION FILE INQUIRIES

Dear Ms. Godwin:

This follows up on our meeting regarding voter registration file maintenance and our review of inquiries and concerns addressed to our respective offices during the City of Compton's April 15, 2015 municipal election.

At our meeting on May 1, we discussed several issues regarding the accuracy and integrity of the voter file and the regulatory framework for file maintenance and elections administration. Based on concerns expressed during the April 15, 2015 municipal election, you also requested that my office conduct an independent review of the voter file for Council District 1 and 4 in advance of the June 2 runoff. Finally, we agreed to review voter registration affidavits and vote by mail records for multiple voters registered at a common address and, based on our findings, to jointly refer any anomalies or irregularities to the District Attorney's Public Integrity Unit for further review.

Following are brief updates on these activities:

- My office completed the review of the voter file in **Council Districts 1 and 4**. In doing so, we used specific queries to identify duplicate voter registrations, incomplete or mis-keyed data and deceased voters. As a result of our review, **we cancelled 356 records and inactivated one record**. My understanding is that the **roster file for the June 2 runoff will be pulled today and these updates are reflected in that file**.
- We are continuing to review and compile records associated with multiple registrations at a common address. Letters were mailed to the identified voters requesting confirmation of their residence and accuracy of the information on their voter registration records. We anticipate completion of our review by mid-June. Once complete, we will work with you on a joint status report at which time we can determine if a referral to the District Attorney's Public Integrity Unit is appropriate.
- You asked for clarification on "inactive" voter status. Federal and state voter registration requirements direct the inactivation of voter records based on specific conditions – most commonly the receipt of undeliverable election mail (i.e. Sample Ballots and vote by mail ballots). Voters with an inactive status are not included in the mailing of sample ballots or vote by mail ballots; however they remain on the

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voter file and appear in rosters until a voter updates their record or the Registrar receives additional information indicating that the registration can be canceled (i.e. notice of registration in another jurisdiction, notice of death, etc.). If an inactive voter appears to vote on Election Day or requests a vote by mail ballot, by law, their registration is automatically reactivated and they are issued a regular ballot.

- Based on undeliverable sample ballots and vote by mail ballots provided by your office, 3,123 voters were moved from active to inactive status following the City's 2013 municipal election. An additional 115 were inactivated and 25 cancelled based on undeliverable mail you provided following the April 15, 2015 election. Currently, the voter file for the City contains 43,142 active voter registration records and 20,688 inactive voter registrations. 2,690 records have been canceled in the City since the 2013 municipal election.

Custody and maintenance of the County's voter file is a core function of the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and involves myriad processes and activities associated with ensuring eligible citizens who register to vote are properly assigned to the appropriate jurisdictions and are provided information essential to their ability to exercise the voting franchise.

This office conducts ongoing and regularly scheduled list maintenance activities that identify and update invalid or inactive records while also ensuring a high degree of confidence in avoiding false-positive data matches that could potentially impinge on voter rights. These activities require securely matching the voter file to various available databases, such as the United States Postal Service (USPS) National Change of Address (NCOA) Program and Address Correction Service (ACS), State Department of Health records, Social Security Administration death notification data and California State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) data.

We recognize the City's reliance on voter registration records maintained by this office to conduct its municipal elections. The integrity of the elections process relies both on voter file list maintenance activities and on voter conduct aligned to the oaths subscribed to in the act of registration and voting. These provisions of the law operate in parallel to prevent unauthorized purging of voter records and to prevent barriers to voting.

I had intended to be present at the Council Meeting this evening to provide this update; however due to a critical meeting and legislative hearing in Sacramento on Wednesday morning pertaining to time sensitive elections-related legislative proposals, I am unable to attend. I hope that the information provided in this letter is helpful. I appreciate the approach you have taken in working with my office on these issues and I look forward to continued collaboration.

Sincerely,



DEAN C. LOGAN
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

c: Mayor, City of Compton
Members, Compton City Council
City Attorney

