



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

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CONNOR B. McCORMACK
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

July 2, 2002

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: Conny B. McCormack, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

FINALIZING TOUCHSCREEN EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Following your Board's April 16, 2002 approval of a contract for electronic touchscreen voting equipment to conduct early voting in conjunction with the November 2002 General Election, members of the Touchscreen Voting Task Force began surveying dozens of potential locations. During this time we have been working with deputies in your offices on this major project. We have now prepared a list of recommendations that we are submitting to you and your deputies for final site selections.

Criteria for Selection

Equipment purchase for this program is sufficient to provide four early voting sites in each Supervisorial District. Overall the Task Force looked for sites that would be of adequate size not only to serve voters in the upcoming November Election, but that are also expected to be consistently available into the future. We have learned from the experience of other counties that have implemented touchscreen early voting programs that once voters are routinely provided with this voting option, the program grows dramatically in popularity. Therefore, selected sites must be large enough to accommodate anticipated growth.

The major factors considered when ranking recommended sites included:

Physical Characteristics of Site

- Adequate size of room (or area) offered for early voting
- Handicapped accessibility
- Free or fee-waived parking

Geography and Demographics

- Proximity to freeways, major surface arteries and/or public transportation
- Balance of sites both within and among Supervisorial districts
- Mix of public/private sites

Host Commitment and Community Support

- Sites offered by City Clerks (and others) who offered special support were prioritized
- Hosts of many of the recommended sites have offered to coordinate publicity and voter outreach efforts

Voters With Specific Needs

While early voting on touchscreen devices will be made available to all registered voters, touchscreen voting is an exceptional way to assist voters for whom English is a second language as well as voters who are blind or visually impaired. The touchscreen ballot will be presented in a choice of the seven mandated languages. Touchscreen units also contain an audio component that allows private and independent voting for the sight impaired.

As you may recall, for the touchscreen voting pilot program in the November 2000 Election, we partnered with the Braille Institute. By using their mailing list, we were able to reach out to thousands of blind and visually impaired voters. Those who took advantage of the availability of the new system provided extremely positive feedback on their independent voting experience. The Braille Institute requested selection of their Los Angeles headquarters as a touchscreen site and we have agreed in order to further develop this partnership. Consequently, the Braille Institute was selected as the 21st site for the November 2002 Election. As with all the other 20 early voting sites, the Braille Institute will serve any voter who chooses to cast a ballot at that site.

Timeline for Final Site Selections

Last week we contacted your deputies to establishment appointments to review the list of recommended sites for each Supervisorial District. Based on availability of a majority of Board deputies, a meeting was scheduled at the Hall of Administration, Room 830, for Wednesday, July 3 from 2 – 3:30 p.m. Any Board office unable to be represented at that meeting is requested to schedule a time for review during the week of July 8th. Site selections must be finalized by July 15th in order to install T1 communication lines and finalize the advertisement text for the sample ballot booklets.

We know you share our enthusiasm about this exciting program. If you or your staff have additional questions, please call me.

c: Members, Touchscreen Voting Task Force

CMC:drw