



Solano County Registrar of Voters Office

Purpose:

2020 Direct Primary and General Election Planning

Presented by:

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March 26, 2019



Summary of Presentation

- New mandate from the Secretary of State
- Recommendation on voting methodology (traditional polling places vs regional voting centers)
- Description pros and cons to help inform the choice (costs, staffing needs, changes in process and outcomes)
- Schedule of events leading up to 2020 election cycle



Recommendation action

ROV Recommendation:

- 1) Continue with proven practice of polling place elections for all of 2020.**
- 2) Approve Resolution authorizing CAO to submit application for grant funding of \$1,409,500 to purchase a new voting system.**
 - Plan for an additional estimated \$838K one-time increase in 19/20 budget for county matching funds.
- 3) Authorize CAO to negotiate and submit documents necessary for completion of agreement.**
- 4) Authorize ROV to release a Request for Information with Quote to purchase new voting system.**



Alternate Option

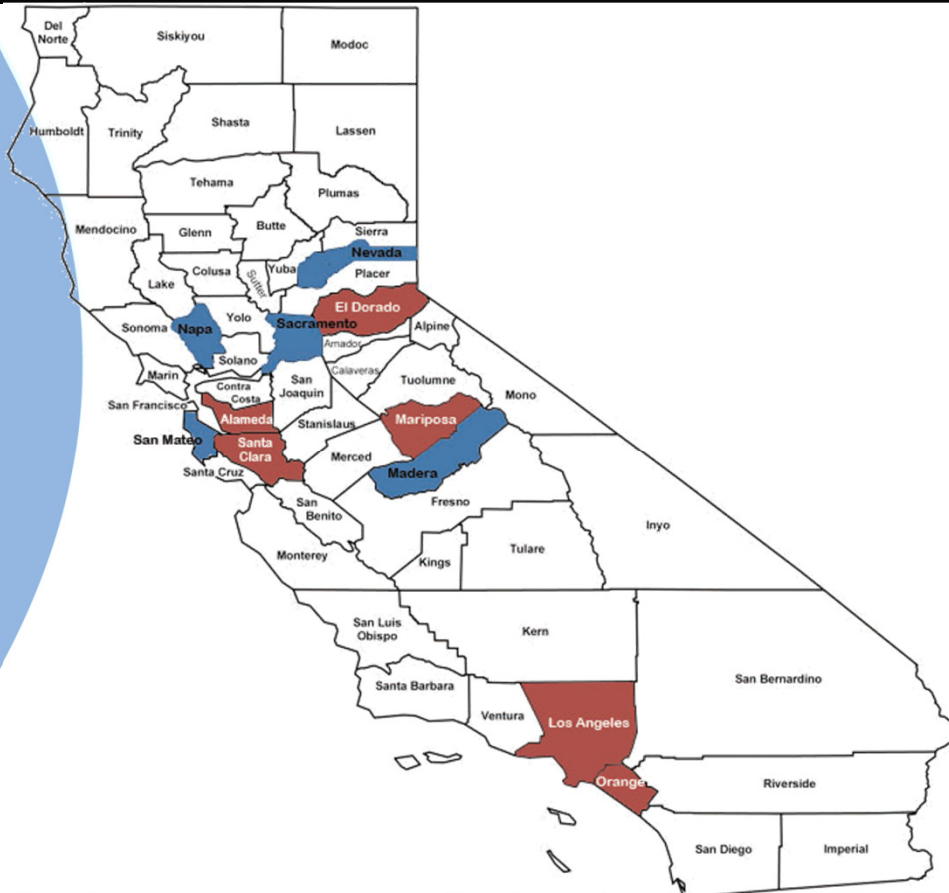
Adopt Regional Voting Center (RVC) model

Requirements to succeed:

- Plan for \$2.4 million one-time increase in 19/20 budget to pay for new systems
- Engage in extensive public engagement in a limited time frame to prepare Solano for a major change in voting methodology
- Replace voting equipment/systems in time for March 2020 primary
- Conduct a competitive procurement to select new voting system – include public engagement



Background – Where are the RVC Counties



2018 RVC Counties:

- Madera
- Napa
- Nevada
- Sacramento
- San Mateo

2020 Additional Counties:

- Alameda (Pending Board Approval)
- El Dorado (Pending Board Approval)
- Los Angeles
- Mariposa
- Orange
- Santa Clara (pending Board Approval)

March 26, 2019

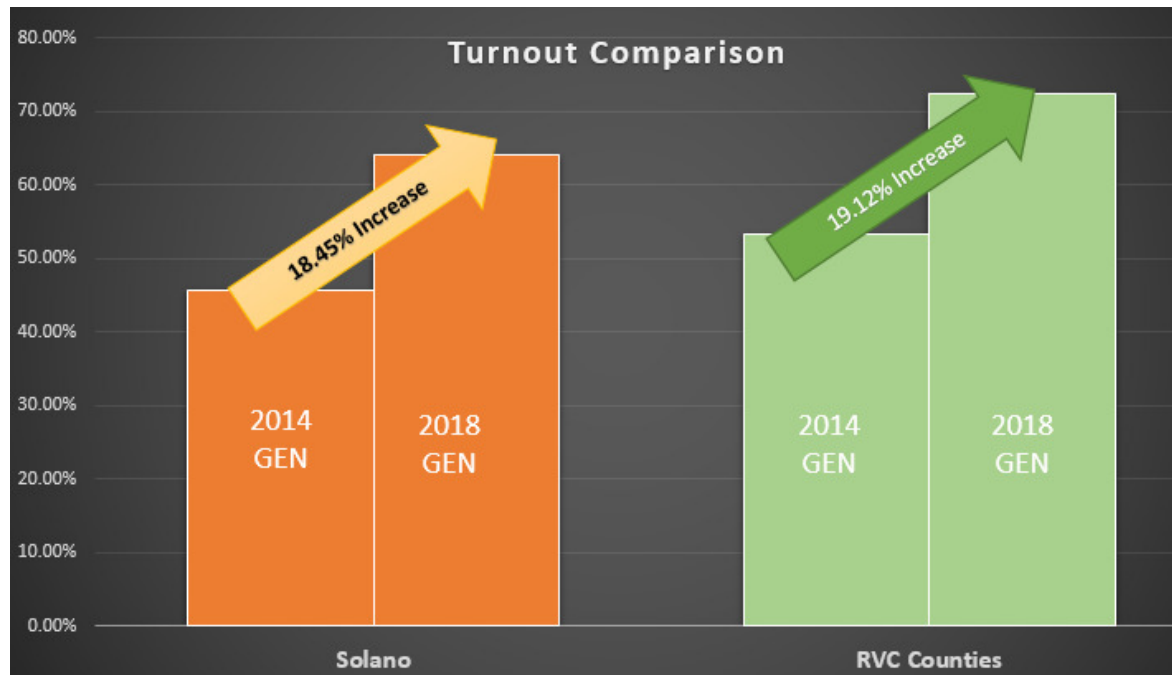
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5



The data - RVC Turnout Statistics

- Currently there's not enough data to predict impact on turnout (just two elections).
- Turnout Comparison shows a 18% increase in Solano, and a 19% increase for RVC Counties.
- More elections for RVC will help form a future recommendation.

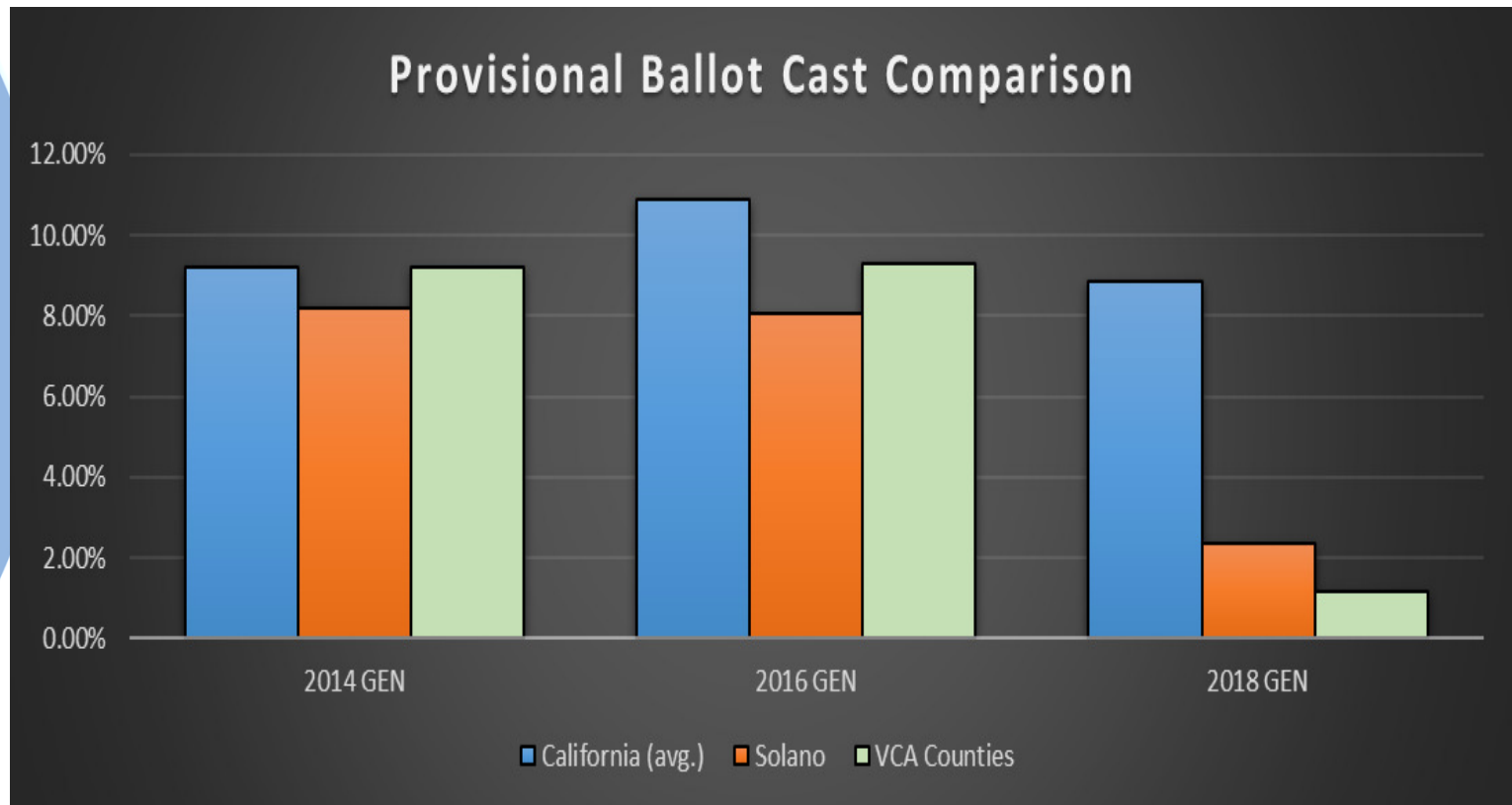


March 26, 2019

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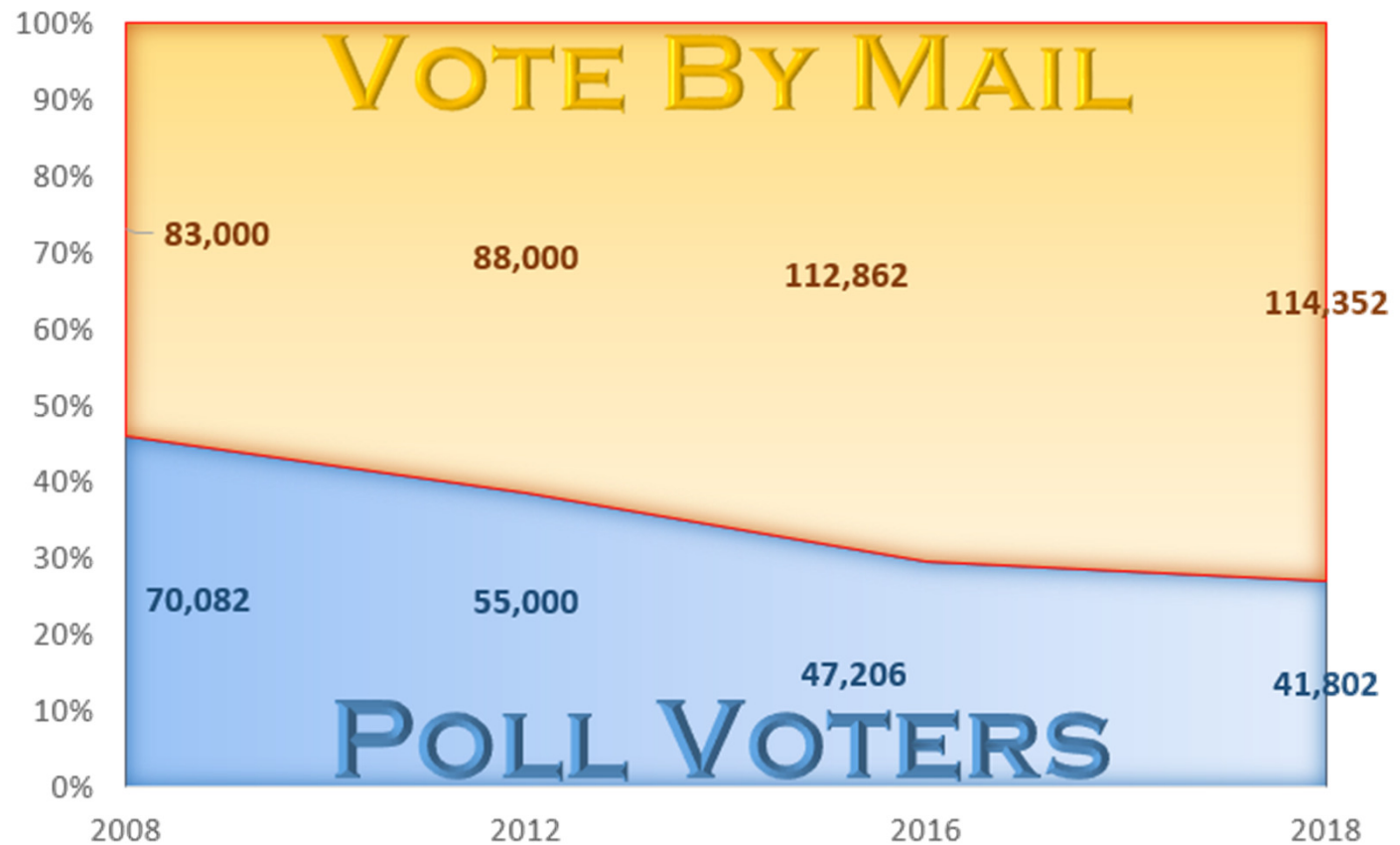


Provisional ballots cast per election:





How People Vote in Solano County:



March 26, 2019

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By the numbers – a comparison:

	Regional Vote Center	Traditional Poll Place
Vote by Mail Ballots sent	100% - in person vote optional	Optional - ~70% opting in
Ballot Drop-Off Locations (no other service provided)	16 sites for 29 days	7 sites for 29 Days
Same day registration & vote	5 sites for 10 days (includes Saturday and Sunday before Election)	ROV Office only
Voting and Registering Locations	25 sites for 4 days (includes Saturday and Sunday before Election)	ROV Office only
Election Day In-Person Voting Locations	25 Full Service Locations for any voter; plus 16 Ballot Drop-off Locations.	100 Assigned to specific voters; plus 7 Ballot Drop-Off Locations.



Cost Estimates for FY19/20:

Category	RVA Estimated Cost:	Poll Place Estimated Cost:
1) Vote Center ballot scanner and accessible voting stations.	\$1,403,905	\$1,403,905
2) Additional Hardware for RVA only.	\$1,060,045	n/a
3) Central Count tabulators and election management software.	\$1,168,612	\$1,168,612
4) Professional Services and additional supplies	\$280,000	\$280,000
Total Estimated Technology Costs:	\$3,912,562	\$2,852,517
Estimated General Fund Expense for technology purchase (after grants applied):	\$1,898,045*	\$838,000
5) Staffing and Operational Costs– VCA requires mostly Extra Help or Full Time County positions for entire 10-day period.	\$2,250,306	\$1,752,756
Estimated General Fund Additional Expense for operations:	\$497,550*	\$0

* Individual District bills may increase by 25-30% under RVA model.



Funding Issues

Available Funding Sources (use for technology only):

- Remaining HAVA Grant - \$605,017 – no expiration, no matching funds required.
- New State Grant - \$1,409,500 – expires June 30, 2021, county must match funds 1 to 1.



Pros and Cons for Solano

Pros

Regional Voting Center

Increased flexibility for voter on location and date

Further reduces provisional ballots

Fewer locations to administer

Traditional Polling Place

Voter expectations are met

Limited retraining of election staff

Reliable and proven methodology

Cons

Highest Cost – one time and ongoing

Risk increased with multiple changes (system and methodology)

Disruptive during high profile elections

Some hardware costs duplicated if RVC implemented later

Voter questions – two neighbor counties have changed



Schedule to prepare for 2020

Suggested Path to purchasing new voting equipment:

3/27/2019	Release RFI w/ Quote to Vendors
4/16/2019	Conduct Public Vendor Conference
4/24/2019	RFI Closes
5/3/2019	End of RFI Evaluation Period
6/4/2019	Present Recommendation for purchase to Board.
7/12/2019	Begin Community Outreach Meetings with New System.
8/8/2019	Complete internal mock election on new voting system.
10/15/2019	Begin Programming voting system for March Primary Election.
10/22/2019	Primary Election Notices begin with info to voters.



Concluding – Board Action

Approve ROV Recommendation:

- 1) Continuation of Traditional Polling Place Voting model for 2020 Primary and General Elections.**
- 2) Approve resolution authorizing CAO to submit application for grant funding to purchase a new voting system.**
- 3) Authorize CAO to negotiate and submit documents necessary for completion of agreement.**
- 4) Authorize ROV to release a RFI w/Quote to purchase new voting system.**



Questions?

www.solanocounty.com/elections

ROV Website:

- Register to vote
- Verify registration
- Find your polling Place;
- Election details;
- Sample Ballots;
- Maps

A screenshot of the Registrar of Voters website. The header features a "Vote Here" button and the title "Registrar of Voters". Below the header, there is a navigation bar with links to "Homepage", "Departments", and "Registrar Of Voters". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled "Options", lists various services such as "Mission Statement", "Voter Registration", "Voting By Mail", "Military and Overseas Voters", "Candidate Info", "How to...", "Elected and Appointed Officials", "District Maps and Lookup", "Election Results", "Election Workers", "Sample Ballot Pamphlet Opt Out/Opt In", "FAQs", and "Contact Us". The right column, titled "Registrar Of Voters", contains several red buttons for "REGISTER TO VOTE", "MODIFY VOTER REGISTRATION", "VERIFY VOTER REGISTRATION", "MILITARY AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS", "POLL WORKERS", and "REQUEST TO VOTE BY MAIL". Below these buttons, there is a section for the "November 6, 2012 Consolidated Presidential General Election" with links to "Election Calendar", "Candidate List", "Candidate Contact Log", "Solano County Measures", "State Random Alphabet Drawing", "County Random Alphabet Drawing", and "Precinct and District Viewer". At the bottom, there is a section for "Important Information" with links to "2012 Fee Schedule" and "2011-2014 Schedule of Elections". A Norton Secured logo is visible on the left, and an Adobe Acrobat Reader download prompt is on the right. The footer contains links for "Technical Contact", "Employee Services", "Maps & Directions", "Acceptable Use", "Accessibility", "Disclaimer", "Privacy Policy", and "Site Map".

March 26, 2019

Registrar of Voters Presentation on the 2020 Election Cycle

15