

CITY *of* CALABASAS**MAYOR ALICIA WEINTRAUB**

March 5, 2020

VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL

The Honorable Kathryn Barger, Chairperson
Supervisor, Fifth District
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Ste. 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Election Anomalies

Honorable Supervisor Barger:

In light of the upcoming probe of election mishaps with the recent March 3, 2020, Primary Presidential Election, I want to bring to your attention the anomalies experienced by voters in the City of Calabasas.

1. The County Elections Department failed to include Measure FD in the Sample Ballot distributed to voters in Vote by Mail Precinct 1000006D.

The County Elections Department took corrective actions to deliver supplemental ballot material with Measure FD and related measure information to affected voters; however, this does not discount or minimize the huge error that was discovered on February 14 by coincidence as two of my colleagues were preparing for an election show.

Your staff promised to monitor their corrective activity and ensure to track ballot returns (both original and supplemental) and follow-up with voters throughout the voting period. However, we are uncertain whether the 152 affected voters had the opportunity to vote for Measure FD.

As an additional precaution, Calabasas City Clerk staff also contacted affected voters via email and telephone to confirm they had received the appropriate election materials.

2. Calabasas City Clerk handled many inquiries from voters concerned that their sample ballots and/or their vote by mail ballots were not received. This is a recurring problem, as we have had several election cycles in a row where sample ballots are either delivered very late, or never delivered at all.
3. The Vote Center at AC Stelle scheduled to open on Saturday, February 29, opened late due to technical issues with voting equipment. It took an email from our City Clerk to Mr. Logan to elevate the issue and get it resolved.
4. Vote Centers in the City of Calabasas and surrounding areas were jammed packed and understaffed. Depending upon where one was and when one voted, some of the wait times exceeded two hours.

County Elections staff claimed to have planned everything out and worked hard to make things run smoothly, but the opposite occurred.

Our City Clerk even contacted Elections staff after 8 p.m. via phone and email to make them aware of the lines at the Calabasas Senior Center and request additional staff be deployed to assist the three Vote Center volunteers, who went without a break all day on Election Day. County Elections staff never confirmed whether additional poll workers were assigned to the Calabasas Senior Center.

Many Calabasas voters inundated Social Media with their horrific experiences, which included long lines at Vote Centers and the voting equipment not working properly.

In some cases, voters chose to leave the Vote Centers without voting, rather than endure the waits. So, these voters were essentially disenfranchised by the system. In addition, these kinds of negative experiences could very well deter people (especially younger citizens and first-time voters) from attempting to vote in the future, which would be tragic.

We find the handling of the recent election unacceptable and inexplicable. In addition, we are left to wonder that County Elections staff continues to perpetually fail to run Elections in an efficient manner. It makes it seem that they are trying to get people not to vote. We do not want the County Elections Department incompetence to adversely affect the City of Calabasas municipal elections, and we want to see

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corrective actions of the situation well before the onset of the campaign season which starts in July 2020. Furthermore, it is our intention to review the City of Calabasas ballots and sample ballots before they are distributed to voters. In addition, we would like our staff to be involved in any proposed precinct setting process.

I welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss this in more detail and reach a quick resolution to the City of Calabasas' concerns listed above.

Regards,

CITY OF CALABASAS



Alicia Weintraub
Mayor

/mh

c/ Calabasas City Council
Dr. Gary J. Lysik, Calabasas City Manager
Senator Henry Stern, 27th District Representative
Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, 45th District Representative
Mr. Dean Logan, Los Angeles County Registrar/Recorder
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors