County of Santa Clara

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 4, 2016

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WEEKEND VOTING OPTIONS OFFERED FOR AUGUST 16 SPECIAL ELECTION IN SUNNYVALE

Voting Center, Drop-off, and Drive-thru Voting Available Next Two Weekends

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF. – The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Office encourages eligible voters to take advantage of early voting for the August 16, 2016 Special Election, which is being held to fill a vacancy on the Sunnyvale City Council for an unexpired term. Because this Special Election involves one contest in the City of Sunnyvale, only voters who live in Sunnyvale are eligible to participate.

Early voting has gained in popularity because it makes voting more accessible to citizens and increases voter participation. "We have worked hard to expand early voting opportunities throughout our county," said Registrar of Voters Shannon Bushey. "We want voters to use the voting method that best fits their schedule and is most convenient for them."

"An added benefit of voting early," Bushey continued, "is that completed ballots received prior to Election Day are included in the results received at 8:05 p.m. on the night of the election."

Early voting began on July 18 when the Registrar of Voters' Office mailed approximately 40,000 Vote by Mail ballots and opened its Voting Center. To date, approximately 7,000 Sunnyvale voters have cast their ballots early; however, approximately 83% of ballots still remain outstanding.

There are three different options for voting early in this election.

1) All voters may vote at the Voting Center located at the Registrar of Voters' Office.

Once voters arrive at the Registrar of Voters' Office, they can obtain a ballot and cast it in person, or they can take it home to complete later. Voters can also drop off their completed Vote by Mail ballots, receive a replacement for a lost or damaged Vote by Mail ballot, or use a touch screen voting machine. The touch screen voting machine is accessible to blind and visually impaired voters.

The Voting Center is open on the following dates and times:

Board of Supervisors: Mike Wasserman, Cindy Chavez, Dave Cortese, Ken Yeager, S. Joseph Simitian
County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith

Day(s)	Date(s)	Hours
Monday – Friday	July 18 – August 15	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday	August 6 & 13	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday	August 16 (Election Day)	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

2) **Vote by Mail voters may drop off their voted ballots at one of four drop-off and drive-thru sites located at the Registrar of Voters' Office and in the City of Sunnyvale.**

For added convenience, two out of the four ballot drop-off sites are open 24 hours a day. The Ballot Drop-Off Sites opened on July 18 and will continue through 8 p.m. on Election Day at the following locations:

-Open during normal business hours
Santa Clara County Government Center – 1st Floor, 70 W. Hedding St., San Jose, CA 95110
Sunnyvale City Hall – City Finance Office, 650 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale CA 94086

-Open 24 hours per day
Registrar of Voters' Office – Outside drop-box, 1555 Berger Dr., San Jose CA 95112
Sunnyvale Public Library – Outside drop-box, 665 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086

The Drive-Thru Ballot Drop-Off Site is open on Saturdays, August 6 and 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Voters will be able to drop off their ballots without even getting out of their vehicles at the following location:

Sunnyvale Public Library – 665 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086

3) **Vote by Mail voters may mail their voted ballots at no cost by using the postage-paid return envelope that the Registrar of Voters' Office includes with every Vote by Mail ballot.**

No postage is necessary for voters returning their ballots using a postage-paid return envelope that is included with every Vote by Mail ballot. In previous elections, voters had to pay the cost of return postage, which frequently exceeded a single first-class stamp. Notably, Santa Clara is only the second county in the state to offer prepaid postage for Vote by Mail ballots.

The last day to register to vote in the August 16, 2016 Special Election was August 1 and could be done online at Register to Vote. Voters wishing to check their registration status may do so on the website at Check Your Registration Status. Additionally, voters who want to find out if they live within the City of Sunnyvale can look up their districts using the online tool at Look Up Your Districts.

Voters should complete a new registration form if they have moved, changed their name or would like to change their political party preference. To register to vote in Santa Clara County, a voter must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, a Santa Clara County resident and not imprisoned or on parole for a felony.

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