County of Orange
Registrar of Voters

Board of Supervisors

Presentation: Preparation for 2024 Presidential Elections

April 25, 2023

Registrar of Voters' Mission Statement

"To provide election services for the citizens of Orange County to ensure equal access to the election process, protect the integrity of votes, and maintain a transparent, accurate and fair process."

Preparation for 2024 Presidential Elections

Presentation

- Security and Integrity Measures
- Address Public Comments

Election Dates – March 5 and November 5, 2024

Security and Integrity

- Physical
- Technical
- Process
- People

Security and Integrity Measures – Physical

- Badge access controls
- Auditable security seals on equipment
- Ballot drop boxes
  - Made of thick, secure metal
  - Bolted to concrete
  - Individually keyed

Security and Integrity Measures - Technical

- Electronic voter check-in with near real-time updates
- Voter data is secured, and encrypted while in transit and at rest
- All votes are cast on paper ballots
- Pre- & post-election confirmation of voting system software version
- Vote tally system and scanners are not connected to the internet
- Intrusion detection/prevention systems in place

Security and Integrity Measures – Process

- Voter File Maintenance – regular and consistent
- Ballot Handling – Daily randomized routes, GPS tracking, radio communication with controlled chain of custody
- Signature verification of all vote-by-mail ballots
- Pre-election & post-election Logic and Accuracy tests
- 1% Manual Tally and Risk Limiting Audit
- Partnerships – Federal, State and Local law enforcement & DA

Voter Registration File Maintenance

- Perform all daily maintenance activities required by law
- Perform additional discretionary activities, including
  - Identification of duplicate voter registration files
  - Access third-party data to identify possible voter changes
  - Encourage voters to re-register to update their information and signature
- Performance Measurements:
  - 57,677 voters cancelled in 2022
  - Only 2.67% of ballots mailed in 2022 General Election returned as undeliverable

Security and Integrity – People

- Background checks on all employees
- Extensive training provided to all employees
- Two-person integrity for movement of ballots
- Use of DA investigators, Sheriff's deputies, and security officers
- Command Center/Vote Center Help Desk
- Rapid deployment teams

Public Comments

- State Mandates
- Ballots Counted vs. Voters Casting a Ballot
- Ballot Processing Time
- Hand Counting
- Election Administration Plan

State Mandates

- Mail a ballot to all active registered voters
- Have mail ballot drop-off locations
- Voting starts 29 days before Election Day
- Check ID of some first-time voters
- Voters may authorize anyone to return ballot

Ballots Counted – 2022 General Election

The number of ballots counted was not more than the number of voters who cast ballots.

- Ballots counted - 994,227
- Each ballot was comprised of two or three sheets
- Ballot sheets counted – 1,949,107
- Voters may cast all or some of their ballot sheets

Ballots Counted – 2022 General Election

Cast Vote Record


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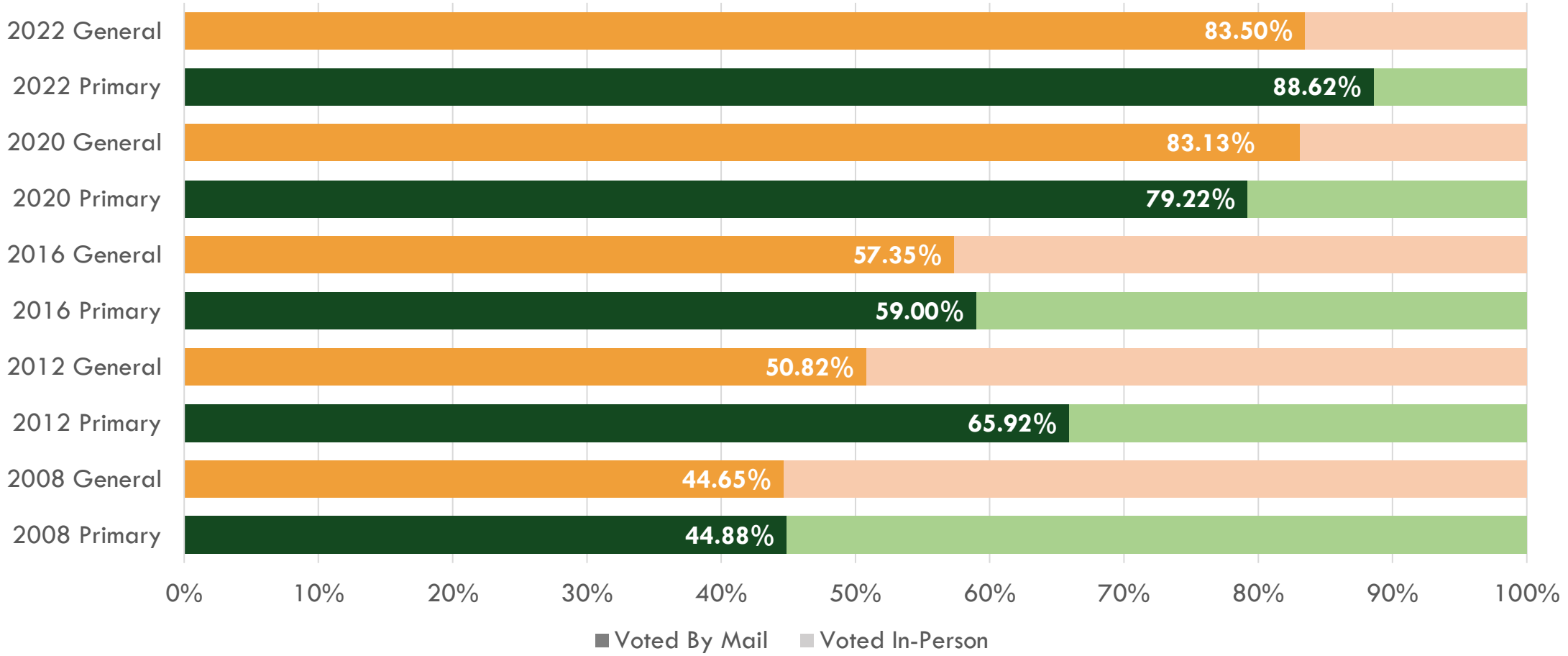
Ballot Processing Time – 2022 General Election

- 830,000 (83%) of voters cast Vote-By-Mail ballots
- 311,000 (37%) of VBM ballots cast on Election Day
- After a VBM ballot envelope is scanned, it can take at least two days before the votes are in the results
- 442,000 (85%) of VBM ballots received before Election Day were in the Election Night Results
- 882,000 (89%) of all ballots in results within 7 days

Vote-By-Mail Trends



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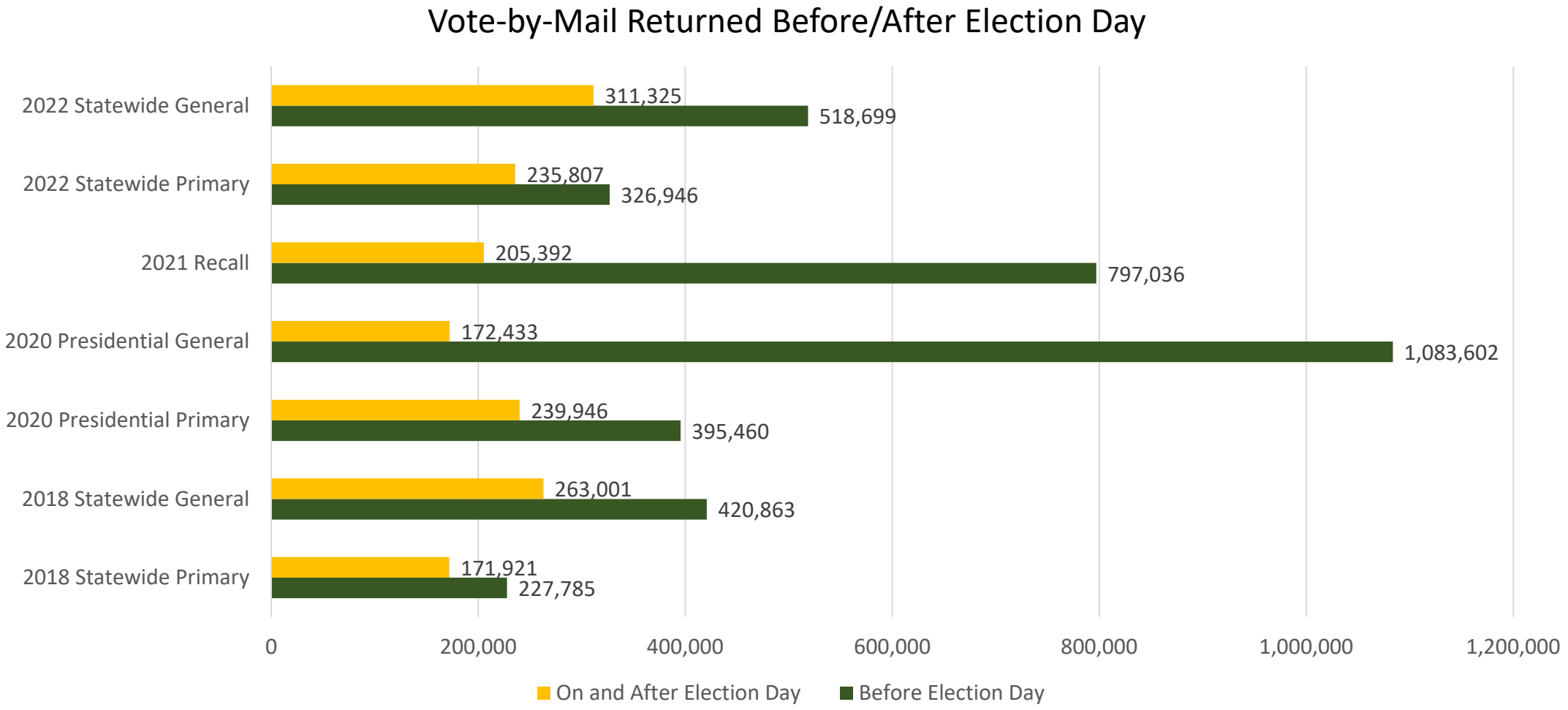

Hand Counting Ballots

- We must hand count ballots from at least 1 percent of all precincts, randomly selected, to audit results
- Shasta County has 111,000 voters
- Shasta estimates 1,200 people/$1.65 million needed
- Orange County has 1.8 million voters
- Secretary of State is drafting regulations for a full hand count

Election Administration Plan

- First adopted in 2019 and amended in 2021
- 2021 EAP approved by State on Nov. 10, 2021
- 2021 process had 28 social media posts, nine public notices on website, 12 workshops, two 14-day public comment periods, and one public hearing
- Update next required in 2025
- Input always welcome at OCVoter@ocvote.gov

Questions?