

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS GRAND JURY REPORT RESPONSES

Response to Grand Jury Report

Report Title: Election Integrity in Sonoma County

Report Date: May 13, 2024

Response by: David Rabbitt Title: Chairperson

Agency/Department Name: Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

FINDINGS:

- F1. There are no material flaws or uncorrected defects (e.g., machine errors, fraudulent ballots being cast, or miscounting votes) that impair the overall integrity of the election process. The Grand Jury also finds that while ROV executes all procedures effectively, there are nonetheless documentation gaps that lead to situations where institutional knowledge is not entirely committed to paper.
- F2. ROV executes prescribed election procedures with proper management controls in place to ensure full compliance with all applicable requirements.
- F3. ROV ensures that the technology systems and services, including information security and cybersecurity measures, used in an election are properly installed, maintained, and validated for accuracy before all elections.
- F4. ROV employees and Vote Center poll workers have been subjected to abusive behavior and to direct and implied threats of physical violence in the past and may be exposed to similar threats in the future. ROV’s threat mitigation profile would be enhanced (and operational efficiency would be streamlined) if ROV was moved to a larger and more defensible space.
- F5. The citizen poll workers who contribute many hours of service during an election are an indispensable ROV resource whose continued support is essential.
- F6. The current state of election integrity found in Sonoma County did not occur by accident, but rather by the continued interest and active engagement of a majority of Sonoma County citizens who register and vote.
- F7. ROV promotes transparency through community outreach and communication with the public leading up to and after an election.
- F8. While ROV carefully preserves the results of all elections, it has neither historical data collection nor reporting capability that would enable comprehensive analysis of past election results.

I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. By September 1, 2024, ROV develop and begin execution of an ongoing process designed to ensure that internal procedural documentation is created and kept current.
 - R2. By June 30, 2025, the Board of Supervisors develop and approve a long-term plan to provide ROV with a facility that better accommodates space and physical security requirements.
 - R3a. By August 31, 2024, the Board of Supervisors and ROV develop and implement a plan for enhancing existing ROV security measures and developing new security measures based on recurring threat assessments and recommendations by qualified authorities.
 - R3b. By July 31, 2024, ROV create and maintain a record of all incidents of abusive or threatening behavior to support future risk and threat assessment analysis.
 - R3c. By July 31, 2024, ROV evaluate all recommendations that resulted from its meeting with the Emergency Management Department and establish an implementation schedule for the recommendations it adopts.
 - R4. By December 31, 2024, the Board of Supervisors allocate resources for a project to create a publicly accessible Sonoma County elections database to enable ready access to, and analysis of, past election results.
- Recommendation number R2 has not yet been implemented. See attached.
 - Recommendation number R3a is in the process of implementation. See attached.
 - Recommendation R4 is in process and will continue to be implemented as funding is available. See attached.

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Number of pages attached: 1

Response to 2023-24 Grand Jury Report: Election Integrity in Sonoma County

Following is the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors required responses to recommendations R2, R3a, and R4 in regard to the 2024 Grand Jury Report investigation titled "Election Integrity in Sonoma County"

R2. By June 30, 2025, the Board of Supervisors develop and approve a long-term plan to provide ROV with a facility that better accommodates space and physical security requirements.

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Response: **This recommendation has not yet been implemented.** The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Registrar of Voters' response. Sonoma Public Infrastructure and Registrar of Voters are currently coordinating and seeking a location for a new facility for the ROV. Once a location is identified, the plans and costs will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration. Funding allocations will be determined during Budget Hearings in June if a site has been identified.

R3a. By August 31, 2024, the Board of Supervisors and ROV develop and implement a plan for enhancing existing ROV security measures and developing new security measures based on recurring threat assessments and recommendations by qualified authorities.

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Response: **This recommendation is in the process of implementation.** The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Registrar of Voters' response. The Board of Supervisors will continue to support the Registrar of Voters as needed since this recommendation is already in process of being implemented.

R4. By December 31, 2024, the Board of Supervisors allocate resources for a project to create a publicly accessible Sonoma County elections database to enable ready access to, and analysis of, past election results.

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Response: **This recommendation is in process and will continue to be implemented as funding is available.** The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Registrar of Voters' response. The Registrar of Voters can allocate existing funding in future years for this project. If existing funding does not have capacity, then a program change request can be submitted through the Budget process. The Board of Supervisor will consider the program change request for a funding allocation during the annual Budget Hearings in the context of other budge requests.