



# COUNTY OF SONOMA

575 ADMINISTRATION  
DRIVE, ROOM 102A  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

## SUMMARY REPORT

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**Agenda Date:** 9/17/2024

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**To:** Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

**Department or Agency Name(s):** County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor-Registrar of Voters

**Staff Name and Phone Number:** Deva Marie Proto, (707) 565-1877

**Vote Requirement:** Majority

**Supervisorial District(s):** Countywide

### **Recommended Action:**

Adopt a gold resolution recognizing September 17, 2024, as National Voter Registration Day.

### **Executive Summary:**

In spite of successful efforts by the State of California and the County of Sonoma to increase voter registration, there are still many Sonoma County residents who are eligible to vote but remain unregistered. On September 17, 2024, volunteers and organizations from all over the country - including Sonoma County - will participate in National Voter Registration Day in an attempt to increase public awareness about registering to vote.

### **Discussion:**

Every year, millions of Americans find themselves unable to vote because they are not properly registered. Common reasons for this include missing registration deadlines, forgetting to update one's registration after a move, or simply not knowing how to register.

California has made great strides in removing obstacles to voting over the past 15 years by implementing online voter registration (2012), preregistration for 16 and 17 year-olds (2014, 2009), conditional voter registration (a.k.a. "same-day registration") (2017), and automatic voter registration through the Department of Motor Vehicles (2018). As a result, the number of registered voters in Sonoma County has greatly increased over this time period from under 250,000 in October of 2008 to over 304,000 today.

Still, in spite of these efforts, there are a substantial number of Sonoma County residents who are eligible to vote but remain unregistered. For example, earlier this year, the California Secretary of State's Office estimated that there were nearly 50,000 Sonoma County residents who were eligible to be registered to vote but remained unregistered (see "March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election: Voter Participation Statistics by County").

On September 17, 2024, volunteers and organizations from all over the country will "hit the streets" for National Voter Registration Day with the purpose of reaching out to these voters. The Sonoma County Registrar of Voters Office has registered as an Official Partner to support this nonpartisan civic holiday and the various field, technology, and media efforts that are taking place to create awareness of voter registration opportunities.

### **Prior Board Actions:**

On September 19, 2023, the Board adopted a gold resolution recognizing September 19, 2023, as National

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Voter Registration Day (Resolution 23-0461).

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

**Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:**

n/a

**Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):**

None

**Attachments:**

Resolution

**Related Items "On File" with the Clerk of the Board:**

March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election - Voter Participation Statistics by County