

**Superior Court of California
County of Santa Clara**



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**Santa Clara County Superior Court Offers Last Resort Option
For Registered Voters Finding Trouble at the Polls**

*Registered voters believing they are being denied their right to vote can file a
Petition to Compel Voter Registration with the Court.*

SAN JOSE, Calif. (November 5, 2012): the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara (Court) has a defined process for those wishing to file a Petition to Compel Voter Registration if they are an eligible, registered voter in Santa Clara County yet are being denied their right to vote.

To be eligible for this process, a person must have completed a Voter Registration Form on or before the legally mandated closing date for this election (15 days before the election) but have been informed by the Registrar of Voters' Office that his or her Voter Registration Form was never received. If granted by a judge, the petition results in requiring the County's Registrar of Voters, through a court order, to allow voters to cast their ballot.

There is no cost to file the petition. The Court has four judges on hand to address these issues throughout the day. The Court will be accepting petitions from 8:30 AM until 4 PM at the Downtown Courthouse, located at 191 N. First Street, San Jose. Signage will be posted to direct petitioners to the appropriate, single counter (Civil Calendar Office) where the filings are being accepted.

For assistance, voters may call the Civil Calendar Office at (408) 882-2100. Any person wishing to file a petition after 4 PM will have to use the process outlined below.

AFTER COURT HOURS

Working with Sacramento Superior Court Presiding Judge Laurie Earl, Chair of the Judicial Council's Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has assembled a panel of three experienced judges who have agreed to be available after hours on Election Day to hear urgent requests. Forty-six superior courts, including Santa Clara County, plan to use the services of the panel judges and the Chief Justice has assigned the panel judges to those courts. One member of the three judge panel is Santa Clara County Retired Judge Leslie Nichols.

The remaining twelve superior courts (Alameda, Butte, Kern, Lassen, Mono, Plumas, Placer, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Sonoma, and Ventura) have designated a local judge to hear any urgent after-hours matters.

The Secretary of State's office is asking the registrar of voters in each county to notify AOC staff if the registrar receives a request to submit an urgent petition for court relief after hours on Election Day that cannot otherwise be resolved. The AOC will route any such requests either to one of the judges on the panel or to a local judge as appropriate. If a panel judge is handling the matter and a hearing is needed, it will be conducted by telephone using a reserved conference line. AOC staff will work with the registrar of voters to ensure all necessary parties are in attendance and any documentary evidence is forwarded to the assigned judge. If a local judge is handling the matter, that judge will advise the registrar of voters and parties of the procedure.

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