

# Primal Scream - Dear Voters...

Primal Scream

Opinion Worth Pondering

Dear Voters...

By Barbara R. Kondylis

Posted 01/11/2008

Dear Voters of Solano County,

Here in the United States we are told that every vote counts.....and it should. But what about when the same vote is counted again, and again?

This is what happened in Solano County in the November Election and no one seems concerned, least of all Mike Johnson-County Administrator and our immediate past Chair-Mike Reagan (Supervisor District 5) and immediate past Vice-Chair-John Silva (Supervisor District 2) who set the Board of Supervisor's agenda. I requested, in December, that a discussion on the election be placed on our agenda for last Tuesday.....and was denied (the first time, to my knowledge, that this has ever happened to a member of the Board).

What is it that they don't want you, the voters of Solano County, to know? The Board of Supervisors are ultimately responsible for what happens in every county department and the Registrar of Voters is no exception. We as the Board should be held accountable, just as all county departments should be accountable to the Board.

Consider this for just one "for instance".....according to the official results (machine count), 56,565 people voted county wide in a variety of elections from School Board in Vacaville to City Council in Fairfield and for Mayor in Benicia. 37,067 of you voted absentee (mail in) and 19,498 voted at the polls on election day either with a regular or provisional ballot, as counted by the voting machines. The "canvas" of the votes which accounts for the number of ballots (pieces of paper) used on election day totals 18,177 (199 votes less if you subtract the mail in ballots that were counted as election day ballots). If you do the simple math, 1,321 more votes were counted than ballots cast (even if every provisional ballot were counted). Hmmmmmmmmmmm!

Is this acceptable? I think not.

There is another election coming up on February 5th. Don't you think a public discussion should be held to explain the mistakes of November and what steps are being taken to prevent it from happening again? Don't you think that the makers of the machines, ES&S should be held financially responsible and accountable?

If so, please help to ensure that this gets discussed by the Board of Supervisors by contacting your county representative and making your views known.

I am trying again for the meeting of the Board of Supervisors of January 22.

Sincerely,

Barbara R. Kondylis

County Board of Supervisors

District 1

Board of Supes Contact Information: District One: covers, essentially, the part of Vallejo that lies between Georgia St. and the Napa County line. It also includes the Napa marshes to the west and Hiddenbrook (Barbara Kondylis bkondylis@solanocounty.com, District Two: includes 1/2 of the City of Vallejo--South of Tennessee St to Oakwood St. and South of Georgia St.--and all of Mare Island) John Silva jfsilva@solanocounty.com, District Three Jim Spering JPSpering@solanocounty.com, District Four: John Vasquez jmvasquez@solanocounty.com, District Five Mike Reagan mjreagan@solanocounty.com,

Dear Media Folks,

Having, finally, gotten the information that you just got from the county, I realize that the numbers in my last letter were off by quite a bit because i mixed up the "mail-in" votes with the "election day" votes. the difference now is 11. I also didn't know about the vote for the Napa Office of Education or the final tally of the provisional ballots.

However, the point I was trying to make is that when there are questions, either by a board member or the public (and there have been many), about elction proceedures, that they should be aired in public.

This will be on our agenda on January 22 and I will be proposing to set up an Elections Advisory Committee, to be appointed by the Registrar of Voters, similar to the one that has been set up in Marin County. With such a committee in place, I think we will not have to worry about elections in the future, which is what the goal should be.

Sincerely,

Barbara R. Kondylis