



County of Fresno

COUNTY CLERK/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

JAMES A. KUS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 25, 2024

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Fresno County Drop Box Key left at Ballot Drop Box 1063

FRESNO, CA – At 5:30 p.m. on October 24, 2024, the Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Department (CCROV) was notified that a member of the public found a key used to access Ballot Drop Boxes by County Elections Staff at Ballot Drop Box 1063 located at Fancher Creek Elementary School. Ballot Drop Box 1063 was last serviced by County Elections staff at 10:00 a.m. on October 24, 2024. The key has since been recovered by CCROV.

Ballot Drop Boxes have been used in Fresno County since 2019, with over 9,500 successful Ballot Drop Box Service retrievals, and this is the first time that a Ballot Drop Box has been left unsecured by Election staff members due to human error. The team that made the error with the key at Ballot Drop Box 1063 has been relieved of their Ballot Drop Box servicing duties.

Upon learning about this issue, the Department immediately sent staff to secure the Ballot Drop Box and the materials inside. The Ballot Drop Box was removed from service and all materials within the Ballot Drop Box were safely returned to the Elections Department Warehouse for processing. Until a replacement Ballot Drop Box with a new locking mechanism can be installed at this location, voters may use the nearest Ballot Drop Box located at the Sunnyside Library on the southwest corner of E. Kings Canyon and S. Clovis Avenues.

Any voters who returned their ballot to this Ballot Drop Box on October 24, 2024 may contact the Fresno County Elections Department toll-free at 844-977-8683 to verify that their ballot has been received by the Elections Department.

The Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Department has always prioritized safe and secure elections. Fresno County uses two-person teams to service Ballot Drop Boxes. Teams are provided strict routes with changing assignments and partnerships. Each team is responsible for a chain of custody recording when,

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where, and how many ballots are retrieved from each Ballot Drop Box and when and to whom the envelopes are delivered at the County Elections Warehouse. All materials are transported in sealed bags with all seals recorded and tracked from the Ballot Drop Box to the Elections Warehouse. Because of this incident, the Department is requiring all staff members working with Ballot Drop Boxes to receive additional training on servicing Ballot Drop Boxes. Additional processes, including photographic records to ensure that Ballot Drop Boxes are locked and all keys are accounted for prior to staff members leaving a Ballot Drop Box location, will be implemented beginning today. The Department is also installing an additional physical security mechanism for all Ballot Drop Boxes and is investigating alternate locking mechanisms for Ballot Drop Boxes to prevent this type of incident from occurring in the future.

In addition to using Ballot Drop Boxes to return their voted ballots, voters may also return their ballots at any of the ten 11-day Vote Centers, which open on Saturday, October 26, 2024. 43 four-day Vote Centers will open on November 2, 2024. Please visit VoteFresnoCounty.com to receive more information about our Vote Center locations. If any voter has a concern about a ballot that they returned to any Ballot Drop Box, they may contact the Fresno County Elections Department toll-free at 844-977-8683 to verify that their ballot has been received by the Elections Department.

Any member of the public who sees an unsecured Ballot Drop Box or any other election security concern in Fresno County is encouraged to avoid handling or tampering with the election equipment or materials and should call the Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voter's Department immediately at 844-977-8683.

For more information, contact the Registrar of Voters' Office at (559) 600-VOTE (8683) or toll-free at 844-977-8683, or visit www.votefresnocounty.com.

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