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County of Sacramento

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MEDIA ADVISORY **Registrar of Voters Election Update**

WHAT'S A WRITE-IN SPACE FOR?

Each election, the Registrar of Voters staff counts hundreds of thousands of ballots through ballot card readers which are designed to read ovals that have been filled in by the voter. Any marks outside of the oval must be manually reviewed by staff, a very labor intensive and slow process.

When you choose to use the write-in space, fill in the oval and write in the name of the qualified write-in candidate. Nothing else will count.

“Voters write comments and cartoon characters in the write-in space on the ballot, which slows down the canvass process while increasing the costs of an election,” says Jill LaVine, Registrar of Voters. “The only time the voter should write on the ballot is to fill in an oval or to write-in the name of a qualified write-in candidate”.

LaVine estimates that voters’ scribbling on ballots cost the County of Sacramento an extra \$15,000 per election to manually process these ballots. “This ultimately delays the certification of the election because of this time-consuming process,” says LaVine.

A list of qualified write-in candidates is available at each polling place on Election Day, or by going to the Registrars website 7 days before the election at <http://www.elections.saccounty.net/CampaignServices/default.htm>

For more information, contact Brad Buyse at (916) 875-6276.

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We proudly conduct elections with accuracy, integrity and dignity