ALBANYCALIFORNIA



July 15, 2024

Honorable Board of Supervisors Alameda County 1221 Oak Street, Suite 536 Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Cast Vote Record release schedule

Dear Board Members:

Thank you for establishing the Elections Commission last year, following the practice of Santa Clara and San Francisco Counties. The Commission provides a means for citizens to better understand the administration of elections and provide input on their operation. Ideally, this will result in increased confidence and continual improvement.

On May 16th, the Commission recommended the Board direct the Registrar of Voters to release the Cast Vote Records simultaneous with each preliminary release of results for each contest. As San County's Elections has done since least 2015 Francisco Board of at (https://sfelections.org/results/20151103/detail.php). The City of Albany asks you to take this recommended action. Including requiring the Registrar to post each iteration of the Cast Vote Records on the County's election website, as does San Francisco.

In 2022, the Registrar used an incorrect setting for tallying the vote in numerous contests. This error caused the Registrar to certify the wrong candidate as the winner of one contest. The error was discovered by third-party analysis of the Cast Vote Records first released after the Registrar certified its results. Even then and continuing until now, the Records are not available on the 2022 election site. Rather the third parties only acquired the Records from the Registrar with difficulty.

To follow past practice regarding the timing and means of releasing Cast Vote Records again would risk a similar mistake as occurred in 2022 and reduce confidence in democracy in any event. The City of Albany asks you to avert those risks by implementing your Elections Commission's recommendations.

Sincerely,

John Miki, Mayor City of Albany

Cc: Registrar of Voters – Tim Dupuis (<u>Tim.Dupuis@acgov.org</u>)

Elections Commission (eoc@acgov.org)