



BARBARA FERRER, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director

MUNTU DAVIS, M.D., M.P.H.
County Health Officer

MEGAN McCLAIRE, M.S.P.H.
Acting Chief Deputy Director

313 North Figueroa Street, Room 806
Los Angeles, California 90012
TEL (213) 288-8117 • FAX (213) 975-1273

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov



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August 11, 2020

Dean C. Logan
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650-8357

Dear Mr. Logan:

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC/DPH) fully supports the use of school grounds and facilities by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk as voting centers for the November 2020 election.

Fundamental to a free and democratic society is an election process that is safely accessible to members of the public. While the current COVID-19 pandemic presents obstacles to in-person voting, the Department of Public Health feels strongly that schools can and should play a key role as safe and effective voting locations this fall.

Historically, a large number of school facilities have served as voting locations because they meet the stringent legal requirements dictating size, available parking, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Out of the 970 regional voting centers used in the County during the March 2020 election, close to forty percent of those locations were located on school grounds. The critical role that schools play as voting sites for elections is recognized in the California Election Code, which requires school facilities to act as voting sites upon request of a city or county elections official. (Election Code section 12283(B)(2).

In his June 3, 2020 executive order, Governor Gavin Newsom called for cooperation amongst public and private entities to ensure the success of the November 2020 election. Part of the Governor's call was explicitly for school buildings to serve as voting sites. In order to best serve the people of Los Angeles County and affirm the Governor's request, DPH supports the request of the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to use schools as sites to host its voting centers for the upcoming election, provided each site adheres to enhanced infection control and distancing directives as defined in the Health Officer Order, "Reopening Safer at Work and in the Community for Control of COVID-19."

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Further guidance on infection control measures, physical distancing, and communication is outlined in our “Guidance for Voters, Election Officials and Election Workers,” which is posted on our website (publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/).

DPH stands ready to assist the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk with efforts to ensure that voting centers are as safe as possible for voters and election workers. For further assistance, agencies can call (877) 777-5799.

Sincerely,



Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director



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County Health Officer

BF/MD:bm