



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2000 WWW.SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PRESS RELEASE

Date: September 11, 2020

Contact: Gail L. Pellerin

gail.pellerin@santacruzcounty.us

VOTING FOR FIRE EVACUEES

Fire survivors who have been displaced by the CZU Lightning Complex fires have several options to ensure that they get their ballot for the Nov. 3, 2020 Presidential General Election.

Ballots will be mailed to all active registered voters by Oct. 5. If voters in the fire impacted areas do not have access to their regular mail, they can submit a simple change of address form online at www.votescount.us.

“Ballots CANNOT be forwarded. So, if you signed up for your mail to be forwarded through the USPS, you still need to update your mailing address with us,” said County Clerk Gail Pellerin. “Otherwise, your ballot will be returned to us as undeliverable.”

Therefore, fire survivors have the following options:

1. Change mailing address online at www.votescount.us or complete the form available at the Recovery Resource Center in Santa Cruz and Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds Fire Emergency Evacuation Shelter in Watsonville .
2. Go to an in-person voting location to obtain a ballot. The Santa Cruz County Elections Department and Watsonville City Clerk will be open for voting starting Oct. 5. Sixteen additional locations will be open for four days: Oct. 31 – Nov. 3. Locations are posted online at www.votescount.us and will be mailed with the ballot and printed in the Voter Information Guide. There is a change to one printed location: Soquel Conference Center has been moved to the Soquel High School due to connectivity issues.
3. Sign up to get a ballot via email. Santa Cruz County has a Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail program (RAVBM). Voting using this method requires access to a computer and printer. Once signed up at www.votescount.us or by calling 831-454-2060, voters will be emailed an access code. They can then sign onto



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the system to mark their ballot and print it. To return their ballot, voters must supply their own envelope and postage, unless a ballot return envelope has been obtained through the Santa Cruz County Clerk's office. If using you're a personal envelope, voters must sign and print their name, and write their address on the outside of the envelope. Putting this envelope into a second envelope to return it to protect personal information is advised.

In addition, the Santa Cruz County Elections Office is getting a VoteMobile. The mobile voting trailer can be set up at any location in the county where there is a signal. A list of locations, dates and times will be posted online at www.votescount.us on Oct. 12. If anyone has any suggestion on where the VoteMobile should go, please email info@votescount.us or call County Clerk Pellerin at 831-454-2419.

Returning a voted ballot has never been easier. Voters can easily return it to one of 15 ballot drop boxes that will be available 24/7 starting Oct. 6. A list of locations is posted online at www.votescount.us and will be printed in the Voter Information Guide and printed on the insert with the ballot mailed to all voters. Voters can also drop off their voted ballot to the County Elections Office, City Clerks' Offices, Simpkins Swim Center, or any voting location.

Voters in California can return their ballot to any drop box, elections office or voting location in the State.

Voters may also return their voted ballot by mail. Ballots postmarked on or before Nov. 3 and received by the local elections official by Nov. 20 will be considered received on time.

For more information, please contact the Santa Cruz County Clerk at 831-454-2060, info@votescount.us or visit the website www.votescount.us.