

San Diego Newsline

Downtown San Diego news — the budget, public safety, business, and the civic life of America's Finest City

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COUNTY

From Homeless to Housed – Veteran Enjoys His New Address



Illustration from a photo by Edward O'Connor (hober) · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0

The journey from homelessness to becoming housed can be a complex and sometimes lengthy process. Every person has unique challenges and circumstances, so there isn't one easy pathway that works for all.

The County is committed to finding solutions to address those challenges, eliminate barriers and get people experiencing homelessness into their own home. When that happens, it is life changing.

For one local combat veteran, life alongside the freeway was the only option. After a string of health problems and deaths in the family, he was on his own with no alternatives.

Last year, an outreach team from the County's Office of Homeless Solutions and Caltrans began building a relationship with that veteran to earn his trust and convince him to accept help.

Now a new chapter of his life has begun, and it includes a warm bed, hot meals and running water.

County of San Diego news release · Nov 5, 2025

COUNTY

Tuesday Last Day to Vote in Special Election

Tuesday is the final day to cast your ballot in the Nov. 4 special election. But voters can still vote early today at one of 68 vote centers or drop off their mail ballot at any of the Registrar's over 140 official ballot drop boxes around the county.

All will be open on the final day of voting, Nov. 4, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Any voter who is in line at a vote center or an official ballot drop box at 8 p.m. will be allowed to vote. However, no one can join the line after the 8 p.m.

deadline.

There are fewer vote center locations for this special election, so if you wait until Election Day to vote, you should expect long lines.

If you're not registered to vote and want to participate in the election, you may visit any vote center to conditionally register and vote provisionally through Nov. 4.

Once the voter registration is processed and the Registrar's office confirms the voter did not vote elsewhere in the state, the voter registration becomes active and the provisional ballot is counted.

You can visit any vote center in the county. Find a location near you at [sdvote.com](#).

Vote centers have replaced polling places and provide more services. You can:

Vote in person or drop off a mail-in ballot

Vote using an accessible ballot marking device

Receive assistance and voting materials in multiple languages

Register to vote or update your voter registration and vote on the same day

Voters can use a touch screen to make their selections on ballot marking devices. When finished, the voter will print out the official ballot, review it, place it in a secrecy sleeve, and hand it to a poll worker to insert it in the ballot box to be counted at the Registrar's office. The ballot marking device does not store, tabulate or count any votes.

Remember that campaigning or electioneering within 100 feet of a vote center or official ballot drop box is not allowed. This includes the visible display or audible dissemination of information that advocates for or against any contest on the ballot. Additionally, an individual may not circulate any petitions, including those for initiatives, referenda, recall or candidate

nominations.

Don't delay! If you have been holding onto your ballot, act now and vote from the comfort of your home. Sign and date your return envelope, seal your completed ballot inside and return it to any of the Registrar's official ballot drop boxes or vote centers.

The Registrar's secure stand-alone drop boxes feature the Registrar's logo along with the County seal and are labeled "Official Ballot Drop Box." Find one close to you through the Registrar's online locator map or inside your voter information pamphlet. Check each location's hours of operation before heading out at [sdvote.com](#). All will close at 8 p.m. on Nov. 4.

Voters throughout the state will decide whether to adopt Proposition 50, an amendment to the State Constitution related to redistricting. You can learn more about the proposition in the California Voter Information Guide.

Voters who reside in the City of Poway's Council District 2 will have an additional question on their ballot. Poway District 2 voters will decide whether to remove their elected representative on the city council from office. Only voters living in Poway's Council District 2 are eligible to vote on this contest. If you're not sure whether you live in the district, you can look it up at [sdvote.com](#).

Learn more about voting in the November special election at [sdvote.com](#), or call (858) 565-5800 or toll free at (800) 696-0136.

County of San Diego news release · Nov 3, 2025

COUNTY

County Supervisors Appoint New Treasurer-Tax Collector

The County Board of Supervisors selected Lawrence (Larry) Cohen to fill the position of Treasurer-Tax Collector during a public hearing on Tuesday. The appointee will replace former

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

County Supervisors
Appoint New
Treasurer-Tax
Collector

Treasurer-Tax Collector Dan McAllister who retired on Aug. 2.

Cohen currently serves as the Chief of Staff to Congressman Juan Vargas who sits on the House Financial Services Committee. For over five years, Cohen has acted as chief advisor in supporting Vargas’ work on the committee which oversees banks, pensions and federal securities legislation.

In the private sector, he worked for Millipore Sigma where he managed a \$30 million business line and was responsible for profit and loss performance, investment strategies and contract negotiations.

Cohen has a master’s in business administration from Strayer University in Washington, D.C. where he received training in finance and management skills and he holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the

University of California, San Diego.

The selection process began during a public hearing on Sept. 30 . Each qualified applicant spoke before the Board and answered questions. Afterward, the Board selected four finalists from a pool of 11.

The Board also voted to hold an informal meet-and-greet on Oct. 30 to give the public a chance to meet the candidates in person.

Tuesday’s second hearing gave the finalists another chance to address the Board before the Supervisors took a vote. The Supervisors made their selection on written ballots, and the votes were publicly displayed and read aloud. After four rounds of voting, the results showed Cohen with the most votes appointing him as the new Treasurer-Tax Collector.

The appointee will serve until the current term ends on Jan. 4, 2027. An election will determine a successor for the following four-year term.

Cohen is tentatively scheduled to be sworn in at the

Nov. 18 Board of Supervisors meeting.

The Treasurer-Tax Collector’s office collects more than \$9.1 billion in property taxes every year. The office also collects the transient occupancy tax and the cannabis business tax from businesses in the County’s unincorporated area.

The treasury side of the office manages the County investment pool, which ranges in size from \$10.2 – \$18.8 billion in assets on an annual basis. The Treasury is also the paying agent for all 42 school districts in the region.

Additionally, the office handles the Deferred Compensation Program for County employees and has oversight of the County’s \$2.7 billion Deferred Compensation Program: 401(a), 457(b) + Roth Plan versions.

It also reconciles internal payroll reports, approves wires, oversees program activities, education and works closely with payroll, Human Resources and the record keeper.

County of San Diego news release · Nov 4, 2025

COUNTY
New Affordable
Housing for Veterans
Headed to Mission
Gorge Road

A groundbreaking ceremony was held today for The Grant at Mission Trails, a 48-unit affordable housing development dedicated to current and former military members and families.

Located in the Grantville neighborhood on Mission Gorge Road, the seven-story project will have 12 one-bedroom apartments, 24 two-bedroom apartments, and 12 three-bedroom apartments.

The development includes 14 homes set aside for veterans experiencing homelessness with social services provided by Townspeople and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs .

The Grant at Mission Trails is being built by CRP Affordable Housing and Community Development with a County contribution of \$2.75 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

funding. The project will provide much-needed housing for military families with annual incomes of 30% to 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI), or \$39,700 to \$99,240 for a two-person to four-person household.

Once complete, onsite amenities will include a playground, computer room, and shared and private balconies. The Grant is also close to the Mission Gorge transit stop, the Grantville Neighborhood Park, a grocery store, school, and medical offices.

A grand opening date is expected in the Spring of 2027.

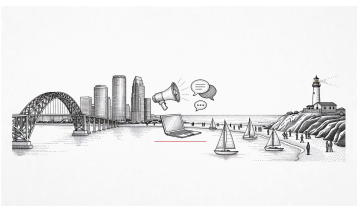
Visit the CRP website for more information about The Grant.

Since 2017, the County has invested more than \$334 million into affordable housing, using excess land, its Innovative Housing Trust Fund, and other state, federal, and local funding sources administered by the County. Those funds have helped open doors to over 3,100 homes with 2,800 more on the way.

County of San Diego news release · Nov 5, 2025

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



Illustration

BUSINESS
Member Spotlight:
Creative Stories Media

Creative Stories Media is a full-service marketing agency located in Southern California. Founded by Rachel Bollin, CSM offers a wide range of marketing solutions. From social media management, website development, branding, photography, and videography. The team at CSM are all master level creatives who have worked on a multitude of projects both as a team and during their own career journeys.

Rachel Bollin became a marketing expert when she created a line of organic laundry products back in 2013. She took the brand from concept to big box retailers and even national television, in

just 5 years. In 2024, she launched Creative Stories Media to help small and medium sized companies with their marketing needs. Rachel hand picked a team of creatives who are known for their knowledge and passion in the industry. The team helps Southern California professionals with their product and personal branding and has been successful in increasing ROI for every company they work with. Through content creation, branding, and web design the CSM team has been an integral part of the success of many local businesses and we look forward to helping future clients in the San Diego area.

CSM website is creativestoriesmedia.com and they can be reached at info@creativestoriesmedia or by calling 720-892-5925.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Oct 28, 2025

BUSINESS
Local Advocacy Efforts
The San Diego City Council’s

Rules Committee voted to advance a proposed June 2026 ballot measure that would impose a \$5,000-per-bedroom annual tax on short-term vacation rentals across the city. Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera is promoting the measure as a way to raise additional revenue amid budget challenges and to free up more housing for San Diegans. The Chamber strongly opposes this costly experiment, which will not solve the housing crisis or address the rising cost of living facing working families. Instead, it would harm our local economy, deter tourism, and penalize San Diegans who rent out short-term vacation homes to supplement their income or operate as small business owners.

Ahead of the meeting, Chamber President and CEO Chris Cate spoke at a press conference outlining these concerns, and Executive Director of Public Affairs Justine Murray testified before the Committee, warning of the measure’s economic

impact on residents and small operators. The proposal will return to the Rules Committee before advancing to the full City Council in March for potential placement on the ballot. The Chamber thanks our members and San Diego residents who showed up in force to oppose this measure, and extends appreciation to Councilmember Raul Campillo for his “no” vote against this tax increase.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes the proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$25 for entertainment event vendors in County parks. The Chamber has strongly opposed the measure, noting it would dramatically increase costs for event producers, staging companies, and nonprofits, making it harder to host community festivals, charity walks, and cultural celebrations that contribute to San Diego’s local economy and tourism. Many of these events rely on small vendors, volunteers, and limited

budgets, and such a mandate would force them to cut jobs, reduce hours, or relocate to neighboring counties with lower costs. Executive Director of Public Affairs Justine Murray spoke in opposition to the proposal to raise the minimum wage at the County Board of Supervisors on October 21 st , the County to prioritize compliance with existing laws and pursue alternative safety measures rather than advancing an industry-specific wage increase that undermines the region’s economic and tourism goals. Ultimately the measure passed 4-1, with County Supervisor Desmond voting no. We will continue to monitor this effort as it moves forward at the County, and thank Supervisor Desmond for his “no” vote against another industry-specific wage mandate effort in San Diego.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Oct 27, 2025

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AROUND CALIFORNIA

Statewide news

CALIFORNIA

Lawsuit Claims Prop 50 Creates Race-Based Congressional Maps

A federal complaint filed by the Dhillon Law Group, Assemblyman David Tangipa, 18 California voters and the California Republican Party alleges that the new maps violate constitutional bans on racial gerrymandering.

A coalition including the Dhillon Law Group, Assemblyman David Tangipa, 18 California voters and the California Republican Party filed a federal lawsuit on November 5, 2025 challenging Proposition 50.

The suit contends that the measure unconstitutionally draws congressional district lines based on race to favor Hispanic voters.

Plaintiffs argue the new boundaries breach the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments by separating citizens into different voting districts according to race without compelling justification or supporting evidence.

According to the complaint, the Equal Protection Clause demands racial neutrality in government decisions, including mapmaking.

The filing quotes prior Supreme Court rulings that race-based districting rests on the assumption that voters of one race think alike and share identical political interests.

Such an approach, the suit states, risks dividing the nation into competing racial factions and undermines representative democracy.

When states engage in racial gerrymandering, the complaint adds, they also violate the Fifteenth Amendment’s protection against denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color.

The lawsuit notes that the California Legislature issued a press release stating Proposition 50 creates two new districts to "empower Latino voters to elect their candidates of choice."

That brings the total to sixteen districts described as "Voting Rights Act districts" designed to favor one race or ethnicity.

The consultant who drew the lines, Paul Mitchell of Redistricting Partners, said the first thing he did was to add a "Latino District" that the Independent Citizens District had previously eliminated.

Mitchell also adjusted boundaries to create a "Latino-influenced district" with 35 percent Latino voting-age population.

Plaintiffs maintain that California’s Hispanic voters already elect their preferred candidates to state and federal offices without being blocked by majority bloc voting.

They point out that Latinos are the most numerous demographic in the state and that California voters typically choose candidates based on party affiliation rather than race.

Under Supreme Court precedent, states must demonstrate that a minority group cannot elect its candidates of choice because of white majority opposition, the suit says.

Without such proof, the complaint asserts, there is no lawful basis for race-based congressional maps.

The map in question was not produced by legislators or funded by the state.

Instead, it was drafted by Mitchell, whom the suit identifies as Governor Newsom’s redistricting map creator tasked with creating five new Democratic members of Congress.

Campaign finance records from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee show it paid Redistricting Partners for the work.

During a public presentation, Mitchell acknowledged that racial considerations guided the plan, starting with drawing a replacement Latino majority-minority district in Los Angeles that he had worked on with HOPE in the last redistricting process.

The sixteen districts identified in the lawsuit as racial gerrymanders are CD 13, 18, 21, 22, 25, 29, 31, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 41, 44, 46 and 52.

CD 42 is believed to be the Latino-influenced district referenced by Mitchell.

The legal action follows an earlier unsuccessful attempt by Republicans to block the special election through the California Supreme Court.

That court denied an injunction request aimed at halting the measures.

Tangipa posted on social media that the suit marks the start of a broader effort on behalf of California residents.

The source material contains quoted language from Supreme Court rulings cited in the complaint warning that race-based districting can encourage elected officials to believe their primary obligation is to one racial group.

San Diego Newsline · Based on reporting by California Globe · Nov 5, 2025

CALIFORNIA

Newsom Accuses Trump of Rigging Elections While California Moves to Alter Independent Redistricting

The governor cited Republican-led redistricting efforts in states like Texas as he and the attorney general announced intentions to challenge the state's independent redistricting commission.

California taxpayers already grappling with high debt, ongoing wildfires, persistent homelessness and the highest poverty rate in the nation now face another distraction from Gov. Gavin Newsom: a push to overhaul the state's independent redistricting process.

In an interview broadcast Thursday on NBC, Newsom charged that President Trump is attempting to influence mid-decade redistricting in GOP-led states to tilt the 2026 congressional elections. "He's changing the rules. He's rigging the game because he knows he'll lose if all things are equal," Newsom told host Kristen Welker.

The governor added that California would "fight fire with fire." His remarks come as he and Attorney General Rob Bonta announced in August their intention to eliminate the independent redistricting commission that voters had established to draw congressional and legislative maps.

Critics, including then-Assembly Minority Leader James Gallagher, a Republican from Gerber, have argued that the effort is an attempt to reduce the number of remaining Republican-held districts in the state. Gallagher previously described the maps as "rigged maps drawn in secret to give Democrat politicians more power by dismantling the independent commission Californians created to keep them out of map-drawing."

Newsom's administration has tied the redistricting push to legal actions in Texas, where Gov. Greg Abbott added the issue to the 2025 legislative agenda after the U.S. Department of Justice raised concerns. Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon notified Abbott and the state's attorney general that four congressional districts appeared to be "unconstitutional racially based" gerrymanders.

Those districts were drawn in 2021 following the 2020 census. A 2024 ruling by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Petteway v. Galveston County found that the coalition districts combining Black and Hispanic voters were not protected under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

Legal analyst Hans von Spakovsky has explained that when the lines were drawn, race and ethnicity were used as the predominant factor, making the districts unconstitutional under the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment and the principle of "one person, one vote," so they must be redrawn.

Newsom framed the situation as evidence of broader efforts by Trump to gain advantage before any ballots are cast. He also criticized the Supreme Court and Congress, stating that lawmakers have lost their status as a coequal branch of government. "We've lost the coequal branch of government. Speaker [Mike] Johnson has no interest in oversight," Newsom said.

The governor further described Trump as historically unpopular, claiming the president's policies have left Americans poorer and sicker.

He pointed to higher costs for everyday goods including coffee, beef, automobiles and utilities.

Democrats in California have lost 2.1 million registered voters in recent years and are confronting declining popularity. Newsom insisted he is focused on Proposition 50 and ensuring "fair and free elections."

When asked about potential presidential ambitions, Newsom replied, "I don't," despite earlier signals suggesting interest in a 2028 bid. He added, "I'm focused on Prop 50. I'm focusing on fair and free elections."

The state's challenges extend beyond politics. Wildfires continue to burn, Pacific Palisades is not being rebuilt after the January fires, crime remains high, gas prices are high, and homeless drug addicts still live on the streets.

Newsom warned that developments in California often preview national trends. "I'm here in California. Future happens here first. We're America's coming attraction," he said.

The redistricting debate occurs against a backdrop of 148 majority-minority districts nationwide, representing approximately 34 percent of the total 435 districts in the U.S. House. Democrats represent 122 of these districts, while Republicans represent 26.

Legal observers note that not every such district results from deliberate efforts to boost minority voting strength. The source material indicates the dispute involves whether maps should use race as the predominant factor or follow equal protection standards, with some analysts arguing against creating new injustices to address past ones.

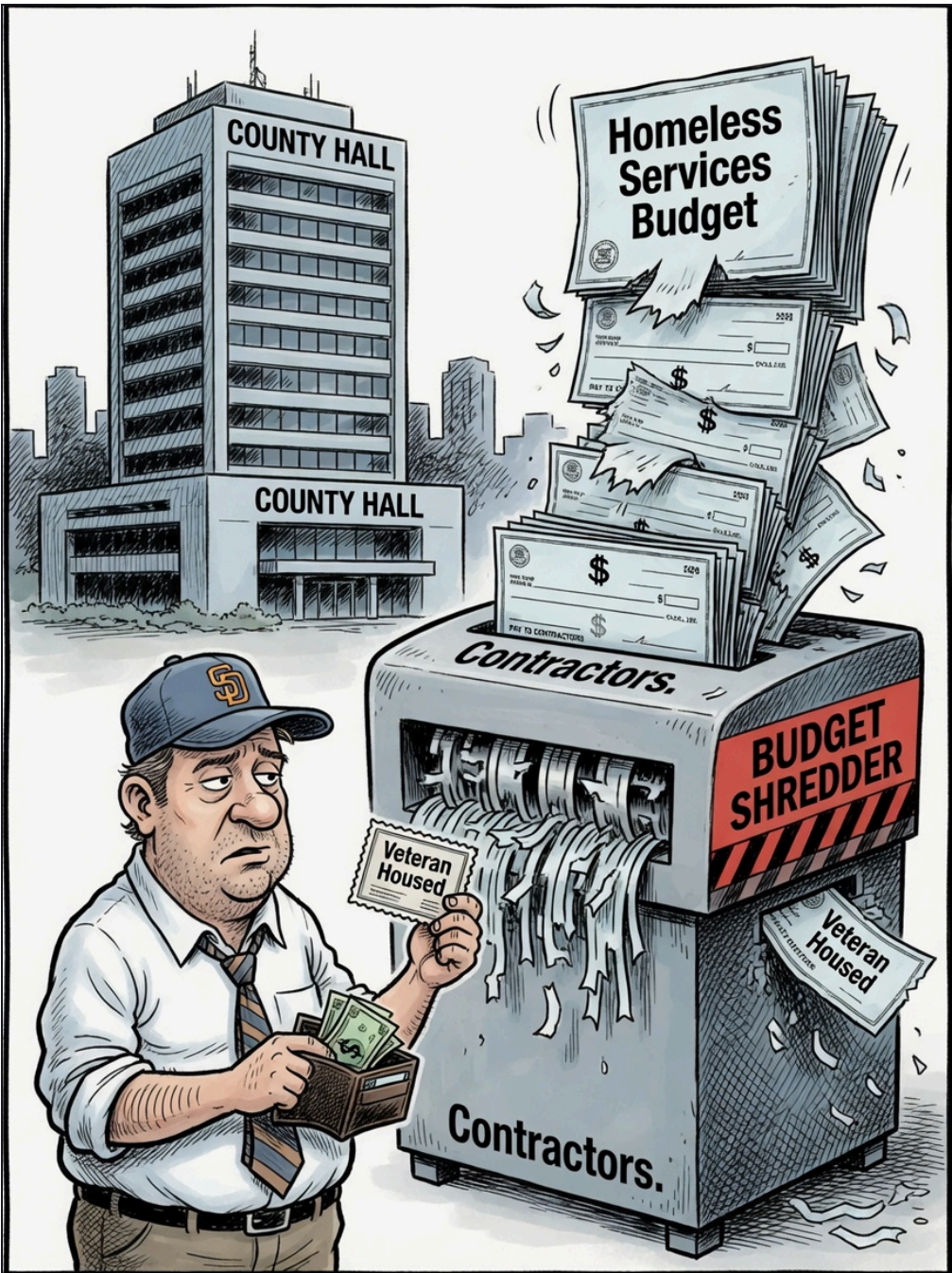
For California taxpayers and those concerned with public safety, the governor's emphasis on congressional map changes has drawn criticism regarding priorities when core state services appear strained, according to the reporting.

San Diego Newsline · Based on reporting by California Globe · Nov 3, 2025

SAN DIEGO NEWSLINE

The news, every day.

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From taxpayer pockets to one veteran housed

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

Opinion — the views of the writers named, not news reporting

ABOUT THIS PAPER San Diego Newsline covers downtown San Diego first —	City Hall, the Gaslamp Quarter, East Village, Little Italy, Barrio Logan and the	waterfront — and the county around it. Every item names its source; read the originals	and our standards at sandiegonewsline.com.	
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MORE NEWS

Downtown, City & County

COUNTY Special Election Results – When to Expect Them On election night, we all want to know the results right away, but counting ballots takes time. Here are some reasons why: The County has over 2 million active registered voters. Every active registered voter is sent a ballot in the mail. Mail ballots can be counted if postmarked on or before Election Day and received up to seven days after. Those not registered but otherwise eligible to vote can conditionally register and vote provisionally up to and on Election Day. So, what can you expect on election night?	The first set of unofficial election night results comes in shortly after 8 p.m. This will include mail ballots received before Election Day and vote center ballots from early voting between Oct. 25 – Nov. 3. To follow the latest results update on election night, you can visit sdvote.com or follow the Registrar’s office on X (formerly Twitter). After the first unofficial report, election night results will include only the vote center ballots cast on Election Day. There will be no more updates to mail ballots on election night. The Election Day ballots come in after the vote centers close at 8 p.m. There will be a gap in time for the next set of results due to poll workers packing up supplies and driving in from the vote centers	located around the county. After arriving at the Registrar’s office, the vote center ballots will be scanned and results will be periodically updated until all vote center ballots have been counted. Since there are fewer vote centers, the Registrar’s office will provide less frequent result updates. The final unofficial election night results may not come in until midnight or later and will only cover the ballots that could be counted immediately. The counting of ballots does not end election night. Mail ballots These are ballots dropped off at vote centers, official ballot drop boxes or picked up from the U.S. Postal Service on Election Day.	Ballots mailed right before or on Nov. 4 have seven days to arrive if postmarked by Election Day. Provisional ballots People who missed the Oct. 20 registration deadline may conditionally register and vote provisionally in person up to and on Election Day. Once their voter registration is processed, the voter registration becomes active, and the provisional ballot is counted. The Registrar’s office cannot predict how many residents who are not registered, but otherwise eligible, will take advantage of this. After election night, the next release of unofficial results is scheduled to be posted by 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6, Friday, Nov. 7 and Monday, Nov. 10.	Additional updates are at the discretion of the Registrar of Voters. The Registrar’s office will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 27 and Friday, Nov. 28 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Election results must be certified by Dec. 2 and the Registrar expects to use the full certification period to make sure every legally cast vote is added to the count in the most expeditious, yet careful manner available, ensuring accurate results. All updates will be posted on sdvote.com with the final certified results posted by Dec. 2. Learn more about the November special election at sdvote.com, or call (858) 565-5800 or toll free at (800) 696-0136. County of San Diego news release · Nov 4, 2025
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