

PUBLIC COMMENTS to SONOMA COUNTY BOARD of SUPERVISORS

Speaker 1

Today a few of us are speaking on behalf of all the voters in Sonoma County who feel their votes don't count and their voices aren't heard which is a California Constitutional Guarantee under Article II, Sec 2.5.

In April of this year, I attempted to schedule a 30-minute meeting with one of you. I wanted to learn what issues are important to the BOS and ask how I could help you as a Sonoma County resident. I also wanted to extend an invitation for you to attend a Nonpartisan Election Integrity Presentation locally to learn more about election integrity alongside your constituency. I hoped you, an elected member of the Board of Supervisors of our County, would want to join us and learn what the concerns of some of your constituents are.

Instead, the response I received was:

No, thank you, I do not wish to discuss continuing bogus claims regarding election fraud and I am not interested in attending any event that highlights this kind of misinformation.

This response was filled with conjecture and hyperbole and was unacceptable for a simple invitation to attend an event that would enable you to interact with other citizens of Sonoma County who have genuine concerns about our elections. How does wanting a completely transparent and accountable election system equate to claims of fraud and misinformation? It sounds like the Board Member that said this is the one "misinformed".

In May I appeared before *all of you* to extend the same invitation and received no response from any of you which is a shame. Roughly 120 of YOUR CONSTITUENTS that have an interest and passion to ensure our elections are fair and secure registered.

We deserve and expect more from our elected leaders than frivolous claims regarding our concerns, for they are legitimate as you will hear today.

Speaker 2

As elected representatives, all of you swore an oath to protect the Constitutional rights of the citizens you are supposed to serve. We elected you. You work for us. Article II, Sec 1 of our California Constitution guarantees us,

"All political power is inherent in the people. Government is instituted for their protection, security, and benefit, and they have the right to alter or reform it when the public good may require."

Article II, Sec. 2.5 guarantees each citizen in California that casts a ballot to have a constitutionally protected right to have their ballots counted.

It reads:

“A voter who casts a vote in an election in accordance with the laws of this State shall have that vote counted.”

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors has a duty to uphold the Constitution. The use of terms such as "bogus claims" and "misinformation" speaks volumes. We would love to learn what the bogus claims and misinformation being spread throughout Sonoma County are.

As a citizen I expect nothing less than knowing exactly how my elections are being run with transparency and fairness and that you are doing everything in your power to assure that as well. It is your sworn oath to us, and we intend on holding you accountable to it.

Speaker 3

During his inaugural address the late President John F. Kennedy encouraged us to: “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”

Election Integrity is a nonpartisan issue. Surveys are showing that 65 -70% of our country do not trust our elections. When citizens don't trust that our elections are free, fair, and transparent, we don't have a country anymore. When one puts good people in bad systems, one gets bad outcomes. Citizens not trusting our election systems is a bad outcome. That's the situation we find ourselves in and some ask: “What can I do for my country?” One thing we *can* do is ask questions and hold our elected representatives accountable to find solutions for the greater good.

There has been a lot of “noise” surrounding our elections which is an unnecessary distraction from the simple fact that our elections are a foundation of our Republic. Citizens should be able to ask any question they want without being attacked or labeled. It's unfortunate that a polarization within our culture automatically labels someone for asking questions, which in and of itself is an everyday aspect of life. It's what we teach our kids. Ask questions!

Under existing policies when ballots are sent out to all California voters it means there are over 20 million unsupervised ballots floating around in the mail. With many counties not properly maintaining their voter rolls, or following election law, voter fraud has been reported. To reduce the chance of that happening and assuring voters that elections are free and fair, we must ask questions. As citizens we have a right and responsibility to do so. It is our civic duty.

Speaker 4

Since no one had ever explored possible voting irregularities in Sonoma County some of our citizens decided to knock on doors and conduct a well-designed seven-week canvassing effort of Sonoma County voters. What we learned was eye opening and has

been shared with the office of the Registrar of Voters with whom we are now in communication. We are simply asking questions.

At a meeting with the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters in August what follows is some of what was shared about our canvass efforts. Our objective was to help verify the accuracy of voter rolls.

Total number of Registered Voters in Sonoma County – 304,066

Total number of Households visited – 220

Total number of Registrants visited – 837

Total number of Households with no answer at the door – 30

Total number of Registrants that that represented – 180

Total number of Registrants found that appeared to not live at the registered address – 176 (this number fluctuates).

Total number of Registrants *known* to not vote – 43: others are in question.

Questions asked of registered voters in household:

1. Did you vote in the 2022 General Election?
2. What method did you use? (i.e., vote in person, vote by mail, vote by drop box, etc.)
3. Did you receive any extra ballots?

Bonus questions:

1. Do you know how many others registered at your residence voted in the 2022 election?
2. How many registered voters are there supposed to be at this address?
3. Did you receive any ballots for anyone that does not live here? If so, do you remember what became of those ballots?

Speakers 5 & 6

These are some of our Canvass Learnings and Questions for the Board of Supervisors

Please ask yourself this question: In the ideal situation, what do *you* think visiting a dwelling to canvass should look like? What would *you* expect to find? Think about it.

Our canvassing efforts were conducted based on the premise that if **only certifiable legal votes of American citizens that are registered to vote in their district, county, or state are counted**, and stipulate that the requirements to be an American citizen include the fact that one needs to be at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the US, a lawful permanent resident of the US, and possess the ability to read, write, and speak English:

- Why did this canvass contain a registered non-citizen?
- Why did a registered non-citizen receive a ballot and a registered American citizen did not?
- Why did this canvass effort contain registrants who are non-English speaking (i.e., Russian, Vietnamese, Spanish)?
- If it is a requirement that citizens be able to read, write, and speak English, why are ballots available in so many languages?

- Why do people routinely receive ballots where they don't reside?
- We canvassed people who didn't vote, can't remember if they did, or what happened to their ballot. Where are those ballots?
- One registrant not only didn't live at the registered address currently, but in fact, never did. Their ballot is still delivered there.
- How is anyone supposed to conduct oversight on ballots in, for example, Homeless shelters, the Social Advocates for Youth Organization (SAY), Transitional Housing, Clean & Sober housing, Catholic Charities, etc. when these residents can't be visited and asked questions and/or information cannot be divulged per policy especially Assisted Care facilities?
- Why does one transitional household that was visited still receive 25-30 ballots every election season for people who no longer live there?
- One resident who received ballots for individuals not living there simply left them in the mailbox to be retrieved by whomever...
- Why are elections so confusing that an elderly person can't understand them?
- A building located at 600 Morgan Street was a homeless shelter that was demolished. A new one has replaced it. Where were the 132 ballots for the former residents dwelling there delivered after the building was demolished and while the new one was under construction?
- At one facility, upon entering for the first time, canvassers were greeted by an administrator who welcomed them saying, "Come in and sit down. I know who you are, and I know why you're here. Everyone has voted and they all voted Democratic. I helped them and mailed the ballots myself."
- Finally, all these unsupervised, undeliverable, unobservable, unsecured ballots don't feel very sacred and are very costly to taxpayers whose votes might be cancelled and election outcomes altered if they fall into the hands of bad actors.

Speaker 7

How many of you think the human life is sacred?

How many of you think the ballot, our right to vote, is sacred?

I'd like to share some memorable moments during our canvassing:

- Voters who said: "Thank you for doing this."
- One Elderly voter said: "If I was younger, I'd be out there with you."
- When one Canvasser told an elderly woman: "We want to make sure that the voter rolls are accurate, that your vote counts, and your voice is heard," the demoralized voter responded: "I don't think my vote counts anymore."
- Another elderly voter became emotional saying: "Members of my family died in WW II for our freedom and we're losing it."

What *We the People* of Sonoma County want this board to know is that we want our ballots to be treated as sacredly as the human life. Currently, they are not treated with the reverence they are accorded. Feeling their votes don't count has left voters demoralized. They've lost hope and don't vote which is the single best example of voter suppression. Our concerns about election anomalies and irregularities *are legitimate* yet

go unheard which has left Sonoma County rife with opportunities for election fraud. Our position is:

We are all about fairness and justice for all regardless of political affiliation and want to work with our elected County officials to implement election reform with:

- Voter identification.
- Same day voting.
- Elimination of the machines in our elections.
- Paper ballots.
- Hand counting.

We've accomplished that for well over 200 years. We can accomplish it again. It is more efficient and effective and less costly to the taxpayers.

Thank you for your time.