777 East Rialto Avenue San Bernardino, CA 92415 Phone (909) 387-8300 Fax (909) 387-2022 www.sbcountyelections.com

September 28, 2012

Registrar of Voters

Media Contact: Felisa Cardona 909-387-2089 fcardona@rov.sbcounty.gov

** PRESS RELEASE ** VOTE BY MAIL No Lines! No Wait! No Worries!

The San Bernardino County Elections Office encourages residents to save time and vote by mail for the November 6, 2012 Presidential General Election.

In 2007, the law changed allowing citizens to become permanent mail ballot voters. In 2008, just 28 percent of the County's voters were permanent mail ballot voters. Now, more than 40 percent of the County's voters are choosing to cast their ballot by mail.

"Since the law changed, we've seen an increase in permanent mail ballot voters because voters find it to be more convenient," said Registrar Michael J. Scarpello.

While the percentages are on the rise in San Bernardino County, other counties throughout the state have more than 60 percent of their registered voters choosing to become permanent mail ballot voters, Scarpello said.

"I expect our numbers to grow because once they try it, I think they'll like it," he said.

Voters may get a mail ballot application at www.sbcountyelections.com. Voters may also pick up an application at any city clerk office in San Bernardino County, any San Bernardino County library or they can return the application found on the back of their Voter Information Guide and Sample Ballot.

Completed applications must be submitted no later than **Tuesday**, **October 30**, **2012** in order for the voter to receive a ballot in the mail for the November 6, 2012 General Election.

"Voters shouldn't wait to turn in their applications," Scarpello said. "The sooner we get them, the sooner they'll get their mail ballot. The first mailing of ballots will begin around October 11."

Voters can return their voted ballots in the mail or they can drop them off at any one of 57 locations prior to Election Day, including drive-up sites in Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino and the High Desert. Mail ballots may also be dropped off at any one of 444 San Bernardino County polling places by 8 p.m. on Election Day in order to be accepted and counted.