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For Immediate Release

Registrar of Voters

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* Press Release *

Voter Information Guide and Sample Ballot Delivered to County Voters New Online Polling Place Lookup

Voter Information Guides and Sample Ballots are being delivered to San Bernardino County voters' mailboxes October 10 through 12 for the November 6, 2012 Presidential General Election.

Inside the blue Voter Information Guide, voters will find a Sample Ballot and information about candidates and measures. They will also find a Mail Ballot Application and an application to receive an electronic version of the Voter Information Guide in future elections.

On the back cover, voters will find the address of their assigned polling place for the upcoming election.

Voters should pay special attention this year because their traditional polling place may have changed due to redrawn precinct lines after the 2010 U.S. Census.

"We want to make sure people know where to vote on Election Day," said Registrar of Voters Michael J. Scarpello. "It's important because if a voter goes to the wrong polling place they will have to vote on a provisional ballot and they may miss an opportunity to vote for all of the candidates they are entitled to vote for."

Provisional ballots can be helpful or detrimental to voters. They are helpful when they are issued to a voter whose name does not appear on the Roster of Voters because of an error in recordkeeping. However, provisional ballots can be detrimental to voters when they are issued to voters who go to the wrong polling place.

The San Bernardino County Elections Office is trying to reduce the number of provisional ballots being cast by voters who vote in the wrong location. Twelve percent of the County's voters voted on provisional ballots in the last Presidential election, which is well above the state and national averages.

Voters are being encouraged to hang on to their Voter Information Guide to find their polling place. If a voter misplaces the Guide, they can use a new online polling place lookup tool on the Elections Office website www.sbcountyelections.com. Alternatively, voters can always call the Elections Office Voter Hotline for help. Voters can reach the Hotline, which was recently tripled in size, at (800) 881-VOTE or (909) 387-8300 if they need help finding their polling place.