

County of San Bernardino

Community Services Group

ELECTIONS OFFICE of the REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

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ELECTIONS OFFICE COMPLETES RECOUNT IN SAN BERNARDINO CITY RACE - Election Results Remain Unchanged

The Elections Office of the Registrar of Voters today conducted the recount requested by Amelia Sanchez-Lopez, the candidate for San Bernardino City Clerk who was declared unsuccessful in her recent bid for the office by a three vote margin.

In her request for the recount, Sanchez-Lopez asked that all ballots be re-run through the optical ballot scanners and a review of the mailed in ballots that were rejected for signature discrepancies. California election law gave her the authority to select how the recount will be conducted, either manually (by hand count) or by means of the voting system originally used (optical scanners), as well as other materials she wanted examined.

Both candidates, including Georgeann "Gigi" Hanna, the declared winner in the race, had the opportunity to appoint two representatives to observe up-close the conduct of the recount and pose challenges on ballots or signatures during the process. In addition to the candidates' representatives, more than a dozen members of the public watched the recount.

Registrar of Voters, Michael J. Scarpello, explained each step of the process to onlookers and ran each segment of the recount, and in the end, it was his determination that was deemed the final decision in each of the challenges.

All of the more than 12,000 ballots cast in the election were re-run through the optical ballot scanners, and three additional ballots were added to the final total after Scarpello made his final rulings on signature challenges.

The results of the recount were declared, 6,076 votes for Hanna, and 6,070 for Sanchez-Lopez, however, state election law provides that in a recount unless the winner changes, the initial certified results will remain unchanged. Hanna remained the top vote-getter, and the Certified Final - Official Results that were released on February 13, 2012 stand as certified by the Registrar of Voters.