

Two Ways to Vote – Electronic and Paper – The Voter’s Choice

Vote Electronically

Voters may vote on the new eSlate Voting System at the polls on Election Day or in the 29 days preceding the election at the Elections Office, located at 40 Tower Road in San Mateo, and in the Clerk-Recorder-Assessor’s Office at 555 County Center in Redwood City. The eSlates are easy to use, accessible and provide ballots in three languages (English, Spanish and Chinese).

The eSlate voting system is fully certified and complies with state and federal law. The accessible eSlate units make it possible for voters with disabilities to cast a secret and independent vote, like every American.

An important feature of the eSlate voting system is its “paper trail.” By law, electronic voting systems must produce a paper copy of the voter’s ballot choices before a voter casts their ballot. Voters have the right and the responsibility to verify their vote before voting. The eSlate prints a paper record summarizing the electronic votes cast by the voter and asks the voter to verify their choices before officially casting their ballot. Voters “Verify their Vote” by comparing the eSlate’s onscreen summary of their votes with the printed paper record.

To schedule a demonstration or presentation call Jackie Coates at (650) 363-1884, email a request to vote2006@smcare.org or go online to www.shapethefuture.org/eslate/demo. Election staff will come to any meeting, organization, event or church group, etc., any day, any time.

Voters can learn more about the eSlate voting system by visiting the eSlate Learning Center at www.shapethefuture.org/eslate . It shows how to vote on the eSlate, has an online video, information on security features, frequently asked questions, and online demonstration request forms.

Vote a Paper Ballot

Voters who would rather vote a paper ballot may request to do so at the polls on Election Day or sign up to vote by mail. If a voter signs up to become a Permanent Absentee Voter (and always vote by mail), their election materials are sent to them in the month before the election. Voters simply mail their voted ballot back in the return envelope provided preferably a week prior to the election. Voted ballots can also be dropped off at the Election offices in the 29 days before the Election or at any City Hall or any polling place on Election Day between 7:00am and 8:00pm.

Nearly one-third of all San Mateo County voters have signed up to vote by mail. Its popularity has increased with every election. In the June 2006 Primary, 56% of the voters voted by mail instead of voting at the polls.

To sign up to vote by mail, voters may fill out the absentee ballot application on the back of the Official Voter Information Pamphlet and Sample Ballot or go online to www.shapethefuture.org. Voters may also send a letter to the Elections Office at 40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402 with their name, address, birth date and a request to vote this election or every election by mail. The letter must be signed and dated by the voter.



