

CITY OF BELLFLOWER
MARCH 3, 2009, GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Based on the laws in effect in 2008, this information has been prepared as a public service and is intended to be used for general reference and guidance only. For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office by calling (562) 804-1424, or by visiting City Hall at 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

HOW TO VOTE BY MAIL

Q *Who may vote by "Vote by Mail" Ballot?*

Any registered voter. Furthermore, any registered voter may apply for permanent "Vote By Mail" voter status. Such voters are automatically sent a "Vote by Mail" Ballot for every election. For further information on how to become a permanent "Vote By Mail" voter, call the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's Office at (800) 815-2666. (Elections Code 3201)

Q *Where can I obtain an application to vote by mail in Bellflower's March 3, 2009, General Municipal Election?*

An **application** to vote by mail will be **included** on the back cover of the **Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet**, which are automatically mailed to each registered voter of the City between January 22 and February 10. Applications are also available at the City Clerk's Office and can be mailed to you or obtained in person. (Elections Code 3001)

Q *What information must be included in my "Vote by Mail" Ballot application?*

Your application must include your printed name, your residence address, the address you want the "Vote by Mail" Ballot sent to, and the name and date of the election you are applying for, i.e., March 3, 2009, Bellflower General Municipal Election. In addition, you **must sign and date** your application. (Elections Code 3006)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
“VOTE BY MAIL” BALLOT INFORMATION
Page 2

Q *When must I apply for a “Vote by Mail” Ballot?*

The City Clerk’s Office will process applications and mail “Vote by Mail” Ballots between February 2 and February 24 for the March 3, 2009, General Municipal Election. You may submit an application prior to this time, but the City Clerk’s Office cannot process it until February 2, 2009. (Elections Code 3001)

The City Clerk cannot accept any “Vote by Mail” Ballot applications received less than seven days prior to an election. However, there are provisions to submit a late application and obtain a ballot during the final week before an election if you become ill or disabled or for some unforeseen reason find that you will be away from your polling place on election day. Under these circumstances, you may also authorize another person to bring you the ballot and return your voted ballot to the City Clerk. (Elections Code 3021)

Q *May I apply and vote at the City Clerk’s Office?*

Yes, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and up until the close of polls at 8 p.m. on March 3, 2009. The City Clerk’s Office is located at Bellflower City Hall, 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower, California, on the second floor (elevator available). Telephone number (562) 804-1424, extension 2222 or 2221.

Q *When must I return the voted ballot?*

In order to be counted, your ballot must be received by the City Clerk no later than the close of polls on election day. The polls close at 8:00 p.m. If there is insufficient time to mail your ballot to ensure its receipt by election day, either bring your ballot to the City Clerk’s Office or to any polling place within the City. Ballots received after the close of polls cannot be counted regardless of the postmark. If you return your voted ballot by mail, include the required postage on the envelope or it will not be delivered by the post office. (Elections Code 3017, 3020)

Q *Can I give my voted “Vote by Mail” Ballot to someone else to return for me?*

If you are ill or have a physical disability, you may follow the instructions printed on the back of the return envelope to designate a relative (spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, or sister) or a person residing in your household to return your voted ballot for you. (Elections Code 3017)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
“VOTE BY MAIL” BALLOT INFORMATION
Page 3

Q *If I lose the “Vote by Mail” Ballot sent to me, can I get another one?*

Yes. However, you must sign a statement under penalty of perjury that you have lost or did not receive the first ballot; or you may still cast a “provisional” ballot at your polling place on election day, which will not be counted until it can be determined that you have not already voted. The City Clerk maintains a record of each “Vote by Mail” Ballot request and provides a list of these requests to the polling place to ensure that each voter only casts one ballot. If you vote twice by “Vote by Mail” Ballot, even by mistake, neither ballot will be counted. (Elections Code 3013, 3014)

Q *If I request a “Vote by Mail” Ballot, can I change my mind and still vote at my regular polling place?*

Yes, but you must give your unvoted “Vote by Mail” Ballot to the polling place worker before voting a regular ballot. (Elections Code 3015) However, if you are unable to surrender your “Vote by Mail” Ballot, you may still cast a “provisional” ballot at your polling place, which will not be counted until it can be determined that you have not already voted. (Elections Code 3016, 14310)