

**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:**

**VOTING INFORMATION**

**Q     *How will I know what is on the ballot and where to vote?***

Each registered voter of the City will automatically receive a Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet to inform them what is on the ballot and where they go to vote. Please check the polling place address for each election because poll locations often change. This pamphlet will be mailed between January 22, 2009, and February 10, 2009. If you are a registered voter and do not receive your pamphlet by February 17, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (562) 804-1424, extension 2221 or 2222.

**Q     *When will the polls be open?***

The polling places will open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on Election Day (March 3, 2009). Voters that are in line at the close of polls are entitled to vote.

**Q     *Why has my voting location changed?***

Every voter's polling address is printed on the back cover of the Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet he or she receives in the mail. Reasons for changes in polling locations from previous elections are:

- Precinct boundary changes are required due to reapportionment, increased registration, or consolidation of precincts.
- Polling place locations are not permanent and are subject to availability for each election.
- A polling place across the street is not necessarily in the voting precinct for all residents of the area because the precinct dividing boundary line may be established in the middle of the street.

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**Q** *If I don't know what to do when I get to my polling place, can someone there help me?*

Yes, the polling place workers will help you. (Elections Code 14272, 14282)

**Q** *Can I take my sample ballot or own written list into the voting booth?*

Yes. Deciding your votes before you go to the polling place will help in voting your ballot.

**Q** *What do I do if my polling place is not open?*

Check the address on the back of your Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet to make sure you have gone to the right place; polling places often change. If you are at the right place, call the City Clerk's Office at (562) 804-1424, extension 2221 or 2222, to let them know the polling place is not open.

**Q** *What is a "provisional" ballot and why do they take so long to process after each election?*

Provisional ballots are provided at the polling place to those voters whose names are not listed on the index roster. Often the voter has moved without informing the Registrar-Recorder's Office. Sometimes the voter's registration was canceled in error. Often the voter is at the wrong polling place. Another case of provisional voting is when the voter has "VBM" marked in the precinct's index roster designating that a "Vote by Mail" Ballot was already issued to that voter. However, the voter claims he or she never requested or received a "Vote by Mail" Ballot, or states that he or she did not vote the "Vote by Mail" Ballot but does not have it with them to surrender. In these cases, a voter may vote a regular ballot that will be inserted into a sealed provisional envelope, which is not opened or counted until the registration information is researched by the Registrar-Recorder's Office and the voter is determined to be eligible to vote.

**Q** *Why does it take so long to count all of the ballots?*

There are three categories of ballots that cannot be processed on election night:

- "Vote by Mail" Ballots turned in at the polls
- Provisional ballots voted at the polls
- Write-in ballots

All three categories require special handling and will be processed during the official canvass, which is conducted by the City Clerk within the two weeks following the election.

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**Q**     ***Where will the ballots be tabulated?***

On election night, after the polls close at 8 p.m., the poll workers will bring the ballots to the William Bristol Civic Auditorium at City Hall, which will serve as the Central Counting Place. However, the poll workers must first complete the paperwork to balance the number of ballots cast with the number of voters signing in, account for the number of remaining unvoted ballots as well as any "Vote by Mail" Ballots returned to their polling place, and gather all of their supplies. Most polling places will complete this function between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. The tabulation of votes is open to the public.