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Planning to Retire?

Plan to Join SLOCREA: SLO County Retired Employees' Association!

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Check out our website at www.slocrea.org. We have links to many organizations important to Seniors and people thinking about retiring, or even needing info for aging relatives.

Especially during this pandemic, we honor all county employees

and the work you do in service to our county. This month I'm giving a Special Shout Out to our County Clerk-Recorder's Office — our Elections Office Staff — for the awesome job they are doing to ensure that our election goes as smoothly as possible. Thank you!

Voting is personal for me. My grandparents marched for Women's Suffrage in the early 1900s. On Election Day, November 02, 1920 — a cold day on the east coast — my mom's parents bundled her and my uncle up and off they all went to the polls to witness the historic moment when my grandmother voted for the 1st time. My mom was just turning 4 years old and she remembered that moment until she died at age 98. She never missed an election and neither have I. I hope you don't either!

The picture I provided for this article shows me writing Get Out The Vote post cards for an organization I support. I wrote 100 post cards encouraging voting and have sent them in already. This organization will be sending a million or more post cards to eligible voters who don't always vote. Many other organizations are doing the same.

Here are some FYIs and reminders for us (and I would be thrilled if all of you already know all of this!):

Be an informed voter: You should have already received your California Voter's Pamphlet in the mail. If you haven't received it, check your Voter Registration to be sure you are registered at the correct address. You'll find info about the Propositions in it. Need more info? Go to the League of Women Voters' website for an objective analysis of all the Propositions & their likely impact.

When you receive your ballot in the USPS mail (likely between October 1st and 8th), mark your ballot per your preferences. Once you've finished marking your ballot, **seal it, SIGN it and send or take it in.**

This time there are several ways to return your ballot. After you **seal and SIGN it**, you can mail it (via USPS) or you can drop it off at any one of a number of designated places, including the County Clerk's Office (in Atascadero or in SLO), a designated drop box, or at one of the 23 Voting Services Centers open on Saturday October 31st, Sunday November 1st, Monday November 2nd, or Tuesday November 3rd.

Ballots received before October 31st will be tabulated by machine on a flow basis. Tabulations will then be suspended for the 4 days in-person voting is offered and will resume after the polls close @ 8:00 PM November 3rd. Tabulations completed before October 31st will facilitate getting an accurate count as soon as possible after the polls close.

And Guess What! If you really want to vote in person, you can do it on any of those 4 days at any of the 23 Voting Services Centers in SLO County. I'll be working at one of those centers each of the 4 days. Come by and say "Hi!"

Furthermore, if you are not properly registered, you can still go to one of those Voting Services Centers, register to vote and vote in person all at once on that very day! There are no excuses for not voting!

Here's a quote from President Abraham Lincoln: "Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their backs on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters." (Ouch! Sign your ballot!)

~Any opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author.~

~~Miki Gillman~~

