

November 19, 2020

Dear Redding Residents:

Now that the dust has settled from the whirlwind of the last few months as we prepared for the Presidential Election, I would like to take the opportunity to thank and praise all of the people involved in facilitating a successful Election Day here in Redding.

Due to COVID-19, many electors (approximately 39% of registered voters) opted to vote by absentee ballot this year. My office issued 2,786 absentee ballots, 94% of which were returned and counted on Election Day. The processing of this many absentee ballots, from receiving in thousands of applications to the issuing of the ballots and the return processing to make sure each vote would be counted, was a daunting task for my small office. My staff went over and above answering endless phone calls and responding to hundreds of emails explaining the absentee ballot process, confirming voter registrations and answering questions about voting and Election Day in general.

Anyone who has ever voted by absentee ballot knows the process is a bit tedious. The “ballot set” that is mailed contains a ballot, an inner envelope, an outer mailing envelope, instructions and this year also included a flyer explaining the use of the official ballot drop box located at Town Hall. A small army of volunteers came to Town Hall for two weeks to put together these ballot sets, assembling over 4,000! Thank you to all of you – I so appreciate your time and effort!

When it came time to issue the ballot sets, my staff worked long hours, including weekends and many evenings, to get ready for the mailing of over 2,000 ballots on October 2nd. I am so grateful to have such an amazing, dedicated staff. To my Deputy Clerk, Kerry and my Assistant, Kim – thank you so much for all your hours of hard work!

For those who voted in person on Election Day, the Registrars provided a safe, efficient and organized polling place at the Redding Community Center gymnasium. Working with the town maintenance crew, they made sure voters were able to cast their votes quickly and efficiently with all COVID safety protocols being taken. Kudos to our Registrars of Voters, Amy Alcott and Meghan Ely and their Deputies, for the successful execution of this unprecedented election.

Thank you to all the poll workers, most of whom put in a very long day either at the Community Center or at Town Hall, for making this election a success. And a huge thank you to our Election Moderator *extraordinaire*, Bill Pardee, for a job well done, as usual.

Lastly, I want to congratulate our newly elected Registrars of Voters – Meghan Ely and Sara Baker. I look forward to working with you both!

Michele R. Grande, MCTC-MMC
Redding Town Clerk