

Guest Column: Election integrity demands that every vote counts

May 30, 2022



Thank you to the Triplicate for the amount of time and effort they put into last week's Special Election Edition. Editor Dan Schmidt and staff did a great job of sending the voters in Del Norte County a copy.

It was an excellent place to read about issues from the candidates, who they are, their qualifications, and how they can make a difference in Del Norte County. No bias. Just information. What a breath of fresh air. Kudos to the Triplicate and staff for their hard work and wanting to inform Del Norte County of all the local candidates running for office.

There is less than two weeks until the June 7 Primary Election. As we draw closer, election integrity is on everyone's mind. We all want fair and honest elections. We, as voters, depend on knowing that what we vote for will be counted correctly and will make a difference.

Did you know YOU can be part of the election integrity in Del Norte?

First, look at the ballot you received in the mail. Is your name correct? Your address? Your party? Have you yet to receive your ballot? If you have any problems, contact the County Registrar of Voters office at (707) 464-7216 or visit them at 981 H St., Crescent City.

Did you receive a ballot for someone that no longer lives at your residence? If so, DO NOT throw it away. Mark the ballot MOVED, DECEASED or whatever the circumstance is and return it to the registrar's office. This is the only way to get the information to the clerk and correct the voter rolls and out of your mailbox. The more information the registrar has the more accurate the rolls are.

Next, fill out your ballot.

Get informed. Review last week's Triplicate Special Election Edition information. There were some great Q & A's from the candidates. You can pick up copies at their office, other newspaper locations or on the Triplicate website at Triplicate.com.

Or you can visit your local political party website or party office for information on the candidates they recommend.

Other organizations and unions also share their recommendations on issues that matter to them. A simple google search of the office and issues that you are concerned with might just pull up an organization that has looked into a candidate that lines up with that issue.

Better still, a lot of the candidates are local. A phone call or email to them can help give you the information you are looking for.

Once you have completed your ballot, be sure to seal the envelope and SIGN YOUR BALLOT where directed. You can mail or drop it off at the Del Norte County Registrar of Voters office at 981 H St., Crescent City, or at the Del Norte Senior Center, 1765 Northcrest Dr., Crescent City, prior to Election Day.

You can even drop it off at any polling location on Election Day. If you prefer the more traditional way of voting, you can still vote in person. Just bring the ballot mailed to you to your polling location. The choice of how to vote is up to you.

If you send or drop off your ballot right away, you have lots of time to check if your ballot has been counted. You can do that by going to WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov. You can get a text or email notification when your ballot is counted. Check often. Make sure it says received and counted. If there are any issues, go to the Registrar's office and report it.

The best way to ensure election integrity is to be part of the processes. Be a poll worker. These are paid positions with training. Not only can you learn about the election process, but you also can help ensure procedures are followed. Meet your neighbors, be part of the election process. You must be 16 years or older to help. The County Clerk, Alissia Northrup, is still looking for workers. Please get in touch with the Registrar's office if you can help at (707) 464-7216.

Another option is to be a poll observer for a campaign or political party. Contact your political party for information on how to get involved. Traditionally, you can also watch the processing of the ballots on the county's website at <https://www.co.del-norte.ca.us/departments/elections>

Del Norte County is fortunate that we have a very competent and honest Voter Registrar in Alissa Northrup. She and her staff do a great job making sure our elections run smoothly.

Commit to vote on or before Tuesday, June 7th. Let your voice be heard.

For questions, feel free to reach out at delnorterepublicans.org or at (707) 464-6966.

Karen Sanders is chair of the Del Norte County Republican Central Committee