

Election count complete, certified

Four weeks ago El Dorado County voters performed their civic duty by casting ballots in the 2016 presidential election. While some voted absentee or provisional, more than 83 percent voted overall. The total number of votes cast was 97,024 out of 116,459 registered voters, according to Registrar of Voters Bill Schultz.

Schultz sent the data via e-mail to the Mountain Democrat Tuesday.

Of 198 precincts countywide, Schultz noted that all 198 had reported and likewise all 198 were completed and certified. He also described a fairly consistent pattern in the county's vote tally and percentage of turnout over the past three presidential elections. Of a total of 105,687 registered voters in 2004, the voter count was 87,314 or 82.6 percent, he said.

The 2008 election topped all other recent presidential campaigns by a couple of points with 84.34 percent turnout — that was 93,890 out of 111,325 eligible voters. With 110,723 registered voters in 2012, the participation number was 80.92 percent.

That represented a turnout count of 89,601 for the 2012 election.

Schultz included data from other similar counties.

"Currently, with 32 counties reporting finals," Schultz explained, "we are No. 8 in ranked turnout (and that includes counties like Sierra, Amador, Calaveras, Alpine, Modoc and a couple more with much smaller voter registrations).

"Pretty good," he said.

Speculating on why nearly 20,000 registered El Dorado County voters did not vote, Schultz again called attention to the numbers. In 2012, 21,122 residents failed to vote. The "no shows" numbered 17,435 in 2008 and 18,373 in 2004.

"Since the figures show it's fairly close each election as to the number of voters who do not vote, it's hard to say why. We certainly try to do everything we can to get out the vote each election," he concluded.

Local results show that Donald Trump got almost 52 percent with 49,247 votes to Hillary Clinton's 36,404 or just more than 38 percent. Libertarian Gary Johnson received a little more than 5 percent with 5,027 votes to the Green Party's Jill Stein who got 1,425 or 1.5 percent.

In the race for Barbara Boxer's long-held Senate seat, California Attorney General Kamala Harris outpaced Democratic opponent, Representative Loretta Sanchez, by 63.3 percent to 36.6 percent, Schultz noted. With similar numbers, Congressman Tom McClintock easily kept his job with 61.9 percent to Bob Derlet's 38 percent of El Dorado County's vote. Ted Gaines held on to his Senate District 1 with 63.8 percent over challenger Rob Rowen who received just over 36 percent. Likewise, incumbent Frank Bigelow retained his District 4 Assembly seat by 62.3 percent over the Democratic opponent, Robert Carabas' 37.6 percent.

El Dorado County voters narrowly opposed Proposition 64, the measure that ultimately passed making recreational marijuana legal in California. The local "no" vote was 47,170 or 50.07 percent to 47,047, that is 49.93 percent in favor.

One local race to note: The projected winner of a seat on the Rescue Union School District Board of Trustees as of Election Night was Serena Posner; certified results give the seat to challenger Stephanie Kent. She won by 258 votes.

"I look forward to being a voice for all our kids in our district and their families," Kent said. "I also look forward to representing the needs of our wonderful teachers and staff, helping to bring everyone together to build a great community for our children."