Elections Holds First Primary at Schilling Location

While the Elections Office has been at its new offices at the Government Center at Schilling Place since 2016, the move came after the election that year, making 2020 the first Presidential Primary in the new building.

Registrar of Voters Claudio Valenzuela says all aspects of the process went well, and most importantly, as planned!

Stay Informed about COVID-19

The best way to stay safe and healthy during concerns about respiratory illnesses like COVID-19 is to know the facts!

Monterey County has no confirmed cases, making this a good time to make sure you and your family talk about concerns and be sure you are using preventive measures that can reduce the spread of disease.

Visit the Health Department webpage dedicated to COVID-19 for more and updated information.
“With a larger facility we can set up available space in a way that allows us to work on several tasks at the same time,” he explains. “This maximizes the use of our time during the entire cycle of the election, from voting system preparation, proofing of the ballots and voter guides, precinct services operations, to the tasks performed after the election.”

It was also a very good election night in another respect - Monterey County was one of the first six counties in the state to report results, right after the polls closed at 8 p.m. Subsequent reports were issued at 10:00, 11:17 and the last report of the night was issued at 11:43 p.m.

For voters, their job ends when the polls close, but for Elections staff, the work goes on; it’s not just ballots that come in from precincts. Staff will process the 24,680 vote by mail envelopes received on Election Day or post marked on Election Day and received by Friday, March 6th.

“We also will be accepting any Monterey County vote by mail ballots returned by Election Day to polling places, vote centers and registrar offices in other counties,” explains Valenzuela. “In addition, we received 5,210 provisional ballots. Each one of these envelopes will be processed to verify the voter information and signature before the ballots can be counted.”

You can watch the results unfold in two ways: see what is left to count here or the latest results here.

Here is an interesting statistic, Valenzuela says voter turnout right now stands at 31.28%.
Giving Campaign Celebrates Results, Department Coordinators

If you took part in last year’s Employee Giving Campaign - or even if you sat this one out - you can be very proud of how County employees came together to support charities in our community.

The giving program lets us donate to charities through payroll deductions as well as support them through fun and creative events organized by departments throughout the County. The numbers are in and $101,886.00 was designated for non-profits through payroll deductions plus $14,045.00 was raised through those department fundraisers for a total of $115,931.00.

To thank the department coordinators and leadership who helped keep the campaign momentum going, the United Way and recipient federations hosted a lunch get together, honoring those efforts as well as showcasing a few of the most successful department fundraising ideas. Those were:

- Best Basket: County Counsel, “Take a Hike”
- Most Creative Fundraiser: Treasurer-Tax Collector, Crafts, Arts & Bake Sale
- Top Special Fundraiser: Public Defender, Stuffed Baked Potato Sale
- Most Participation by Department: Department of Social Service, 108 employees
- Highest Amount Raised by Department: Natividad Medical Center, $3,067.49

Planning is underway for next year’s campaign, so stay tuned!

Monterey County Administrative Office
Natividad Marks Milestone Anniversary

If you worked at Natividad in January of 2015, it’s likely you remember where you were when the hospital was awarded its Level II Trauma Center designation after a lengthy and arduous process. Prior to this designation, there was no Level II Trauma Center between Santa Barbara and San Jose.

“Advanced, local trauma care is a vital community service,” said Natividad Trauma Medical Director Alex Di Stante, MD. “It eliminates the need to fly critically injured patients to a distant trauma center, allowing families to stay together. This is important for overall patient care and leads to better outcomes.”

This year, Natividad is celebrating the fifth anniversary of this milestone by looking back at the lives it has saved through trauma care and adding to its successful trauma team. It will also be hosting a trauma survivor reunion to bring former patients and the team together to celebrate.

During the past five years, Natividad has provided trauma care to more than 7,000 severely injured patients (an average of 1,500 trauma patients each year). Did you know that motor vehicle collisions contribute to more than half of all trauma cases? Falls, assaults, motorcycle/bicycle accidents and pedestrian injuries account for the rest.

Natividad recently hired two more expertly trained trauma surgeons to join its team; the trauma team now includes seven surgeons, dozens of highly-skilled surgical specialists, eight trauma nurse practitioners, nurses, technicians and support staff.

Natividad’s trauma program offers nationwide education to its physicians, residents, advanced practice nurses and critical care nurses. The hospital also works extensively to offer education and injury prevention resources to community members in an effort to prevent traumatic injuries.

Congratulations to the Natividad team!