

# CA Election Integrity Project Report - CA Election November 8, 2016

[www.electionintegrityproject.com](http://www.electionintegrityproject.com)

## Executive Summary

### Introduction

Election Integrity Project, Inc. (EIP) is a non-partisan, citizen volunteer organization whose mission is to advocate for fair and honest elections in California. EIP's principle aim is to ensure that CA election law is followed and to report to officials when this does not occur. This is done by deploying citizen poll observers who have been trained in the laws and procedures mandated by the CA Elections Code. These trained volunteers follow CA laws governing citizen oversight as they monitor the electoral process, document incidents in an evidentiary manner, and provide the Incident Reports (signed under penalty of perjury) to the Election Integrity Project for disclosure as appropriate.

### Contrasting EIP/SOS Reports

The Election Integrity Project deployed approximately 1,000 Poll Observers, as well as an undetermined number of EIP-trained poll workers and Field Support Representatives to over 1,500 polling places in 15 CA counties. The full, amended report records that they submitted 3,078 incident reports.

By contrast, the CA Secretary of State (SOS) deployed 39 Observers in over 49 counties. Their report concluded that "Overall, this election season was conducted smoothly and with few issues...Voters were served with knowledgeable poll workers, hardworking officials, dedicated outreach and education efforts, and third-party polling place monitoring programs." Since the SOS report lacks any mention at all whether election law was being followed, and whether the privacy of voters and the integrity of ballots were being protected, it seems that election integrity may not be the prime goal of the SOS.

### Key Findings

1. Insufficient and inadequate poll worker training: Of the 3,078 incidents documented by EIP Observers, 3009 appear to reflect insufficient poll worker/supervisor training or the ignoring of training by those officials. This fact highlights the need for more comprehensive, in-person training of poll workers and field support representatives.

Poll workers are NOT purely volunteers - they are remunerated and deputized for Election Day to see that required laws and procedures are enforced. Poll workers sign an official oath, and swear to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the laws of CA. They are the only assurance that citizens have that their ballot will be treated with the care and respect that it deserves. But they cannot fulfill that oath when they are not provided with the basic knowledge of the laws designed to protect the integrity of the electoral process, or when they are not impressed with the gravity and importance of strict adherence to those laws.

2. Absentee Ballot, Provisional Ballot, Voter Roll Problems: EIP recorded significant issues in these areas. There appeared to be an unusual increase in the issuing of provisional ballots. While provisional ballots are vital to protect voters who otherwise would be disenfranchised by clerical error or other mishap, the number of provisional ballots appears much higher than might be considered legitimate. This situation points to issue with voter rolls, potential illegal voting, and possible disenfranchisement. A significant number of provisional ballots were cast by vote-by-mail voters who did not receive a ballot, and by an inordinate number of voters who had been moved to mail ballot status without their knowledge.

3. Booth setup and privacy: There were 1,232 reported incidents concerning voter privacy rights: 136 were for booths set up with their openings facing poll workers or other voters (rather than facing a wall), and arranged with no space in between, which significantly reduced voter privacy; and 50 involved voters sharing a booth without following the assisted voter procedure.

There were 541 reports of precincts allowing, encouraging or requiring voters to vote at open tables rather than in booths. Often a group voting experience was reported, with voters conferring, conversing and socializing while marking ballots. Observers often reported that there were empty booths available. Lack of clarity in the training materials and failure to instruct poll workers during the in-person training contribute greatly to these continuing violations which disenfranchise voters and violate their right of to vote without fear of intimidation or group/peer pressure.

4. Unanswered or Disconnected County Hotlines: It is Election Integrity Project policy for Observers to contact the EIP hotline when they encounter a violation that they are unable to resolve by working with the Precinct Inspector. EIP hotline representatives then seek resolution by calling the ROV hotline. On Nov. 8, 2016, the orderly and reliable system of citizen oversight was subverted. Across the state, many county ROVs either did not answer the hotline number or disconnected the number, thus removing “the right to ask questions of elections officials about election procedures” (CA Voter Bill of Rights). Voters were left with no recourse and no way to exercise their rights.
5. Poll worker inappropriate or unlawful behavior: EIP Observers reported 301 incidents of poll workers engaged in inappropriate or unlawful behavior. Such behavior ranged from rudeness to EIP Observers and denial of observer rights to mishandling/jeopardizing ballots, allowing ineligible voters to vote and much more.

## Conclusion

As the Chief Elections Official of the state, the CA Secretary of State is required by state and federal law to deploy qualified election observers and poll workers to ensure that every eligible citizen’s vote is counted, while seeing that election laws and procedures are enforced. The SOS is ***failing in this obligation***, and thus putting in jeopardy the vote of every CA citizen. This report clearly identifies through validated incident reports that CA falls well short of meeting citizens’ expectations of a fair and honest election.

Violations of election law, for whatever reason, especially the widespread abuse of the provisional and vote-by-mail ballot, give the public the ILLUSION of voting, rather than the REALITY. On November 8, 2016, many polling places had the atmosphere of a county fair rather than the secure, private, trusted, voting process citizens have every right to expect.

**CHART A**  
**Issues Documented, Per County**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number of observers</b>	<b>Incident Reports</b>	<b>Issues that were a result of poor/no training</b>
San Diego	172	1,310	1,314
Kern	10	1,006	1,003
Los Angeles	24	224	207
Riverside	20	152	145
San Bernardino	16	105	104
Orange	53	114	72
Tulare	14	53	59
Sacramento	6	38	35
Ventura	1	22	29
Fresno	1	18	10
Tehama	2	16	16
Solano	4	15	10
Shasta	1	2	2
Butte	1	1	1
Santa Barbara	1	2	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>3,078</b>	<b>3,009</b>

**CHART B**  
**Issues Documented in Each Category**

<b>Issues Category</b>	<b>Issues Reported</b>
Voter Privacy	1,232
Ballot Management	769
Supply Issues	119
Mail Ballot Issues	54
Provisional Voting Issues	168
Assisted Voter Issues	296
Poll Worker/Supervisor Issues	301
Opening/Closing Procedures	14
Miscellaneous Infractions of Law/Procedure	56
Other Miscellaneous Issues	69
<b>Sub-Total Issues by Category Observed</b>	<b>3,078</b>
<b>Poll Worker/Supervisor Training Issues</b>	<b>3,009</b>