



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY CLERK / ELECTIONS

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GAIL L. PELLERIN, COUNTY CLERK

November 6, 2008

Dear Editor,

As your Santa Cruz County Clerk/Registrar of Voters I was proud to be a part of this historical week. As a mother of two, I always look for opportunities to educate my kids and reinforce values based on real life experiences. The Presidential General Election on Tuesday offered plenty of opportunity to do just that. One lesson is every vote counts. How exciting it was to see record turnout of voters! And, in some cases, the margins are so narrow, the results will not be known until we complete counting all of the remaining vote-by-mail, early and provisional votes. Yet, I'm disappointed that some people did not vote. I wonder why voters don't vote and would like to know what it would take to get them to vote. If you are a nonvoter and willing to provide some insight, please e-mail me at gail.pellerin@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

The other valuable lesson is that working together we can accomplish anything. In spite of sickness, deaths of loved ones, and personal struggles, our full-time, extra help, and student staff all pulled together and made this a successful Election Day in Santa Cruz County. I thank them from the bottom of my heart for sacrificing time away from their families and personal lives to make sure that all the pieces were in place for a smooth election. I especially want to thank the staff at the Watsonville City Clerk's Office who worked harder than ever serving the needs of our South County voters. I am also very appreciative of our county staff from other departments who were reassigned to work in the polls on Election Day and the many departments who provide us with support to help us through Election Day. And, of course our poll workers – the many-timers, the first-timers and the high school students who staffed the polls were amazing and managed the challenging day extremely well. Lastly, the media did an excellent job to cover the election and provide voters with the news and information they needed to participate in the voting process.

There were so many opportunities to show my kids how important it is to be honest, tolerant, and respectable and how sad it is for those who engage in destructive or offensive behavior. To those who vandalized the polling places, shouted out cruel statements to opponents, refused to abide by the no electioneering laws, or destroyed opponents property you provided good examples of immature and illegal behavior that did not benefit your cause, rather it damaged it.

Finally, I was able to teach them one of life's most important lessons. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. So, for all those who believe the election results did not go the way you had hoped, today is another day. And, efforts have already begun to plan for another day, another time, when we will once again gather in the voting booth or in a court room and make important decisions that affect our lives, communities, and nation. Until then, I remain at your service and give thanks to my wonderful kids who believed in me, asked poignant questions, helped out in the office, and continue to have hope for a better tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Gail L. Pellerin
County Clerk