



"Someplace where there isn't any trouble. Do you suppose there is such a place, Toto? There must be." – L. Frank Baum, *The Wizard of Oz*

Budgets, bridges and functions, oh my!

Oftentimes, when I'm out and about, inevitably someone will compliment this newsletter and how informative and engaging it is. It is my pleasure to pull back the curtain a little bit and show you, the reader, a little bit of the buttons and levers that get pulled around here on a daily basis. It amazes me, still, how much of what we do doesn't make it into these pages.

As I write this, we just finished up our Board budget hearing to adopt our final revised budget. The good news is, even though it was a fiscally constrained budget this year, we were able to avoid any cuts to essential services. Over the past few years, we've directed any leftover funding we have towards our roads, and while we weren't able to allocate as much this year, we funded \$10 million, which is still something, but well short of the amount needed to catch up. It's a tough situation, given that over \$100 million that used to be available for other purposes is now committed to complying with the Mays Consent Decree for the main jail – we'll delve deeper into that in a future newsletter.

Many of my constituents in the Southeastern part of the District between Wilton and Herald have been dealing with the emergency closure of the Clay Station Road bridge. What was supposed to be a couple-month closure to do immediate repairs turned into a several-month closure because of the extensive nature of the damage they found once they started the repairs. Truthfully, we're lucky something tragic

didn't happen before this work was undertaken. I have been holding staff's feet to the fire, and they assure me that the bridge will be safe and open by the first week of October.

As the weather turns cooler, that means a slowdown in the number of community fundraisers and events throughout the District. I truly enjoy coming out and spending time with so many good folks. Of particular note recently was the fabulous Ag Foundation dinner for the Farm Bureau, a couple of very lovely events down in the Delta and being the auctioneer for the first ever fundraiser for my friends over at Splash.

Finally, I'd like to share a heartwarming story that happened to me recently. I was rushing between meetings and pulled into a gas station because I was at zero miles range – only to discover I had forgotten my wallet at home. After scrounging together some coins in my car to pay the cashier, I returned to the pump and a woman walked out and told me she added \$5 because she had been in my position. Never forget that there is good in the world! Now I just have to find the opportunity to pay it forward.

As always, please share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor and encourage them to <u>subscribe</u> for future newsletters or check out my Facebook page <u>here</u>.

PAT

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In the September Issue:

- Maintaining Integrity in Sacramento County Voter Files
- Youth Opportunities in Public Service

- Out & About in District 5
- Upcoming Events

Maintaining Integrity in Sacramento County Voter Files

You've probably heard that elections have been in the news recently. Whether they are special elections or Presidential elections, it's important to know that every election requires meticulous planning to ensure the voting process is seamless and maintains integrity. It starts by making sure the voter files are accurate and up to date.

In Sacramento County, maintaining the integrity of the voter files is a year-round responsibility handled by the Voter Registration & Elections (VRE) office. This process, known as Voter File Maintenance, ensures that the list of registered voters remains accurate and compliant with federal and state laws. Clean voter files are essential for:

- Preventing voter fraud
- Ensuring election materials reach the correct recipients
- Upholding public trust in the electoral process



The staff at VRE, headed up by the Sacramento County
Registrar of Voters, are continually updating the voter file to ensure records remain accurate. From new registrations to address changes and other critical updates, the voter file is in a constant state of review.

This careful process also includes accommodating requests for accessible voting materials and handling voter inactivation and cancellation when needed. In fact, after every general election, voters who have not voted in two federal elections and have not updated their voter registration get cancelled and removed from the voter file. During the most recent review of the voter files, there were over 56,000 Sacramento County voters who were deemed inactive and notified via postcard of their impending removal from the voter files.

If you receive a precancellation postcard for someone who no longer lives at your address, there is no action required. VRE will automatically cancel the registration if no response is received after 15 days. To check your registration status or to register to vote in the next election visit My Voter Portal.

Ensuring Vote by Mail ballots are received by the intended voters includes security measures at each step of the election process. Vote by Mail ballots are automatically mailed to all registered voters beginning 29 days before Election Day. While every registered voter gets a Vote by Mail ballot, those ballots must be signed by the voter with a signature that can be verified in one of the following ways:

- a signature that matches their signature on file from when they registered to vote
- a signature on their previous ballot envelope
- the signature on their California identification card
- their signature on their California driver's license

The signatures on the outside of the ballot envelope are verified once the Vote by Mail ballots are received by VRE, before the envelope is even opened and the ballot is removed, preserving the voter's right to a private ballot. If there is a discrepancy with the voter's signature, the VRE team will contact the voter with instructions for how to cure their signature and the voter must complete a Signature Verification Statement in order for it to be counted.

All Vote by Mail ballots delivered to one of the County's 62 Official Ballot Drop Box locations are serviced by county staff and delivered to VRE, utilizing a state-regulated chain of custody protocol which includes the use of GIS software, two-person team integrity, tamper evident seals and security form checkpoints. All ballot processes are heavily scrutinized and under video surveillance. All steps of ballot processing, ballot verification and ballot tabulation are fully transparent and available for the public to view in person.

You may learn more about the behind the scenes work and security measures by viewing the VRE's educational video about the <u>Life of a Ballot</u> that details the steps from the time a ballot is created and printed, to when it is verified, tallied and reported.

Anyone who wishes to vote in person may visit any of the County's 31 Vote Centers to cast their ballot. These voters will confirm their name, residence address, and verify their information is correct before their ballot is issued to them and their voting history is applied. This verification process happens in near-real time as mandated by state law and before their ballot is cast. Regardless of how a voter chooses to cast their vote, whether it is by mail ballot or in person at a Vote Center, all ballots in the State of California are printed on a paper ballot.

Voters may also track their ballot with BallotTrax which uses a barcode system to follow the ballot envelope throughout the process, without compromising the confidentiality of your vote. Voters can receive automated alerts via email, text or phone call once their personal ballot is mailed to them, received by election officials and counted. All of these security measures are conducted to ensure only the first ballot received from a voter is counted and to ensure no duplicate ballots are counted. In this way, the County's Registrar of Voters and the entire VRE team work year-round to prepare and safeguard the integrity of elections and to uphold

voters trust in the electoral process. For additional information on how the County secures elections, visit our page on <u>Election Security</u>.

Our right to vote is a cornerstone of American democracy and a powerful tool that gives us a voice in shaping our government and future. Recently, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which expanded on constitutional amendments and helped dismantle systemic barriers to ensure Americans are able to vote safely and be certain their votes will be counted. The work that began over six decades ago is an ongoing process that aims to protect every citizen's right to vote.

I want to thank the County's Registrar of Voters and all the VRE staff for their hard work and diligence as they prepare for upcoming elections. Sacramento County's proactive approach to voter file cleanup is a model of transparency and VRE's ongoing efforts to maintain the most updated voter list possible plays a big role in ensuring a smooth voting experience. It's not just about removing names and updating information: it's about upholding Sacramento County's commitment to providing a fair, transparent and accurate voting system and election process.

Youth Opportunities in Public Service

As the school year kicks off, students will head back to class and many will have new activities, but it's also the perfect time to step into leadership roles that make a difference. Young people in Sacramento County are facing big issues including mental health and wellness, technology & digital safety, and societal and environmental challenges, and their voices can help shape how leaders respond to these issues. With that, District 5 is now recruiting individuals for our youth seats on two important boards: the Sacramento County Youth Commission and the Behavioral Health Youth Advisory Board (BHYAB). We're looking for young people who are passionate about their community and ready to bring their voices, ideas and energy to help shape the future of Sacramento County.

Sacramento County Youth Commission

The Youth Commission gives students a direct voice in local government. The Board of Supervisors appoints 15 members to advise on issues facing youth and represent the youth perspective at community events, forums and committees. The Commission's mission is to:

- 1. Identify issues facing youth in Sacramento County
- 2. Share youth concerns directly with County leaders
- 3. Plan positive events for the community
- 4. Propose solutions to challenges impacting today's youth
- 5. Connect youth with the Board of Supervisors to build a stronger future together





Left: Members of the Youth Commission during a garden cleanup at Helen Carr Castello Elementary School in Elk Grove. Right: The Commission delivering their annual presentation to the Board of Supervisors on July 8.

There are currently three open seats for District 5 for youth ages 12–18. Below is a convenient link to the application.

Application for the Sacramento County Youth Commission.

Behavioral Health Youth Advisory Board (BHYAB)

The BHYAB focuses on strengthening youth voices in shaping behavioral health policies, especially surrounding mental health and substance use prevention. Members provide input to the Board of Supervisors and public agencies, helping to ensure youth experiences guide the development of supportive systems.

The BHYAB empowers members to:

- 1. Advocate for youth-friendly, culturally-relevant behavioral health services
- 2. Build skills to discuss and promote wellness in their communities
- 3. Serve as trusted peer-to-peer messengers for behavioral health awareness
- 4. Engage with agencies and coalitions to influence meaningful change

There are currently two open seats for District 5 youth ages 14–24. Below is a convenient link to apply.

Application for the Behavioral Health Youth Advisory Board.

Members would be appointed to represent the youth of District 5, including the cities of Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton, and much of Rancho Cordova, along with the unincorporated communities of Rosemont, Mather, La Riviera, Wilton, Herald, Courtland, Hood, Walnut Grove, Locke and parts of Vineyard.

Joining one of these boards is a great way to provide community service while growing as a leader, learning how government works and making an impact in Sacramento County. Students also gain valuable skills they'll carry into the future such as public speaking, teamwork and civic engagement (and yes, it looks great on college and job applications too!).

We'll be reviewing applications as they come in so if you know someone who might be interested, please send this opportunity their way; it could be the first step in their journey as a community leader.

Out & About in District 5







Law enforcement was out in force recently in the Delta in a combined Sacramento/Yolo County River Blitz aimed at keeping our waterways safe. Top photo: participating agencies included the Sacramento County Sheriff (SCS), Yolo County Sheriff, Sacramento Police Department and the CA Department of Boating and Waterways. Bottom left photo: SCS Captain Shaun Hampton, me and Joanna Andrade. Bottom right photo: me with SCS Tactical Dispatcher Thomanica Turner and Deputy Joseph Letsinger.



Attending a community mixer hosted by the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce and the Cosumnes Legacy Foundation benefitting the Veterans Memorial Enhancement Project at Elk Grove Park. Left photo: Elk Grove City Councilmember Rod Brewer, Nan Mahon and me. Right photo: me and Larry Sahota.







It was great to reunite with local leaders for an evening of conversation and advocacy at OCA Sacramento's Legislative Reception. Top photo: Greg Jung, Bhavin Parikh, Jinky Dolar, me, Elk Grove Mayor Bobbi Singh-Allen, Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez and Bhavin Shah. Bottom left photo: Carlese Laurent, me, Teressa Stephy, Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen and Jinky Dolar. Bottom right photo: Binh Dao, Kevin Phan, me and Mike Fong.



Celebrating with the Indus Valley American Chamber of Commerce at their annual picnic in honor of the late Commissioner Lahori Ram. Left photo: Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez, me, Daljit Singh Sandhu, Satpal Singh & Paul Ram. Right photo: Daljit Singh Sandhu, me, Paul Ram and Satpal Singh.



Celebrating Sacramento's bountiful grape harvest at the Sacramento Farm Bureau Ag Foundation's 15th Annual Winemakers Dinner at the beautiful McConnell Estates and Winery. Top left photo: Elk Grove City Councilmember Darren Suen, me along with Mike & Patty Wackman. Bottom left photo: me with past scholarship recipient Samantha Albiani. Bottom right photo: Lisa and I, Rae & Ed Primasing, John Gonzales and Flora, and Lindsay & Derick Carter.



Enjoying the best of the Delta at the annual Taste of the Delta food and wine celebration. Top left photo: Bill Wells, me and Rusty Areias. Top left photo: me with Restore the Delta Executive Director Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla and staff. Bottom left photo: James Dahlberg, me and owners of Oak Park Brewing Company. Bottom right photo: me, Ko-Ket Resort owner J.B. Morias and Tressa Dahlberg.









Working with the Children's Law Center of CA (CLC) to provide youth in our foster care system with the supplies they need to start the school year. Top Photo: Supervisor Patrick Kennedy's Chief-of-Staff Keaton Riley, Supervisor Patrick Kennedy, CLC Executive Director Leslie Starr Heimov, me and Jordan Sosa of HopSkinDrive.



I was happy to serve as the auctioneer and lend my support to Sacramento Splash at their Backyard Bash fundraiser. A big thank you to Josh Moy Photography for the beautiful pictures. Top left photo: Kyle Draper, me, Jake Allen, Elk Grove Mayor Bobbi Singh-Allen, David Sobon, Lisa Avila and Splash CEO Mackenzie Weiser. Bottom left photo: me, Tim Avila, and Jan & Steve Detrick. Bottom right photo: me and Mackenzie.

Upcoming Events











EVENT DETAILS

SEPTEMBER

2025

MACK POWELL EVENT CTR 2003 HOWE AVENUE SACRAMENTO 95825

1:00 PM

4:00 PM



Registration is sponsored and comes at no cost to the community. Scan the QR code to register today!







SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON PAT HUME





DOORS OPEN AT 11:30 A.M. FOR BUFFET LUNCH, PROGRAM BEGINS AT NOON.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

- \$20 for members of the Cordova Community Council and/or the Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce
- . \$30 for non-members and walk-ins

Want to become a member? Visit our website: cordovacouncil.org

11:30am-1:00pm





BUY YOUR TICKET TODAY

www.cordavacouncil.org/the-rancho-cordava-lunchean Reservation deadline is Wednesday before the lunchean.





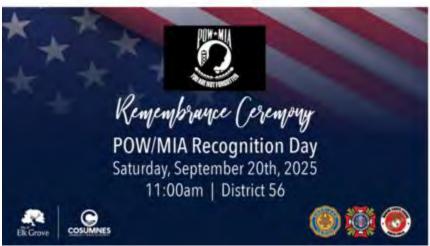














SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025 10AM TO 12:30PM FREE EVENT

JOIN US IN THE VILLAGE TO LEARN ABOUT HOME SAFETY, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND SECOND FLOOR FIRE LADDER TRAINING.

PRACTICE AT HOME SAFETY SCENARIOS, LEARN FIRE PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS, WATCH SAC METRO FIRE VIDEOS AT THE SAFETYVILLE FIRE TRUCK AND MEET LOCAL EMERGENCY REPONDERS.

THIS EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH A GENEROUS GRANT FROM SACRAMENTO COUNTY TOT.

PRE-REGISTER TO SAVE YOUR SPOTE





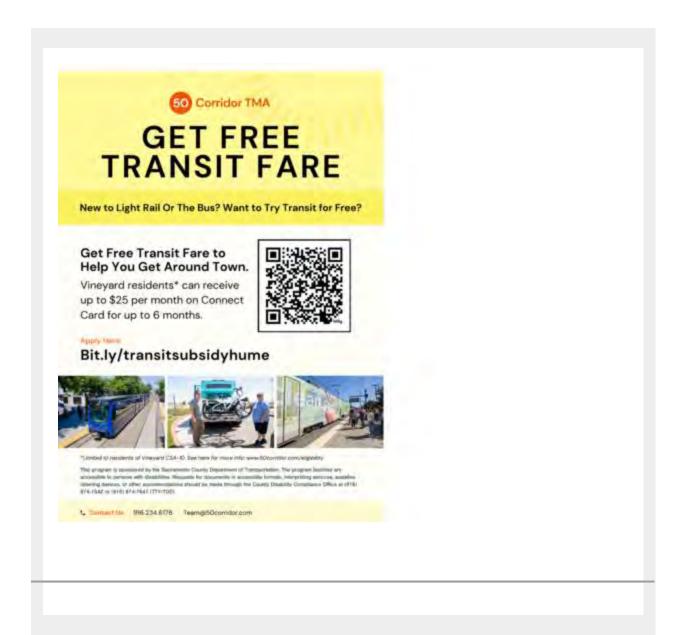


SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

LINCOLN VILLAGE COMMUNITY PARK / POOL

Join us for a fun-filled day of doggie swimming, food, a beer garden, music and more!





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