

# City Clerk Report to City Council

## 2017 Post-April Municipal Election REVIEW AND ANALYSIS



Presentation to City Council  
*August 29, 2017*

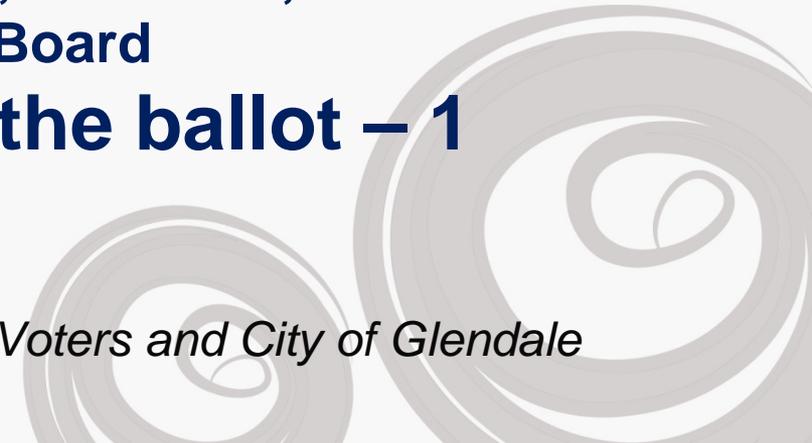
**glendale**  
california



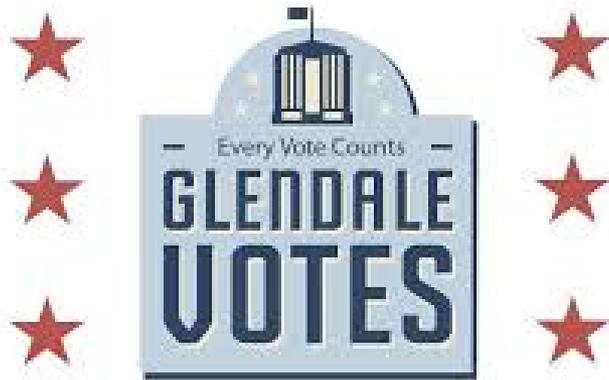
# 2017 Election by the Numbers\*

- **Registered voters in Glendale – 106,059\***
- **Voters in April 2017 Election – 23,659\***
- **Voters who voted by mail – 17,190**
- **Voters who votes at the polls – 6,469**
- **Voter turnout – 22.3%**
- **Number of offices up for Election – 11**
  - 3 City Council, City Clerk, Treasurer, 3 Trustee Areas for GCC & School Board
- **Number of measures on the ballot – 1**
  - Measure L

*\* Data gathered from LA County Registrar of Voters and City of Glendale*



# Council Request for Review



**Municipal Elections  
April 4, 2017**



**On April 11, 2017 Councilman Najarian requested a report on any “irregularities” and “anomalies” that were reported to the City Clerk’s and City Attorney’s offices during the Election. The request was seconded by Councilmember Gharpetian and Mayor Devine.**

# Uncounted Defective Ballots

- **1044 Provisional ballots were cast in April.**
- **119 were deemed defective.**
- **17,190 valid Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballots were cast and counted on April 21.**
- **746 invalid VBM ballots were received and were deemed defective.**



# What makes it defective?

**Per the California Elections Code §3011, §3019:**

- 1. The name and the residence address of the registered voters must match that of the affidavit on file with the County Registrar of Voters.**
- 2. The signature on returned VBM Envelope did not match that of the affidavit of registration of file with the County.**
- 3. The returned VBM envelope was missing a signature.**



# How to remedy defects?

- **Letters (bilingual) were sent out to voters with defective VBM ballot envelopes informing them of the specific defect.**
  - **Voters had the opportunity to provide the missing information or correct the defect.**
  - **Voters had 8 days following Election day to remedy any defects at the Elections Center (AB 477).**
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# Reports of Fraud or Intimidation

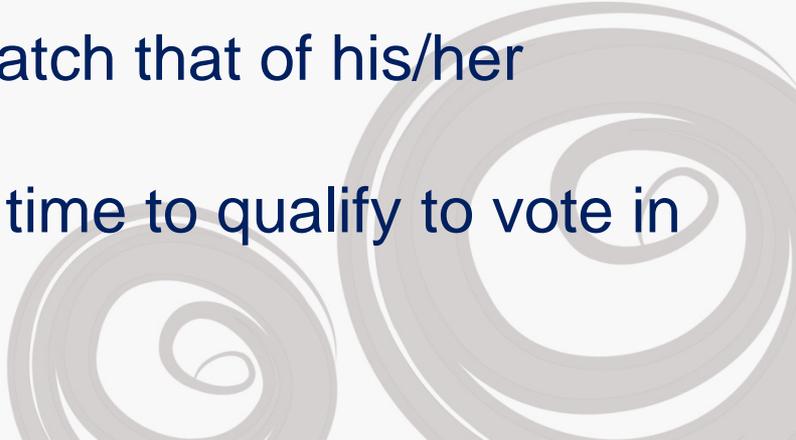
- **Few complaints were received from campaigns regarding the possible mishandling of voter ballots or alleged intimidation of voters.**
  - **Staff from the City Clerk and City Attorney's offices were sent to every voter to interview and determine whether a violation had occurred.**
  - **In none of the complaints was staff able to establish a violation of law.**
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# Reports of Fraud (cont'd)

- **Voters stated that they had proactively contacted a campaign and had willfully handed over their VBM envelopes to volunteers or individuals to be returned or mailed to the Elections Center.**
  - **Based on staff's review and findings, it was determined that no violations had occurred.**
  - **All complaints came from third parties and never directly from an alleged "aggrieved" voter.**
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# Post Election Canvass

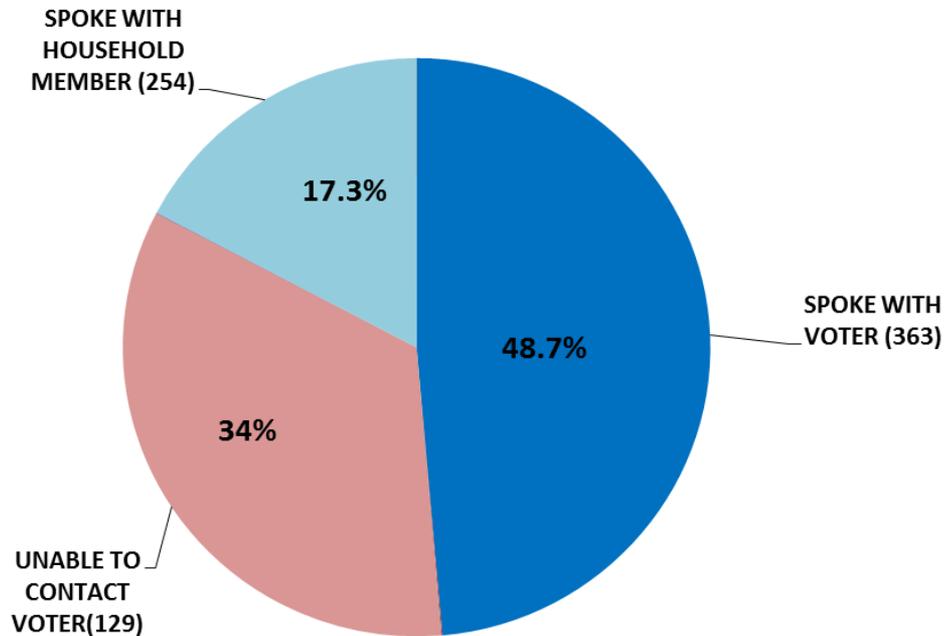
**After the final tally, 119 Provisionally cast ballots were not counted per CA Elections Code §14310:**

- Voter did not reside in the proper jurisdiction where the Election was held;
  - Voter was not registered to vote;
  - Name could not be found in the County voter database;
  - Voter's signature did not match that of his/her affidavit; and
  - Voter had not registered in time to qualify to vote in the April Election.
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# Post Election Canvass (cont'd)

- **746 VBM ballots were deemed deficient and rejected by the City Clerk.**
  - **City Clerk's office organized a canvass program to reach out to all 746 voters through a door-to-door outreach and education program.**
  - **3 staff and one volunteer spent 6 weeks canvassing 746 voters dispersed throughout the city.**
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# Canvass Results



- April 28 – June 14
- Over 61% contact.
- Over 363 voters contacts

	INFORMED			
	SPOKE WITH VOTER	SPOKE WITH HOUSEHOLD MEMBER	UNABLE TO CONTACT VOTER	
<b>TOTAL</b>	363	254	129	<b>746</b>
	48.7%	34%	17.3%	

# Canvass Findings

- Most common reasons for signature defects:**
- **Voter had changed signature after registering to vote.**
    - Common occurrence with naturalized citizens
  - **Voter has 2 (sometimes 3) different signatures and forgot which one they registered with.**
    - Issue that seems to be more common in era of identity theft

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DECLARATION OF VOTER**  
I am a resident of and a voter in the precinct, and the person whose name appears on the envelope. I have not applied nor intend to apply for a mail ballot from any other jurisdiction for the same election. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing declarations are to the best of my knowledge and belief true and correct. *Voting twice in the same election constitutes a crime.*

**Signature Box**  
Voter: sign in this box! Do not print.

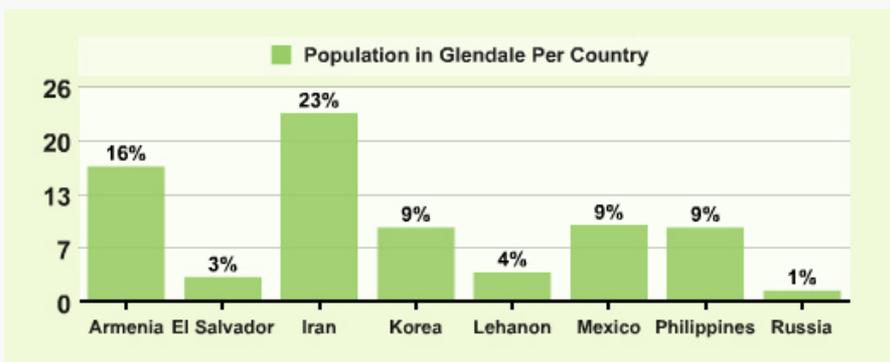
**SIGN** **SIGN**

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# Findings and Recommendations

- The City Clerk's office suggests that the best way to avoid any perception of fraud or voter intimidation is to invest in early voter education initiatives.
- An effective campaign should be conducted in multiple languages but specifically targeting communities with high numbers of voters who may be of limited English proficiency.
- U.S. Census data from 2005-2007 reveals that over 54% of Glendale's populations is foreign born (majority being from Asia and specifically from Iran and Armenia)



This presentation will be available to view on [www.GlendaleVotes.org](http://www.GlendaleVotes.org)

# Questions?

