



Ask the CEO



Q. Mr. Ruth, you've been here for 18 months and now you're retiring. A new CEO has been named. In that time, what has surprised you the most about the County?

A. The breadth and depth of issues involving the County was something I anticipated and yet still found surprising. This is a large, highly complex organization. We are tasked with providing a vast array of services including law enforcement, defense and prosecution of criminals, welfare-to-work assistance, public health, watershed oversight, tax collection, supervision of beaches and harbors, pick-up of stray dogs, inspection of restaurants, road construction, and management of the agricultural commission.

Among our 17,000 employees are auditors, psychologists, zookeepers, cooks, doctors, an entomologist and librarians. I don't know of a single corporation that includes such widely diverse activities.

Despite these daunting odds, the County succeeds because of its people. As each day of this 18 months has gone by, I have become increasingly impressed with

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Election 2004... Bigger than the Super Bowl

With 1,273 polling sites, roughly 7,000 poll workers, 9,000 eSlate voting machines and a month until election day, preparations are at full-speed-ahead with a 10-page checklist to guide the way.

Every election is an intricate dance choreographed to perfection by Registrar of Voters (ROV) staff, temporary employees and countless volunteers. Although every election is important, the Presidential Election every four years can dramatically change lives and change lines in history books to come.

"Preparations for this upcoming election are bigger than putting together the Super Bowl. Our goal is to facilitate this complicated and historic process," said Neal Kelley, Chief Deputy Registrar of Voters.

"It's democracy at its core and ROV is a key architect in this immense democratic event."

Gearing up for an election is a challenging undertaking, and ROV's goal is to simplify the process and make it as smooth as possible. They are hard at work recruiting and training poll workers, encouraging people to vote early and demonstrating how to use the new electronic voting machines.

ROV wants to attract more than 7,000 workers for this election. That's 2,600 more than served at the polls during the March primary. For this reason, the County

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Chief Deputy Registrar Neal Kelley talked with students at Cypress High School to encourage them to volunteer as poll workers.

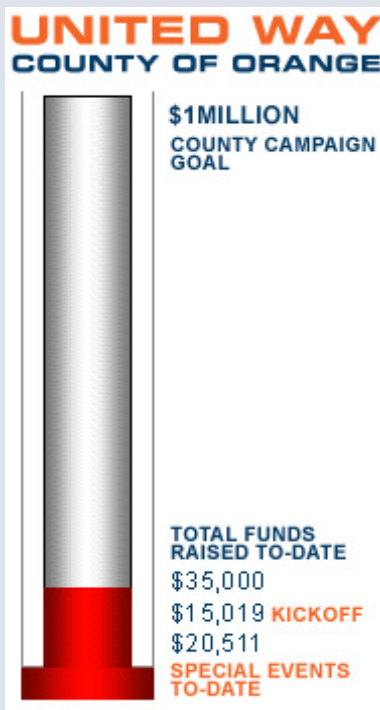
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the professionalism, knowledge and dedication of County employees. You are the reason that this organization succeeds and will continue to succeed.

The changing social, political and budgetary climates will continue to call on your flexibility to meet new situations and devise success strategies. I have full confidence, however, that the skill and determination I've seen in County employees will continue to make you winners.

Examples of how the County is successful every day can be found at [http://www.oc.ca.gov/WhatWeveDoneLately\(12-03\).pdf](http://www.oc.ca.gov/WhatWeveDoneLately(12-03).pdf) in an online brochure titled *50 Things We've Done for You Lately*.

Quite simply, the key to the County's success is its talented workforce. It's been an honor and pleasure to work with you.



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has revamped its recruiting efforts to target businesses, County employees and students. In the past, ROV had focused primarily on contacting previous poll workers and on telephone calls to solicit help from registered voters.

This year they are approaching service organizations and major employers such as Disneyland and State Farm which both agreed to encourage workers to take an unpaid day off and work the polls. Another goal is to encourage high school students and County employees to participate. With roughly a month left before the election, 4,600 people have offered to work at various polling sites, but there's still a need for 2,400 volunteers.

County employees are strongly encouraged to help and may pick their preferred shift. They have the option of working a full day or split shifts. A full day is 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. with a 90-minute break. A split shift, consists of a morning shift, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. or an evening shift, 3 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Employees opting for the morning shift must recruit a partner to work the evening shift. Employees who want to sign up for duty may call 714.567.7580 or go online at www.ocvote.com then click on Poll Worker Information.

The map to election day is a detailed, 10-page, checklist. This guide outlines the key tasks leading up to the big day. No detail is spared from recruiting and training poll workers, making an inventory of eSlate machines, and mailing out information on local races and polling place addresses.

ROV staff has surrendered its flex schedules, vacations and all other time off until after the November election. During the month of Au-

gust, ROV hired approximately 140 temporary staff to assist the 60 full-time ROV employees in gearing up for the election.

This year, voters have the option to cast their ballots as early as October 5 in participating grocery stores, malls, government buildings and the new vote-mobile.

The 32-foot vote-mobile is much like a polling site on wheels. It was developed for multiple usage including early voting, recruitment and community outreach. It's staffed by two to three people and is scheduled to visit 26 locations throughout the county.

In addition, ROV is fully stocked with 9,000 new, electronic eSlate voting machines which allow voters to view or listen to the ballot in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese or Korean. Another advantage is that it provides greater ease of use and privacy for people with disabilities. It also includes an audio ballot reader for people who are blind, visually impaired or literacy-challenged. The machines will be distributed to various polling sites a week prior to November 2.

"We are excited about our eSlate machines, vote-mobile and new recruitment techniques. I am confident that all of our pre-election efforts will result in a successful election," said Steve Rodermund, Registrar of Voters. "Our staff is very dedicated and has proved to be more than capable of handling an election of this magnitude. With the help of volunteers and County staff, I am certain that we will be prepared for this historic election."



UPCOMING EVENTS

**United
Way**



October 7

O&M Chili Cook-Off

Time: 2 PM
Location: Katella Yard

CEO/IT Live Auction

Time: 11:30 AM - 1 PM
Location: HOA
Info: Paintings, jewelry, pottery and knitted items

October 19

Board of Supervisors Pancake Breakfast

Time: 7 AM - 9 AM
Price: \$5
Location: HOA Plaza
Info: Purchase tickets from any Board office or at the door

RDMD & IWMD Chili Cook-Off/Bake Sale

Time: 11:30 AM - 1 PM
Location: Twin Towers Breezeway

Trash 2 Treasure Sale

Time: 11 AM - 2 PM
Location: 405 W. 5th St., Suite 202

Auditor-Controller Egg Roll Sale

Time: 7:30 - Until they are gone
Price: \$1 each or 3 for \$2
Location: Building 12, Room 202

October 20

Jeopardy Tournament

Time: 1:30 PM - 4 PM
Location: BOS Hearing Room

October 21

Jeopardy Tournament

Time: 9 AM - 11 AM
Location: BOS Hearing Room

County Operations Fundraising Carnival

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Location: 1300 Grand Ave.
Info: Prizes, food, opportunity drawing, games and more!

CEO Car Show

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Location: 1300 Grand Ave.
Info: unitedwaycarshow@ocgov.com

Egg/Salad Roll Sale

Time: 11 AM - 1 PM
Price: 75 cents each egg roll and \$4 for 3 salad rolls
Location: 405 W. 5th St., 2nd Floor Lobby
Info: Email hgarcia@ochca.com for pre-orders

Evening of Jazz at Ugly Mug Cafe

Time: 7 PM - 9 PM
Price: \$15 (includes coffee and dessert)
Location: 261 N. Glassell St., Orange
Info: Contact 714.647.4170 for more info.

October 23

Stateline Turnaround Trip to Buffalo Bill's

Time: 6:30 AM - Midnight
Price: \$25 (\$10 will be refunded upon boarding the bus)
Location: Meet at 1770 N. Broadway
Info: Contact 714.480.2912 for more info.

October 27

World Series Playoff Lunch

Time: 11:30 AM - 1 PM
Price: \$4
Location: 405 W. 5th St., 2nd Floor
Info: Meal includes hot dogs, chips and drink



35 Years

Michael Reetz
RDMD

Trudy Purpura
HCA

William Ford
HCA

Kathleen Parris
HCA

Susan McMillan
HCA

Vicki Des Roches
SSA

Ramon Winter
RDMD

Judy Wagner Estrin
Probation

Robert Lund
Public Defender

Victoria Coonradt
Sheriff-Coroner

Mark Bailey
Sheriff-Coroner

Salvador Grijalva
Sheriff-Coroner

Nuri Melendez
Sheriff-Coroner

Diem-Phuong Tran
SSA

Veronica Cowgill
SSA

30 Years

Joseph Dipietrantonio
Assessor

Josephine Vega
Auditor-Controller

Thomas Sacco
CEO

David Himelson
District Attorney

Anne Tavitas
District Attorney

25 Years

Debbie Hendricks
Auditor-Controller

Sylvia Reynoso
HCA

Richard Henley
Sheriff-Coroner

Anna Lopez
SSA

Elaine Varela
RDMD

Brandon Shook
RDMD

Brian Danker
RDMD

Mary Valleau
RDMD

County Connection is distributed monthly by the County Executive Officer James D. Ruth. The newsletter is published by CEO Media Relations. All suggestions and comments may be emailed to ask.the.ceo@ocgov.com or faxed to 714.796.8426.