

CANDACE J. GRUBBS
COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
COUNTY OF BUTTE

http://clerk-recorder.buttecounty.net

Clerk-Recorder Division

25 County Center Drive, Suite 105
Oroville, CA 95965-3375
Telephone: 530-538-7691
Facsimile: 530-538-7975

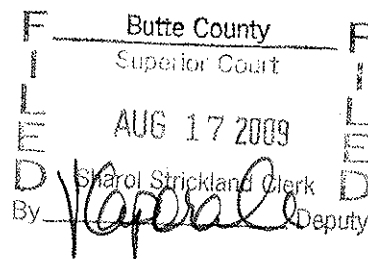


Elections Division

25 County Center Drive, Suite 110
Oroville, CA 95965-3361
Telephone: 530-538-7761
Facsimile: 530-538-6853

August 15, 2009

Honorable James F. Reilley
Presiding Judge
Butte County Superior Court
1 Court Street
Oroville CA 95965



Re: Response to 2008/09 Grand Jury Final Report

Dear Judge Reilley:

In accordance with Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.5, the County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters submits the following response to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury's Final Report for FY 2008-09 pertaining to the department.

I would like to express my appreciation to the grand jurors for their commitment of time and effort to understand the administration of elections and gain further knowledge of the County Clerk-Recorder operations. In addition, I commend the members of the grand jury that served as election observers during the 2008-09 year.

Butte County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters

Grand Jury Findings:

F1. *County records and historical document restoration is an ongoing process.*

The respondent agrees with this finding.

F2. *Ballot counting machines have to be individually hand fed, which is a slow and tedious process.*

The respondent agrees with this finding.

F3. Two additional facilities must be leased in order to accommodate the volume of machines and paperwork, as the current main facility is not large enough to house all of the components for an election.

The respondent agrees with this finding.

F4. Returning to paper ballots costs the County approximately \$35,000 in the 2008 election (Appendix B).

The respondent partially agrees with this finding. A variety of factors have led to the increased costs. The Secretary of State's mandate to provide both paper ballots and electronic ballots at the polls increased the cost of conducting elections by 29% from November 2004 to November 2008. These costs include purchase of optical scan ballot tabulation devices and maintenance, polling place paper ballots, new training materials, additional precinct supplies and security measures, and labor to revise poll worker and field inspector training (i.e. power point, handbook, procedure cards, etc.), to test program and equipment, ballot tabulation, and manual tally of ballots.

Grand Jury Recommendations:

R1. Restoration of historical documents should be continued to preserve the history of Butte County.

The recommendation has been implemented. The County Clerk-Recorder is undergoing a number of efforts to restore and preserve historical records. These efforts include restoration and rebinding historical books, adding cabinets to the public access research room for safer handling, and digitizing vital records. The County Clerk-Recorder is also currently reviewing proposals to digitize official records before 1988. Other restoration efforts to be implemented include de-acidifying records. Working within fiscal and resource constraints, the County Clerk-Recorder will continue with these efforts.

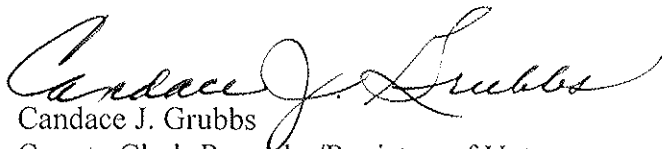
R2. Purchase updated counting machines for paper ballots as they become certified by the State of California.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be in the future. Upon state certification, the County Clerk-Recorder will move forward to purchase upgrade to central count ballot tabulation. The funds are available through existing federal HAVA (Help America Vote Act of 2002) programs.

R3. *All election materials and County records should be consolidated at a single facility to affect cost savings.*

The recommendation will be implemented when sufficient funding is available. The County Clerk-Recorder has long championed the idea of a consolidated Hall of Records. Having a Hall of Records would allow the department to better preserve, archive, and make accessible records of historical significance. A Hall of Records consolidated with adequate facilities for Elections functions would allow for efficiencies through cross training of staff, improve productivity, better public service and simplified ballot counting processes. The County Clerk-Recorder has funds to begin the process, and is currently working with other County departments to locate and secure additional funding, and to ensure optimal feasibility for the Hall of Records site.

Sincerely,



Candace J. Grubbs
County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters

Cc: Board of Supervisors
Greg Iturria, Interim Chief Administrative Officer