



New Mandates

Provisional Ballots and Notification of Results: Did it count or not?

The right to a provisional ballot.

If there is any question about a voter's right to vote at a polling place, he or she has the right to cast a provisional ballot. This is well established in California.

Once a provisional ballot is cast, the voter has a right to know if it is counted. Notifying voters of the final status of their ballots must now be established.

If their ballots are counted, good.

If not, they should know why:

- ▶ So any problems can be corrected before the next election
- ▶ So voters can appeal the decision through the new complaint procedure

It will be a challenge to maintain voter confidentiality and privacy while still providing notification.

In the November 2000 election more than 200,000 provisional ballots were cast.

Almost 40 percent of those were rejected.