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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Needs More Poll Workers for Special Election
County Officials Urge Citizens to Join Them in Poll Work

SAN JOSE, CALIF.— On November 8, 2005, there will be a Consolidated Special Statewide Election. Today, County Executive Pete Kutas warned the Board of Supervisors that the County is short of election workers for the Special Election, only three weeks away.

“We are still need 519 people,” said County Executive Pete Kutas. “The area where there is the greatest need is English and Spanish speakers. We need 335 English speaking volunteers and 77 who speak Spanish.”

Supervisors Liz Kniss and Don Gage have volunteered to work at the polls on Election Day.

“I feel it is a tremendous honor to participate in the democratic process in this way,” said Supervisor Liz Kniss, Chair of the Board of Supervisors. “I invite other citizens to join in this effort.”

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Election Officers are responsible for setting up the polling place, processing voters and providing assistance as requested. The Office of the Registrar of Voters provides training.

“Volunteering is a great way for voters to serve their communities and get involved in the election process,” said Supervisor Don Gage. “Voting is something we should never take for granted and we’ll need volunteers to ensure that the process goes smoothly.”

Election Officers are paid a stipend of \$105 or more. Anyone who is registered to vote in California can become an Election Officer. In addition to serving a full day at the polls (usually 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.), Election Officers must also attend a three-hour training class.

Election Officers can earn an extra stipend for bilingual skills. Bilingual Election Officers must be fluent in English and one of the following federally mandated languages: Spanish (77 needed), Chinese (53 needed), Vietnamese (40 needed), and Tagalog (14 needed).

High school students who would like to learn more about the election process can participate in the Student Election Officer Program. To participate, students must be high school seniors at least 16 years old with at least a 2.5 grade point average. They must also get permission from their schools and parents or guardians. Student Election Officers have the same responsibilities and receive the same stipends as other Election Officers.

For more information, call:

English:	(408) 299-POLL [7655]
Spanish:	(408) 282-3095
Vietnamese:	(408) 282-3097
Chinese:	(408) 282-3086
Tagalog:	(408) 535-3916

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