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DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
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District Attorney



DA 12-80

RELEASE NUMBER

December 14, 2011

RELEASE DATE

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

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**California Secretary of State Elections Fraud Division
Finds No Evidence of Election Fraud in November 2008 Election**

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce Dudley announced the conclusion of California Secretary of State Senior Investigator Paul Rutledge's investigation into the November 2008 election. District Attorney Dudley stated that over the last eight months the California Secretary of State's Senior Investigator reviewed evidence in response to allegations of voter registration fraud in the November 2008 Third District election. He did so by locating and sending out letters to the current addresses for people identified in suspect voter registration cards. Recently, the California Secretary of State closed its investigation and told Chief Deputy District Attorney Jerry Lulejian that it did not intend to send its investigation reports to the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office because it did not believe there was evidence to support criminal charges against anyone. Nevertheless, at the direction of District Attorney Dudley, Chief Deputy District Attorney Jerry Lulejian requested the results of this investigation be sent to him in order to review its conclusion and to consider if any criminal charges could be filed. Chief Deputy District Attorney Jerry Lulejian has now finished his analysis of all of these cases. The results of both of these investigations are that there is no evidence demonstrating voter fraud or criminally false voter registrations for the November 2008 election.

Of significance to the District Attorney's Office is that the State Elections Fraud Division determined that 100% of the randomly selected sample of questionable voter registration cards did not involve voter fraud. Specifically, each person's signature in the sample was checked through absentee voter information, polling rosters, and provisional ballot information and it was determined that the person who registered to vote was the same person who voted. This was done by comparing the signatures from earlier voter registration cards.

Regarding the allegations of criminally false voter registration cards, during its investigation the Secretary of State's Office found one voter registration card in which one person stated she did not prepare the card and the signature was not hers. This was the same person who testified in a prior Court hearing. In addition, there was one returned letter that was ambiguous in its statements about whether the officially filed voter registration card was authorized by him. Finally, there was one returned letter that confirmed that the voter registration card was, indeed, the one that the individual signed and authorized. The District Attorney's Office was aware of an additional example of a possible false registration card that has yet to be clarified. Nevertheless, Mr. Rutledge is of the firm opinion that when, as here, voter organizations assist voters in creating many hundreds of voter registration cards, there is an expectation that several mistakenly false voter registration cards will be found in an investigation. Mr. Rutledge stated that he believed that the number of false voter registration cards found in this investigation was insufficient to indicate anything more than an expected number of mistakes.

The State Elections Division is an impartial state organization with no stake in its investigation other than finding the truth; therefore, the District Attorney's Office relies upon its investigation, lack of bias, and expertise in investigating election fraud cases. Still, given the significance of this election and the importance of the integrity of our voting process, Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce Dudley sought the State Election Division's files in order to scrutinize its decision. As a result of further inquiry and research by Chief Deputy District Attorney Jerry Lulejian, the District Attorney's Office agrees with the findings of the Secretary of State that there should be no charges filed relating to these allegations.

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