

Votomatic System Faces Biggest Test in Primary

By Burton W. Chace
County Supervisor

A progressive program which has been a long time in coming is well on its way to complete success.

The automated vote-counting system implemented recently by Los Angeles County Supervisors has cleared its first major hurdle with little difficulty.

The biggest test—the June 4 Primary—still lies ahead, but the performance of the IM Votomatic system in the recent April 9 municipal elections points to complete success.

which used this new system had been turned in by precinct captains. TRW of Redondo Beach and Standard Oil of El Segundo provided this service in the South Bay.

The fact that the initiation of the system went off without a major problem also is a tribute to the efforts of the city clerks who spoke at luncheons, club meetings, and other functions to make certain voters were acquainted with the new devices.

It was an outstanding example of what can be accomplished by cooperation at all levels of government and private industry.

Much of your tax dollar goes to Washington, D. C., for the federal budget, and one of the county's roles is to bring back as much of your fair share as possible for local projects.

A good example of this policy in action was the Board of Supervisors' recent approval of an application for \$1.5 million in federal funds to help finance a storm drain complex.

The application is being sent to the Department of Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD). If approved, the \$1.5 million will be the federal government's

contribution toward the \$4 million drain complex in the Torrance - Redondo Beach area.

Two projects are involved, and the north-south boundaries of each are generally Artesia and Del Amo Boulevard and 220th and 242nd Streets.

Federal money is available, since such drain complexes would assist with the continued improvement and development of the areas.

The Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District inspectors issued more than 260 citations and notices of violation during the month of March.

Inspectors checked more than 1,200 locations and responded to 145 citizens' complaints during the month. As a result, 23 notices of violation were issued to stationary sources. In addition, APCD Enforcement Division inspectors issued 190 notices to apply for permits to operate equipment, a district method designed to ensure control of air pollution from domestic and industrial operations in the Los Angeles Basin.

Prosecution of 194 violators by the APCD during March resulted in convictions in 192 cases. Two of the cases involving excessive smoke from vehicles were dismissed by the courts.

APCD Issues 260 Citations; Collects \$3,700 in Fines

TWENTY-ONE cities, including three in the Fourth District, used the voting devices in their municipal elections, and overwhelming acceptance of the system was expressed by all cities involved.

Final results were in as early as 9:30 p.m. in El Segundo, while Torrance and Hermosa Beach completed their tallies by 10:30 p.m. Under the old paper ballot system which necessitated hand-counting, precinct workers were obliged to work long into the morning hours before getting a complete tally.

Of the 21 cities using the punch-card ballots which accommodate computerized tallying, the average city had completed its tally within 2 to 2 1/2 hours after the polls closed.

LARGER cities such as Torrance required a little longer, but the extra time is measured in minutes, not hours as in the past.

Not only did the automated tally save the taxpayers money, since precinct workers did not have to labor many hours, the system also provided a more accurate count than the old-fashioned hand tally.

Precinct workers reported that public acceptance of the new punch-card ballot was quite satisfactory, indicating little resistance to the long-awaited modern voting techniques.

The big test will come in the June Primary, which will be the first county-wide use of the new system. Judging from the response of April 9, however, success is assured.

INCIDENTALLY, the cities

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