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JOHN TUTEUR
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

NEWS RELEASE

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NAPA COUNTY SPANISH LANGUAGE VOTER OUTREACH RECOGNIZED

During a conference call Wednesday Dec. 7, Federal Voting Rights Section staff reported that their six monitors were satisfied with Napa County Election Division's implementation of Spanish language outreach for the Nov. 8 Presidential Election, including the first use of bilingual official and sample ballots. The monitors reported talking to several Spanish language voters who had been voting for years in Napa County and now felt fully included in the process. The monitors were sent under a Memorandum of Agreement between Napa County and the Voting Rights Section. "One of the reasons for Napa County's excellent, 82.28 percent turnout was the participation of Spanish language voters," Tuteur said. Napa County's turnout ranks in the top 6 of California's 45 counties with more than 25,000 registered voters. Napa County has 76,876 registered voters.

The U.S. Census Bureau recently published an updated national list of local jurisdictions that are required to produce election material in more than one language pursuant to Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act of 2006. Napa County is the California jurisdiction on the updated list for which the Spanish language requirement was dropped. Napa County had been covered by the minority language requirement since 2011. "No one had prior notice of this change," Napa County Registrar of Voters John Tuteur explained, "and its impact on our procedures and the Memorandum of Agreement is under review." The background data that supported the change in Napa County's status can be found at this link:

https://www.census.gov/rdo/data/voting_rights_determination_file.html

"I have three key responsibilities:" Tuteur added, "to help every eligible citizen register to vote; to help every registered voter cast their ballot and to make sure every vote is counted accurately." Those goals will remain paramount as the Election Division works with the Spanish language community, the Board of Supervisors and the Federal Voting Rights Section in responding to the change in language requirement. Tuteur will make a full report to the Board of Supervisors in early 2017 when all information is available.

Please contact Registrar of Voters John Tuteur at john.tuteur@countyofnapa.org or 707-253-4459 if there are any questions or comments. **END**