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**JOHN TUTEUR**  
**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

## NEWS RELEASE

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### NAPA COUNTY RELEASED FROM US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OVERSIGHT

On December 16, 2016, the US Department of Justice Voting Rights Section released Napa County from the May 31, 2016 Memorandum of Agreement related to provision of Spanish language election materials under Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act of 2006. The release occurred because Napa County is no longer covered by Section 203 following publication of updated census data by the US Census Bureau on December 5, 2016. The updated Census data can be viewed at this link: [https://www.census.gov/rdo/data/voting\\_rights\\_determination\\_file.html](https://www.census.gov/rdo/data/voting_rights_determination_file.html) In the release letter, the Chief of the Voting Section noted that "Napa's Spanish-language program appeared to be beneficial to a significant number of Limited English Proficient voters."

"Napa County is proud of its Spanish language outreach efforts which culminated in the use of bilingual official and sample ballots for the November 8, 2016 Presidential Election," declared John Tuteur, Napa County Registrar of Voters. "Whether we are covered by Section 203 or not, one of my primary responsibilities is to make sure that every registered voter can cast their ballot in an informed manner." One of the reasons for Napa County's excellent, 82.28 percent turnout was the participation of Spanish language voters.

The change in section 203 coverage will also be discussed in connection with Napa County's designation as a pilot county for the implementation of all vote by mail voting for the June 5, 2018 Gubernatorial Primary Election. Recent legislation mandates statewide voting by mail for the 2020 Presidential Election cycle. "The Election Division will engage with the Board of Supervisors and the community as we move forward with this new voting process," Tuteur said. Tuteur has agendized an initial session for Board input on Tuesday February 28, 2017.

Please contact Registrar of Voters John Tuteur at [john.tuteur@countyofnapa.org](mailto:john.tuteur@countyofnapa.org) or 707-253-4459 if there are any questions or comments.

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