



MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact: Erica Harrold
(510) 238-3148; c: 510-599-6874

Legal Opinions on Vote Tally in Oakland Mayor's Race

STATEMENT by Oakland City Attorney John Russo

"The custom and practice in Oakland municipal elections has been to count write-in ballots.

Given that the language of the Oakland Municipal Code is less than crisp regarding how it handles write-in ballots, the Office of the City Attorney is unwilling, upon a re-examination of the language, to stop any write-in ballots from being counted for the final tally.

Laws should be liberally interpreted so as to make every vote count. When there are different possible interpretations of the law we feel the interpretation that allows voters to express their preferences is the interpretation we should adopt."

Attached is the Office of the City Attorney's opinion on the matter.

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