



COUNTY OF MONTEREY
CAO Weekly Report

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SPECIALREPORT



Greta Arevalo, Elections Program Manager, addresses King City voters at the first information session about the city's new voting method.

County Notes

- > Celebrate the 10th anniversary of Castro Plaza with Monterey County Free Libraries and partners on Saturday, October 15th beginning at 10:30 a.m. 769-8724 for details.

Elections Helps King City Prepare for Voting Changes

It may not get the same buzz as the national elections, but there are big changes this November 8th for voters in the City of King. The Elections Department is lending a helping hand to voters as they transition to a new voting method.

Earlier this year, the City of King approved an ordinance changing from an at-large method of electing council members to a by-district method. With this ordinance comes significant changes for King City voters.

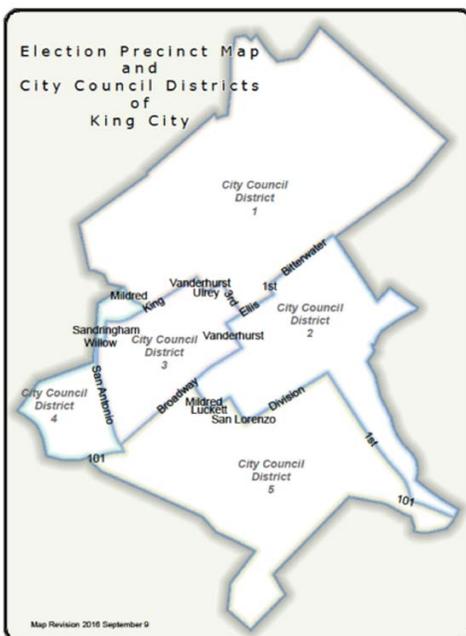
Last week, Monterey County Elections, in partnership with the City of King, hosted the first in a series of informative sessions to prepare voters for these changes.

In each session, Elections staff will offer information about:

- New City Council districts
- Changes to the way voters will elect city council members
- Polling places and voting by mail



Voters review the new City of King district map.



Map of the new city council districts.

Due to the division of the city's original two precincts into five districts, some voters will vote in a new polling place and voters in two districts will vote entirely by mail. In addition, voters in each district will now only vote for one council member and that member must be a registered voter in the district.

A second informative session will take place on Tuesday, October 18th at King City High School's Robert Stanton Theater which is located at 720 Broadway Street. Spanish language interpretation will be available.

Wanted: Your Comments About Benefit Fairs

Open Enrollment for 2016 maybe over, but organizers are hoping county employees will do one last thing – take a survey.



Employees chat with vendors at the Benefit Fair at the Government Center on September 23rd (above) and at Natividad Medical Center on September 30th (below).

The benefit fairs that were held through the enrollment time period were such a success that the schedule of fairs may be improved upon for next year. Please take a few minutes and complete the feedback survey - your voice matters!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NV77QQS>

Thanks to the generous sponsorship provided by Natividad Medical Center (NMC), a joint venture between NMC and Central Human Resources successfully orchestrated a county-wide series of benefit fairs for all employees during the month of September.

Organizers worked diligently with vendors and were able to secure commitments to have more than 20 providers at each location.

Each vendor was able to provide information on county-offered health, benefit and wellness plans. More than 500 employees attended the fairs, which were held at the Department of Social Services, Government Center and NMC.

Because of the great turnout and feedback organizers have received so far, these fairs may remain an annual event but changed to at least one month *prior* to the open enrollment time period.

Hosting fairs in advance will allow employees more time to make informed decisions



regarding their benefits.

Make sure to take the survey and add your comments!

Behavioral Health Staff Honored for Suicide Prevention Efforts

The Health Department's Behavioral Health staff collaborate with the Family Service Agency of the Central Coast (FSACC) for suicide prevention services, and that effort has earned them honors from the agency.

Behavioral Health staff was selected to receive FSACC's Organization of the Year Award for its significant contribution in support of the agency's Suicide Prevention Service. The award was presented at the agency's Annual Meeting on October 5th.

Suicide Prevention is just one of FSACC's many important services which are funded with Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funding. One of the goals of PEI is to reduce the stigma associated with having a mental illness and seeking mental health services and support.



Behavioral Health Director Amie Miller (center) holds a plaque honoring staff for their work with the Family Service Agency's Suicide Prevention program. To her left is Elizabeth Ambriz, Chronic Disease Prevention Coordinator for the Health Department. Joining them are Family Services Agency staff.

"It is an honor to partner with FSACC to prevent suicide and empower people to effectively engage with persons at risk of suicide," says Elizabeth Ambriz, Chronic Disease Prevention Coordinator for the Health Department. "We can prevent suicides when local government and service providers engage communities in caring for vulnerable persons and those at risk of suicide by effectively responding to their needs."

Both Behavioral Health and FSACC are committed to engaging a broad base of stakeholders including

schools, nonprofit organizations, churches, senior centers and clinics to connect and guide people to the support they need to prevent suicides. The data shows that Monterey County residents indeed are reaching out for help. During the last fiscal year, Suicide Prevention Service served 5,828 community members. In 2015, there were 1,819 calls originating from our county to Lifeline, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, compared to 1,116 calls in 2014.