



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: Dec. 3, 2015
Board Meeting Date: Dec. 8, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager
Subject: County Manager's Report #22

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept this informational report.

BACKGROUND:

This report will provide you with updates on a variety of County initiatives focusing on Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Community Services and Performance, in addition to reports on legislation and issues that require your action. We also will keep you and the public informed about new services, upcoming events and general updates.

DISCUSSION:

Community Services

County honored for management partnership with universities

The County's innovative effort to attract new talent to public service was honored with the silver 2015 Workforce Optimas Award for Partnership. With Baby Boomer workers nearing retirement age and competition fierce for talent here in the tech-heavy Peninsula, the County of San Mateo partnered with San Francisco State University, the University of San Francisco and the University of California at Berkeley on its Management Fellowship Program. Graduates of the schools' Master of Public Administration program work with high-level County officials for one to three years. The first three fellows started this past June and our goal is eventually to rotate fellows in all 23 County departments.

New Open Data website unveiled

Delving into the County's abundance of published public information just became a little easier — and a little easier on the eyes. Bolstered by a new visual layout, the County's Open Data page is now a one-stop source to find information on election data,

restaurant health inspections, public Wi-Fi use, unclaimed checks, payments for goods and services and more.

The revamped page simplifies how visitors initially navigate it and, for the developer set, moves application programming interface (API) documentation to the front of the platform. Start exploring at <https://data.smcgov.org>.

Election results confirm historic turnout

Not surprisingly, the County's historic all-mail ballot election last month garnered widespread public and media attention. Final results show the first such election in the state also grabbed the attention of voters, drawing a 29.49 percent turnout which is the highest for a comparable election in 20 years. More than 10,000 participants also registered to permanently vote by mail, increasing the absentee rolls to 60 percent of all registered votes.

The Elections Office also noted the election improved efficiency and decreased costs although financial details have not yet been publicly released.

News, Events and updates

Civics 101 graduates latest class

Civics 101, the nine-week program providing an in-depth and behind-the-scenes look at County services, programs and finances, graduated its latest class. Forty-six participants — up from 40 enrolled last year — learned what makes government tick by hearing from department heads, taking tours of the Health System and Maguire Correctional Facility and other sites, and even demonstrations by the Sheriff's Office K-9 and SWAT Units. Thank you to Eric Forgaard, the County's civic engagement and public outreach specialist who orchestrated this worthwhile series.

A number of graduates expressed interest in joining a board or commission and several attendees said they'd like to work for the County. The next session is planned for September 2016 and early registration is available now on the County website. Pre-registered candidates will receive first consideration next fall.