

# CALIFORNIA TO OFFER \$43.7 MILLION IN FEDERAL GRANTS TO COMBAT HATE CRIMES

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Gov. Gavin Newsom has announced that 311 California nonprofit and faith-based organizations, including those representing communities targeted by hate crimes, will receive over \$43.7 million in federal funding through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. The funding aims to enhance security measures such as reinforced doors, access control systems, and lighting to protect against hate-based violence. The post California to Offer \$43.7 Million in Federal Grants to Combat Hate Crimes first appeared on Post News Group.

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**By Edward Henderson, California Black Media**

Secretary of State Dr. Shirley N. Weber hosted a webinar on Nov. 14 to update Californians on the ballot counting process for the 2024 General Election.



California is home to the largest voting base in the nation with 22.5 million registered voters. According to the Secretary of State Office (SOS), about 70% of the state's voters participated in the November Election. So far, 15.2 million votes have been counted, processed and verified. There are still roughly 0.8 million votes to go through the process.

Because California allows voters more time and opportunities to vote than most states, it typically takes longer to finalize the results.

Historically, it has taken the state the longest to finalize election results. Almost half of the uncalled house races this year come from California. As of Nov 14, the closest race is in the 45<sup>th</sup> Congressional District House race between Michelle Steel and Derek Tran. The two candidates are only separated by 58 votes with 93% of all votes counted.

"California basically makes sure that every vote counts," said Weber. "We will receive our first actual count from all of the 58 counties on Dec. 6. After that, we have at least one week, which is until Dec. 13, when we will actually certify the state results. Then that becomes the official results for the election."



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If a recount is triggered in the 45<sup>th</sup> district, official results may take longer than the expected deadline.

The part of the ballot counting process that tends to prolong the official results involves verifying signatures and making sure individuals who obtained provisional ballots the day of the election are all eligible to vote, Weber said.

The SOS goes as far as finding individuals who neglected to sign their ballots so they can complete

the process.

"The reason we do this is we respect every vote that comes in. California's election process is designed with a core commitment to recognizing and basically accurately counting each and every eligible vote that comes into our office," added Weber. "This approach involves a series of rigorous checks and safeguards, including Signature verification machine audits and manual accounts."

While technology has helped expedite the counting process in some areas, as the voter base continues to grow in the state, additional manual support is needed. For example, vote my mail ballots have to be opened and counted by hand. By Oct. 18, 1.5 million vote-by-mail ballots were already submitted.

Voting over the internet is prohibited by California Law. This eliminates all possibilities of cyber tampering or electronic voter fraud.

The SOS office also does a hand count of one percent of all ballots before Dec. 13. This is done to verify the fact there is a correlation between the hand counts and what the machines are counting.

"Some people ask the question: 'Why do we have to be so accurate?'

We do our best to make sure that every Californian who is registered legally registered to vote will have their vote counted," Weber emphasized.



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**There are no comments yet.**