VOTER TURNOUT AND ELECTION RESULTS EXPLAINED

Voter Turnout

➢ Voter turnout is the number of **eligible voters** who cast a ballot in an election.

➢ The number of eligible voters is calculated at close of business on the date of **book closing** – the last day to register to vote or change your party for an election. Bookclosing reports are made available on the Orange County Supervisor of Elections website no later than the 13th day following the closing of the books.

➢ Voter turnout is broken out by the **method** used to cast the vote – voting methods include early voting, voting by mail and Election Day voting at the polling locations.

➢ Voter turnout is broken out by **precinct** – the sections into which the county is divided for voting purposes, based on the latest census blocks.

➢ Data is collected beginning with the return of Vote-By-Mail ballots, throughout the early voting period and up until the polls close on Election Day.

➢ Voter Turnout data is featured on the homepage of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections website beginning on the first day of Early Voting.

Election Results

➢ Elections consist of contests to fill vacancies and to approve or disapprove amendments.

  o An election contest to fill an elected office requires voters to cast a vote for one or more candidates.

  o An election contest to decide an initiative question requires voters to cast a single vote indicating their position as for or against the amendment.

➢ Election results are the tabulated total **count of votes cast** for each candidate or position in each contest in an election.

➢ Election Results are **reported** by contest, by candidate or position, and by voting method.

➢ An **Under Vote** occurs when a voter fails to mark any selection for a contest on the ballot.

➢ An **Over Vote** occurs when a voter selects more than the indicated number of responses for a contest.

➢ Under Vote and Over Vote counts are shown on the election results but are not included when calculating the **percentage of votes** received by each candidate or position.

➢ Election results are presented on the homepage of the Supervisor of Elections website on Election Day **after all the polls have closed**.

➢ Election results are **Unofficial Results** until the Canvassing Board has certified the Election.