OC Acknowledged as National Leader in Elections

(Santa Ana, CA) — Orange County has been recognized by the bipartisan Presidential Commission on Election Administration for best practices, innovation and elections operations in a report recently presented to the White House.

The 122-page report, which examined election operations across the country in 2012, included 19 recommendations for improving the administration of elections nationally. They include expanding voter registration opportunities, improving the accuracy of voter lists, improving access to polling places, employing state-of-the-art techniques for efficient management of polling places and replacing antiquated voting machines.

Orange County’s Registrar of Voters operation was among a handful of jurisdictions singled out for praise. The commission highlighted the County’s work on web applications to manage voting lines based on historical turnouts, registration and other factors, and for estimating wait times at polling places. Most of the report’s recommendations already are in use by the County.

“The support of the Board of Supervisors has enabled us to operate in an environment of continual improvement,” said Orange County Registrar of Voters Neal Kelley, who was invited to testify before the commission in September. “It is gratifying for our operations to be cited as a model for other jurisdictions.”

Kelley also is one of four elections officials serving on the Future of California Elections, a statewide consortium of election officials, advocacy groups and academics focused on improving California’s elections. The state panel was mentioned in the commission’s report as an example of state-level commitment to improving voters’ experiences.

For a copy of the commission report, click here: www.supportthevoter.gov.

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