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**Riverside County
News Release**

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**County postpones election certification to see if legal action might
affect fate of late ballots**

Riverside County will postpone certification of the June 8 election after taking action to determine whether there is still a possibility for counting about 12,500 ballots that arrived at the Registrar of Voters office after the election-night deadline established in state law.

At their regular meeting on Tuesday, members of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors discussed whether potential legal action by the county or others might lead to a court order allowing the ballots to be counted. No such action has yet been filed.

Riverside County has until July 6 to certify the election results but the Registrar of Voters had expected the election could be certified as early as Wednesday (June 23). Concerned that certification could preempt legal action on the question of counting the late ballots, county officials contacted California Secretary of State Debra Bowen's office Tuesday afternoon. Officials with the secretary of state replied that there is no requirement to certify immediately once all the votes are counted.

County Executive Officer Bill Luna directed the registrar's office Tuesday afternoon to postpone certification while legal options are reviewed.

The late-arriving ballots originally were sent to a post office in Moreno Valley where Registrar of Voters mail has never been collected during regular daily operations or on Election Day. The ballots were collected June 9, after postal officials forwarded them to another post office in Riverside where the registrar's staff picks up daily mail.