



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

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UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WATCHING FOR FEDERAL ELECTION LAW VIOLATIONS

Public May Report Fraud or Abuse to District Election Officers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that Yoshinori H.T. Himel and Brian Enos, Assistant United States Attorneys in the Eastern District of California, will lead the efforts of the U.S. Attorney’s Office in connection with the Justice Department’s nationwide Election Day Program for the elections on November 3, 2009. Himel and Enos have been appointed to serve as the District Election Officers in Sacramento and Fresno, respectively, and in that capacity are responsible for overseeing the District’s handling of complaints of election fraud and voting rights abuses in consultation with Justice Department headquarters.

This is part of a department-wide Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Initiative. The goals of this initiative are to deter voter intimidation, suppression, discrimination, and election fraud and to prosecute these offenses whenever and wherever they occur, making voting easier and cheating harder. Both goals are equally important. It is imperative that in pursuing voter integrity, ballot access is not in any way diminished or harmed. The Department’s long-standing Election Day Program furthers the goals of the initiative. The program also is intended to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by providing local points of contact within the Department where the public can report possible election fraud and voting rights violations while the polls are open on election day.

To respond to complaints of election fraud or voting rights abuses on November 2, 2009, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, District Election Officers Himel and Enos will be on duty in this District while the polls are open. They can be reached by the public at the following telephone numbers:
Yoshinori Himel, in Sacramento, 916-554-2760, and Brian Enos, in Fresno, 559-497-4058.

The FBI will also have Special Agents available in each field office and resident agency in this District to receive allegations of election fraud, intimidation, suppression and other election abuses. The Sacramento Field Office’s Special Agent Lee Witkowski can be reached by the public at 916-977-2300.

Complaints about ballot-access problems or discrimination can be made directly to the Civil Rights Division’s Voting Section in Washington at 1-800-253-3931 or 202-307-2767. Where voter intimidation or suppression tactics target voters on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin, please contact the Civil Rights Division’s Criminal Section at 202-514-3204.

United States Attorney Brown said, “Election fraud and voting rights abuses dilute the

worth of votes honestly cast. They also corrupt the essence of our representative form of government. As crimes against both the individual and the government, they will be dealt with promptly and aggressively. Anyone who has information suggesting electoral corruption or voting rights abuses should make that information available immediately to my office, the FBI, or the Civil Rights Division.”

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