

**Fresno County Democratic Party  
Campaign Services Committee  
Voter Registration Project  
Monthly Immigration and Naturalization Ceremony**

**General**

Each month the US Citizenship and Immigration Service holds a ceremony to swear in immigrants who have completed all the requirements of US Citizenship at the Ernest Valdez Hall, 700 M Street in Fresno.

The Campaign Services Committee, a standing committee of the Fresno County Democratic Central Committee, sponsors a Democratic Voter Registration effort at these ceremonies. This is an important step in expanding the Registered Democratic base here in the San Joaquin Valley and practically here in Fresno County. By registering these new citizens as Democrats we also have the opportunity to involve them in the Democratic Party efforts in this county.



June 6, 2005 Voter Registration Booth  
Robert Williams, Chuck Krugman, James Williams, Regina Uribes. Picture by Larry Johnson

These new citizens are at a special time in their lives and possibly at the height of their Patriotic feeling. They are motivated to get involved in their

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new country BUT most of them are really not sure how to go about it. In many of the countries that they come from, the political climate can be hostile to new comers and even dangerous. They usually need some encouragement and a lot of assurance about our system of politics. You will find many almost comical misunderstandings and a general lack of trust and a fear of letting anyone know too much about them. It is up to you, their contact with our system to allay these fears and unknowns with straight forward answers and information. You are also probably the first contact they will have with a political party in this country. Set them at ease and try to get them to feel good at getting involved.

### **Game Plan**

In those months identified as winter on the schedule the ceremony begins at 3PM and ends at 3:30PM. In those months identified as summer the ceremony begins at 11AM and ends at 11:30AM. The new citizens start arriving with their families and/or friends 2 hours before the ceremony begins and form two lines at the front entrance to the Valdez Hall. This is so they can complete their required paperwork and so that their families can find seats for the ceremony. There will be a convention worker outside who moderates by making announcements and answering questions.

We plan to arrive and set up our booth(s) 2 1/2 hours before the ceremony. This gives our volunteers a chance to work the lines outside the building by handing out literature and talking with the new citizens. Actually they are not technically citizens until the completion of the ceremony so we can not register them yet. However we can certainly talk with them and invite them to return to our booth to register as Democrats after the ceremony. This personal contact and invitation work very well and assure a maximum number of new citizens will return to register with us.

Volunteers are encouraged to attend at least the first ceremony which they work so as to fully understand the process and be able to explain it when asked by the people waiting at the next ceremony. The more information that the volunteers can provide to the people waiting in line the more trust they can engender and the better the return after the ceremony. A simple approach is *"Hi, I'm with the Democratic Party here in Fresno County and I want to congratulate those of you who are about to become citizens and invite you to register to vote at our booth at the side of the building after the ceremony"*. They will remember that the Democratic Party was there with them.

Once the ceremony is over and the new citizens begin to leave the area, this is the time to get them to register. Many of the new citizens are in a hurry to leave and don't want to stop and register. One tactic which has

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been effective is to inform them that the registration only takes one minute and surely they can spare one minute in order to complete this very important act. Many times, it is the friend or loved one who insists that the new citizen register to vote right than and there. Be persuasive but not aggressive. Ask if they have a driver's license or California ID card and offer to complete the form for them.

The actual registration process will be explained by the experienced volunteers and basically regards reading and following the directions printed on the form. Once a form is completed, a careful check to see that all necessary items are completed is very important as once the new citizen leaves it can be very difficult to contact them to correct any errors or omissions. The completed registration form must be turned in within 72 hours so be sure to give each completed form to the booth supervisor.

Usually, completed forms are gathered by the team leader and taken to the Democrats In Action office where they are copied and then delivered directly to the elections office located on Kern Avenue. The clerk there will check the date and review the form for any omissions and then usually accept them on the spot.

Please be sure to review the Voter Registration Form and gain familiarity with it before you try to register new voters. They are looking to you to answer their questions and to be certain that their form is completed correctly. If you have any questions during the completion of the form be sure to ask one of the experienced volunteers before the new citizen leaves the area.

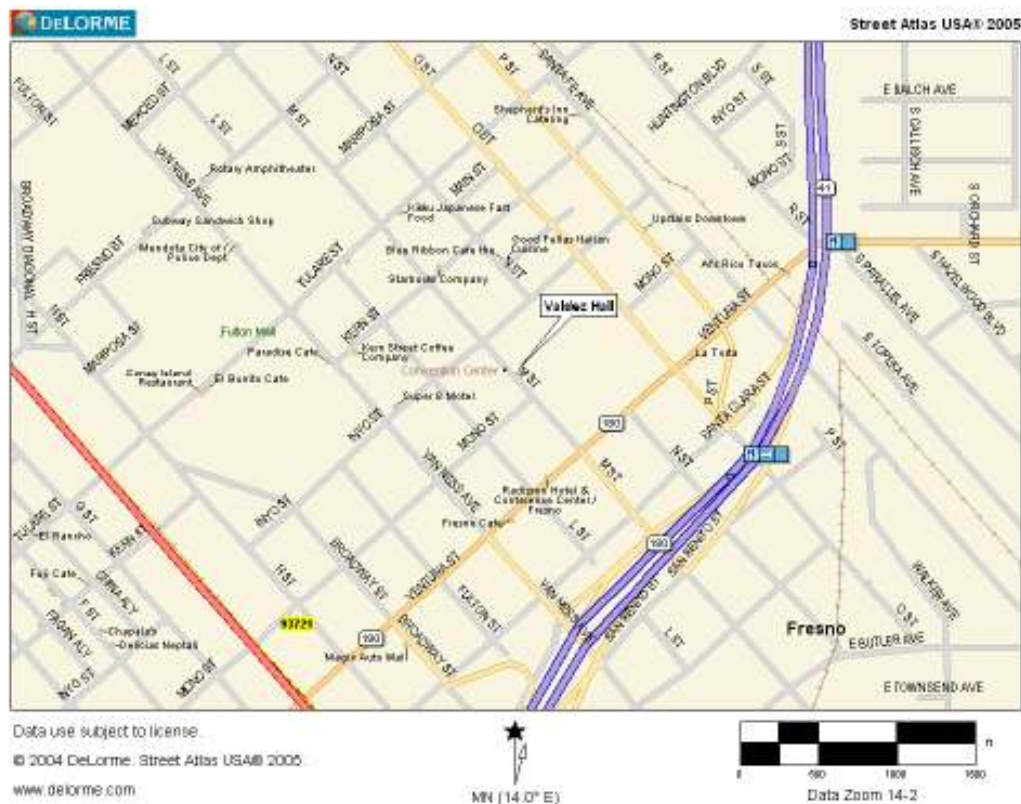
**Schedule for 2009**

This is the schedule for 2009. Please look it over and mark your calendar. Please contact Jason Carns 287-0064 with the dates that you can attend. We need at least 4 volunteers per event to have a successful effort.

February 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Afternoon 12:00PM to 4:30PM
March 9 <sup>th</sup> 2009	Afternoon 12:00PM to 4:30PM
April 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Afternoon 12:00PM to 4:40PM
May 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Morning 8:00AM to 1:00PM
June15 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Morning 8:00AM to 1:00PM
July 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Morning 8:00AM to 1:00PM
August 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Morning 8:00AM to 1:00PM
September 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Morning 8:00AM to 1:00PM
October 19 <sup>th</sup> , 20089	Morning 8:00AM to 1:00PM
November 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Afternoon 12:00PM to 4:30PM
December 14 <sup>st</sup> , 2009	Afternoon 12:00PM to 4:30PM

# Fresno County Democratic Party Campaign Services Committee Location and Parking

The registration booth is set up between the building on the south side of the Valdez Hall. There is parking in the convention center parking garage and parking lot however there is a \$6.00 charge. Metered Street parking in the area is abundant BUT requires that you feed the meters as the day progresses. If you go just south of Ventura Ave there is plenty of free on-street parking. This is mostly one block south of the Valdez Hall. We suggest that if possible you car pool and share any parking expense.



Please be sure to check the weather forecast for the day and dress appropriately to assure your personal comfort. Also, be sure to bring water or drinks as we are not always able to supply refreshments.

On behalf of the Fresno County Democratic Party, thank you for volunteering for this important activity. This is where the Democratic rubber meets the road and is the bedrock of our Democracy.

James Williams, Chair  
Campaign Services Committee

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**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTERING VOTERS**

Although the voter registration forms have instructions for each area to be filled out, below is additional information about how to correctly register voters so the cards are not returned. Be certain to direct individuals to answer the two questions in section 15 and read the voter declaration that establishes their eligibility to register. Also, be certain that they sign the affidavit and initial where indicated if they choose the Permanent Absentee Ballot.

**Section 1.** Be very careful as to how this section is filled out. It should match the CA Driver's license or CA ID Card. If there is a change of name spell it correctly.

**Section 2.** Address: A physical address is **required** to establish which precinct the voter resides in. (No PO Box and no business addresses!)

**Section 3.** For those who have no physical address (such as homeless citizens and some rural residents) a description of the area in which the person resides is required to establish which precinct the voter resides in.

**Section 4.** Mailing address if different from physical address, or a P.O. Box if they receive mail at someplace other than their physical address.

**Section 6.** Either the state (if born in U.S.) or country (if foreign born).

**Section 7. CA DRIVERS LICENSE OR CA IDENTIFICATION CARD # IS REQUIRED.** (The last four digits of Social Security number can only be used if the person registering does not have one or the other of those cards. This is very unusual). People who are uncomfortable leaving the form with their license number should be advised to mail it in themselves.

**Section 8.** Encourage phone # and Email address.

**Section 9.** If no party, Decline to State bubble should be filled in. There is no such thing as an "Independent" voter on the form. The "American Independent Party" is the old George Wallace party which is segregationist.

**Section 10.** If reregistering because of name change or address change this section should be filled out *as completely as possible*.

**Section 11. ENCOURAGE VOTERS TO SELECT VOTE BY MAIL (PERMANENT ABSENTEE STATUS).** Call it **Vote By Mail** - Make sure they fill in the bubble and initial in the blank. Make sure that they know that they will receive ballot every election until they notify the Registrar of Voters in writing that they want to stop. They can still vote at the polls if they prefer but need to bring their absentee ballots with them.

**Section 12.** Because we are turning in the forms for the voters, *the person who takes the form from the voter must sign their name and date Box 12(d)*. You are NOT a paid to collect voter registration.

**Section 13.** Be sure the "Yes" bubbles are filled in and that you get the signature.

**If you are actually completing the form for the voter you must sign and date the at the bottom right hand corner. Use the Party Office address, 255 N. Fulton Ave, Fresno, CA 93701 NOT YOUR OWN!**