



# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Madera County Elections Division is Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act**

**CALIFORNIA** – Today (August 6) Rebecca Martinez, Madera County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters is partnering with the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials and is proud to announce that today is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, which was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on August 6, 1965.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a milestone in national legislation that prohibits discriminatory voting practices from disenfranchising African Americans. The act makes it illegal to require eligible voters to pass literacy tests in order to register to vote.

Within the same year the act was passed, many key events took place throughout the Civil Rights Movement: Malcolm X was assassinated, the Selma to Montgomery marches occurred, the Watts riots in Los Angeles occurred, and President Johnson issued Executive Order 11246 to enforce Affirmative Action for the first time.

Since its initial passage, the act has expanded its reach with amendments that assist language minorities in the voting process by providing language-specific election materials to jurisdictions with large numbers of language minorities.

**Si desea información en Español, llame a (559)675-7720 o (800)435-0509.**