Polling places were created in various places in the county and the local news media participate, then the county supervisors would return control of the anti-poverty agency to the county poor. It has been suggested that if a fair election was held maximizing attempts at getting the county's poor to pool their resources, the elections were held to elect poor people to the Community Action Board so that the agency could respond directly to the needs of the county poor. Consequently, the Santa Cruz Community Action Board has been involved in a major running the programs and determining priorities for the use of federal funds.

For several years, the county anti-poverty program has been run by the county supervisors acting through the Community Action Board (CAB). This is in conflict with the federal Office of Economic Opportunity desire to see the poor people directly running the programs and determining priorities for the use of federal funds. Consequently, the Santa Cruz Community Action Board has been involved in a major restructurings effort.

Elections were held to elect poor people to the Community Action Board so that the agency could respond directly to the needs of the county poor. It has been suggested that if a fair election was held maximizing attempts at getting the county's poor to participate, then the county supervisors would return control of the anti-poverty programs to the CAB.

Polling places were created in various places in the county and the local news media was employed to get election information to eligible voters. One had to be at least 18 years of age and meet low income guidelines but need not be a registered voter. About $3,000 was spent to ensure that election information reached the area poor. The polling took place on Sunday and Monday — i.e. 16 & 17 May. Saturday four people voted at the Santa Cruz Area Service Center and other polling places had about the same response. Normal information channels appeared to be ineffectual.

On Saturday, I made myself and low-cost portable t.v. equipment available to all the candidates who wished to represent the poor on the Community Action Board. Each candidate was interviewed and asked to state what he hoped to do for the low-income people if elected. How do you teach low income people with information that has a direct bearing on their future well-being?

This process made the people there aware that an election was in process that could affect their future. They also were able to meet their potential representatives.