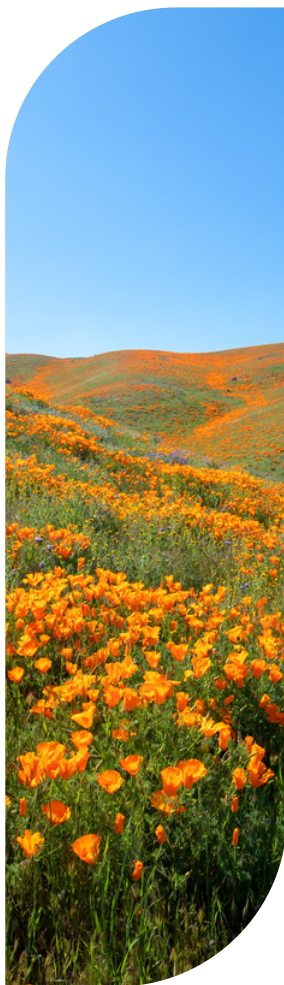




2025

● LEGISLATIVE GUIDE TO
● CALIFORNIA ELECTION LAWS



SUMMARY OF ELECTION RELATED LEGISLATION

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

LEGISLATIVE GUIDE TO ELECTION LAWS

2025

Summary of Election Related Legislation



**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND
ELECTION OFFICIALS**

How to Use This Manual

This Legislative Guide to Election Laws has been prepared to provide you with a summary of election related legislation chaptered or vetoed in 2025. Amendments or additions to text are shown by *underlined italics*, and deletions by ~~strikeouts~~. In addition to summaries of legislation and California code language, the manual also contains the Assembly or Senate Bill number, chapter number assigned by the Secretary of State, and a table of code sections affected by chaptered legislation. A copy of each bill listed in its full text can be obtained from the Legislative Counsel of California at www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.

Disclaimer

It is not the intent of the authors of this publication to provide any legal analysis or opinion relating to the bills listed herein. Please note that anyone using this guide must bear full responsibility to make their own determinations as to all legal standards, duties and factual material contained therein.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SECTION ONE CHAPTERED LEGISLATION

URGENCY

Elections

Senate Bill No. 851, Cervantes. (Chapter 238)

(1) Existing state and federal law provides for the enforcement of laws related to elections and provides procedures to challenge the conduct of elections and election results.

This bill would require a state or local agency or political subdivision that files or is served with a court action relating to elections that contains a claim arising under federal law to provide written notice to the Secretary of State and the Attorney General within 3 days. The bill would require a state or local agency or political subdivision, at least 14 days before entering into a settlement, consent decree, or other court-approved agreement with respect to such a claim arising under federal law, to provide notice of the settlement, consent decree, or other court-approved agreement to the Secretary of State and the Attorney General. The bill would exempt records or information exchanged pursuant to this provision from the California Public Records Act.

(2) Existing law requires an elections official, upon completion of the count, to add the results of write-in votes and any paper ballots used as certified by the precinct board, and thereupon declare the vote. Existing law requires the elections official to prepare a certified statement of the results of the election and submit it to the governing body within 30 days of the election, as specified. Existing law requires the elections official to send to the Secretary of State within 31 days of the election in an electronic format a complete copy of specified election results, including the vote given for persons for electors of President and Vice President of the United States, all candidates voted for statewide office, and all statewide measures.

This bill would specify that the duties described above imposed on elections officials are ministerial and nondiscretionary.

Existing law, if the Secretary of State determines that state election laws are not being enforced, requires the Secretary of State to call the violation of those laws to the attention of the district attorney of the county or to the Attorney General.

This bill, if an elections official fails to prepare a certified statement of the results of the election, would require the Secretary of State to call the violation to the attention of the district attorney of the county or to the Attorney General and authorize the Secretary of State to assist the county elections official in discharging their duties, consistent with those provisions.

(3) Existing law requires a governing body to declare elected or nominated the person having the highest number of votes for each office voted on at an election under its jurisdiction and to declare the results of each measure voted on at an election under its jurisdiction.

This bill would specify that these duties are ministerial and nondiscretionary.

(4) Existing law establishes a crime punishable by a fine, imprisonment, or both, for a person who hires or arranges for a person in possession of a firearm or any uniformed peace officer, private guard, or security personnel or any person who is wearing a uniform of a peace officer, guard, or security personnel, to be stationed in the immediate vicinity of, or posted at, a polling place without written authorization of the appropriate elections official.

This bill would apply the above penalties with respect to a uniformed law enforcement officer, including an officer or agent of a federal law enforcement agency, rather than to a uniformed peace officer. The bill would expand the scope of the crime to include the presence of any of the above persons in the immediate vicinity of or at a county elections office.

(5) Existing law makes it a crime to display a container for the purpose of collecting ballots with the intent to deceive a voter into casting a ballot in an unofficial ballot box. Existing law also makes it a crime to direct or solicit a voter to place a ballot in such a container. Existing law makes these crimes punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, by imprisonment for 16 months or two or three years, or by both fine and imprisonment.

This bill would also make it a crime to display an envelope for the purpose of collecting ballots, with the intent to deceive a voter into casting a ballot in an unofficial ballot box. The bill would make it a crime to direct or solicit a voter to place a ballot in such an envelope.

(6) Existing law provides requirements for the certification of voting systems. Existing law requires the Secretary of State to adopt and publish voting system standards that meet or exceed federal voluntary voting system guidelines prescribed by the United States Election Assistance Commission, as specified.

This bill would repeal the above requirement and instead require the Secretary of State to adopt and publish voting standards that meet the minimum requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 and that incorporate best practices in election technology.

(7) Existing law requires a vendor, jurisdiction, and applicant for certification or approval of a remote accessible vote by mail system to notify the Secretary of State and local elections officials, as applicable, if they learn of a defect, fault, or failure in the system or part of the system. Existing law requires the Secretary of State, after receiving notice, to

further notify and submit a report to the United States Election Assistance Commission. This bill would repeal the above requirements that the Secretary of State notify and submit a report to the United States Election Assistance Commission.

(8) Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

(9) By broadening the scope of existing crimes, and by establishing new procedures for the conduct of elections, including with respect to enforcement of local election laws, disclosure of voter registration information, and ballots, this bill would establish a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that with regard to certain mandates no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

With regard to any other mandates, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs so mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

(10) This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

SECTION 1. Section 21 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

21. (a) Within three court days after a state or local agency or political subdivision files or is served with a court action relating to elections that contains a claim arising under federal law, the state or local agency or political subdivision shall provide written notice to the Secretary of State and the Attorney General. Notice shall include the case number, case name, and venue.

(b) At least 14 court days before a state or local agency or political subdivision enters into a settlement, consent decree, or other court-approved agreement in a court action relating to elections that contains a claim arising under federal law, the state or local agency or political subdivision shall provide a draft copy of the settlement, consent decree, or other court-approved agreement to the Secretary of State and the Attorney General in order to provide them an opportunity to deliver guidance to the state or local agency or political subdivision to ensure that the settlement, consent decree, or

other court-approved agreement is consistent with California law, including California regulations. Any records or information exchanged under this section shall be exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1 of the Government Code).

(c) For purposes of this section, a claim arising under federal law includes, but is not limited to, a claim brought under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10301 et seq.), the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20501 et seq.), the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.), the Civil Rights Act of 1960 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20701 et seq.), and the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

(d) This section shall not be construed to require the Secretary of State or the Attorney General to become a party to any action of which they receive written notice.

(e) The Legislature finds and declares that this section addresses a matter of statewide concern, and therefore this section applies to all cities and counties, including charter cities, charter counties, and charter cities and counties.

SEC. 2. Section 15371 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15371. (a) Upon completion of the count, the elections official shall add to the results as so determined, the results of the write-in votes and any paper ballots used as certified by the precinct board, and thereupon shall declare the vote, and forthwith post one copy at the counting place for public inspection.

(b) The duties imposed on elections officials pursuant to subdivision (a) are ministerial and nondiscretionary.

SEC. 3. Section 15372 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15372. (a) The elections official shall prepare a certified statement of the results of the election and submit it to the governing body within 30 days of the election or, in the case of school district, community college district, county board of education, or special district elections conducted on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years, no later than the last Monday before the last Friday of that month.

(b) The elections official shall post the certified statement of the results of the election on the elections official's internet website in a downloadable spreadsheet format that may include, but is not limited to, a comma-separated values file or a tab-separated values file and that is compatible with a spreadsheet software application that is widely used at the time of the posting. The certified statement of the election results shall be posted and maintained on the elections official's internet website for at least 10 years following the election. This subdivision shall apply only to an elections official who uses a computer system that has the capability of producing the election results in a downloadable spreadsheet format without requiring modification of the computer system.

(c) The duties imposed on elections officials pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) are ministerial and nondiscretionary.

(d) If the elections official fails to prepare a certified statement of the results of the election as specified in subdivision (a), the Secretary of State shall call the

violation to the attention of the district attorney of the county or to the Attorney General and may assist the county elections official in discharging the officer's duties, consistent with subdivision (b) of Section 12172.5 of the Government Code.

SEC. 4. Section 15375 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15375. (a) The elections official shall send to the Secretary of State within 31 days of the election in an electronic format in the manner requested one complete copy of all results as to each of the following:

- (1) All candidates voted for statewide office.
- (2) All candidates voted for the following offices:
 - (A) Member of the State Assembly.
 - (B) Member of the State Senate.
 - (C) Member of the United States House of Representatives.
 - (D) Member of the State Board of Equalization.
 - (E) Justice of the Court of Appeal.
 - (F) Judge of the superior court.
- (3) All persons voted for at the presidential primary. The results for all persons voted for at the presidential primary for delegates to national conventions shall be canvassed and shall be sent within 28 days after the election.
- (4) The vote given for persons for electors of President and Vice President of the United States. The results for presidential electors shall be endorsed "Presidential Election Returns" and shall be canvassed and sent within 28 days after the election.
- (5) All statewide measures.
- (6) The total number of ballots cast.
- (b) The duties imposed on elections officials pursuant to subdivision (a) are ministerial and nondiscretionary.

SEC.5. Section 15400 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15400. (a) It is the ministerial and nondiscretionary duty of the governing body to declare elected or nominated to each office voted on at each election under its jurisdiction the person having the highest number of votes for that office, or who was elected or nominated under the exceptions noted in Section 15452.

(b) It is the ministerial and nondiscretionary duty of the governing board to declare the results of each election under its jurisdiction as to each measure voted on at the election.

SEC. 6. Section 18545 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

18545. (a) Any person who hires or arranges for any other person in possession of a firearm or any uniformed law enforcement officer, private guard, or security personnel or any person who is wearing a uniform of a law enforcement officer, guard, or security personnel, to be stationed in the immediate vicinity of, or posted at, a polling place or a county elections office without written authorization of the appropriate elections official or written authorization by a federal court order is punishable imprisonment in

a county jail for a period not to exceed one year, by a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment, or by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code and by a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

(b) This section does not apply to the owner or manager of the facility or property in which the polling place is located if the private guard or security personnel is not hired or arranged solely for the day on which the election is held.

(c) For purposes of this section, “law enforcement officer” means either of the following:

- (1) A peace officer as defined in Section 830 of the Penal Code.
- (2) An officer or agent of a federal law enforcement agency or any person acting on behalf of a federal law enforcement agency.

SEC. 7. Section 18568 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

18568. Every person is punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years, or by both that fine and imprisonment, who:

- (a) Aids in changing or destroying any poll list or official ballot.
- (b) Aids in wrongfully placing any ballots in the ballot container or in taking any therefrom.
- (c) Adds or attempts to add any ballots to those legally polled at any election by fraudulently putting them into the ballot container, either before or after the ballots therein have been counted.
- (d) Adds to or mixes with, or attempts to add to or mix with, the ballots polled, any other ballots, while they are being counted or canvassed or at any other time, with intent to change the result of the election, or allows another to do so, when in the person’s power to prevent it.
- (e) Carries away or destroys, attempts to carry away or destroy, or knowingly allows another to carry away or destroy, any poll list, ballot container, or ballots lawfully polled or who willfully detains, mutilates, or destroys any election returns.
- (f) Removes any unvoted ballots from the polling place before the completion of the ballot count.
- (g) Displays a container or provides an envelope for the purpose of collecting or returning ballots, with the intent to deceive a voter into casting a ballot in an unofficial ballot or returning a ballot in an unofficial ballot return envelope. Evidence of intent to deceive may include using the word “official” on the container or envelope, or otherwise fashioning the container or envelope in a way that is likely to deceive a voter into believing that the container or envelope is an official collection box or official ballot return envelope that has been approved by an elections official.
- (h) Directs or solicits a voter to place a ballot in a container or envelope prohibited by subdivision (g).

SEC.8. Section 19006 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

19006. It is the intent of the Legislature that:

- (a) All voting systems be certified or conditionally approved by the Secretary of State, independent of voluntary federal qualification or certification, before they are used in future elections to ensure that the voting systems have the ability to meet accuracy,

accessibility, and security standards.

(b) The Secretary of State adopt and publish testing standards that meet the minimum requirements of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 21081 et seq.) and that incorporate best practices in election technology.

(c) The Secretary of State study and encourage the development of voting systems that use nonproprietary source code and that are easy to audit.

(d) A local jurisdiction may use available public funds to purchase and maintain any certified or conditionally approved voting system or part of a voting system.

(e) California receive the benefits of the publicly funded development of a nonproprietary voting system in the state.

(f) A local jurisdiction may use available public funds to research and develop a nonproprietary voting system that uses disclosed source codes, including the manufacture of a limited number of voting system units, for use in a pilot program or for submission to the Secretary of State for certification.

SEC. 9. Section 19101 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

19101. (a) The Secretary of State shall adopt and publish voting system standards and regulations governing the use of voting systems that meet the minimum requirements of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 21081 et seq.) and that incorporate best practices in election technology. The Secretary of State may require additional testing to ensure that voting systems meet the requirements of this code.

(b) Voting system standards adopted by the Secretary of State pursuant to subdivision (a) shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following requirements:

(1) The machine or device and its software shall be suitable for the purpose for which it is intended.

(2) The system shall preserve the secrecy of the ballot.

(3) The system shall be safe from fraud or manipulation.

(4) The system shall be accessible to voters with disabilities pursuant to Section 19242 and applicable federal laws.

(5) The system shall be accessible to voters who require assistance in a language other than English if the language is one in which a ballot or ballot materials are required to be made available to voters pursuant to Section 14201 and applicable federal laws.

SEC. 10. Section 19212 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

19212. (a) (1) No later than 10 business days after the Secretary of State certifies or conditionally approves the use of a new or updated voting system, the vendor or county seeking certification or approval of the voting system shall cause an exact copy of the approved source code for each component of the voting system, including complete build and configuration instructions and related documents for compiling the source code into object code, to be transferred directly from the voting system testing agency that evaluated the voting system and is approved by the Secretary of State, and deposited into an approved escrow facility.

(2) No later than 10 business days after the Secretary of State certifies or conditionally

approves a new or updated ballot marking system, the vendor or county seeking certification or approval of the ballot marking system shall cause an exact copy of the approved source code for each component of the ballot marking system, including complete build and configuration instructions and related documents for compiling the source code into object code, to be deposited into an approved escrow facility.

(b) The Secretary of State shall adopt regulations relating to all of the following:

(1) The definition of source code components of a voting system or ballot marking system, including source code for all firmware and software of the voting system or ballot marking system. Firmware and software shall include commercial off-the-shelf or other third-party firmware and software that is available and able to be disclosed by the vendor or county seeking certification or approval of a voting system or ballot marking system.

(2) Specifications for the escrow facility, including security and environmental specifications necessary for the preservation of the voting system or ballot marking system source codes.

(3) Procedures for submitting voting system or ballot marking system source codes.

(4) Criteria for access to voting system or ballot marking system source codes.

(5) Requirements for the applicant to include in the materials deposited in escrow build and configuration instructions and documents so that a neutral third party may create, from the source codes in escrow, executable object codes identical to the code installed on certified or conditionally approved voting systems or ballot marking systems.

(c) The Secretary of State shall have reasonable access to the materials placed in escrow, under any of the following circumstances:

(1) In the course of an investigation or prosecution regarding vote counting or ballot marking equipment or procedures.

(2) Upon a finding by the Secretary of State that an escrow facility or escrow company is unable or unwilling to maintain materials in escrow in compliance with this section.

(3) In order to fulfill the provisions of this chapter related to the examination and certification or conditional approval of voting systems or ballot marking systems.

(4) In order to verify that the software on a voting system is identical to the certified or conditionally approved version.

(5) For any other purpose deemed necessary to fulfill the provisions of this code or Section 12172.5 of the Government Code.

(d) The Secretary of State may seek injunctive relief requiring the elections officials, approved escrow facility, or any vendor or manufacturer of a voting system or part of a voting system to comply with this section and related regulations. Venue for a proceeding under this section shall be exclusively in Sacramento County.

(e) This section applies to all elections.

SEC. 11. Section 19215 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

19215. If a voting system or a part of a voting system has been certified or conditionally approved by the Secretary of State, the vendor or, in cases where the system is publicly owned, the jurisdiction shall notify the Secretary of State and all local elections officials who use the system in writing of any defect, fault, or failure of the hardware, software, or firmware of any voting system or part of any voting system created or manufactured

by the vendor, or supplied by the vendor to any jurisdiction, within 30 calendar days after the vendor learns of the defect, fault, or failure.

SEC. 12. Section 19284 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

19284. (a) A person, corporation, or public agency owning or having an interest in the sale or acquisition of a remote accessible vote by mail system or a part of a remote accessible vote by mail system may apply to the Secretary of State for certification or conditional approval that includes testing and examination of the applicant's system and a report on the findings, which shall include the accuracy and efficiency of the remote accessible vote by mail system. As part of its application, the applicant of a remote accessible vote by mail system or a part of a remote accessible vote by mail system shall notify the Secretary of State in writing of any known defect, fault, or failure of the version of the hardware, software, or firmware of the remote accessible vote by mail system or a part of the remote accessible vote by mail system submitted. The Secretary of State shall not begin their certification process until they receive a completed application from the applicant of the remote accessible vote by mail system or a part of the remote accessible vote by mail system. The applicant shall also notify the Secretary of State in writing of any defect, fault, or failure of the version of the hardware, software, or firmware of the ballot marking system or a part of the ballot marking system submitted that is discovered after the application is submitted and before the Secretary of State submits the report required by Section 19288. The Secretary of State shall complete their examination without undue delay.

(b) As used in this chapter:

(1) "Defect" means any flaw in the hardware or documentation of a remote accessible vote by mail system that could result in a state of unfitness for use or nonconformance to the manufacturer's specifications or applicable law.

(2) "Failure" means a discrepancy between the external results of the operation of any software or firmware in a remote accessible vote by mail system and the manufacturer's product requirements for that software or firmware or applicable law.

(3) "Fault" means a step, process, or data definition in any software or firmware in a ballot marking system that is incorrect under the manufacturer's program specification or applicable law.

SEC. 13. Section 19290 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

19290. If a remote accessible vote by mail system has been certified or conditionally approved by the Secretary of State, the vendor or, in cases where the system is publicly owned, the jurisdiction shall notify the Secretary of State and all local elections officials who use the system in writing of any defect, fault, or failure of the hardware, software, or firmware of any system or part of any system created or manufactured by the vendor, or supplied by the vendor to any jurisdiction, within 30 calendar days after the vendor or jurisdiction learns of the defect, fault, or failure.

SEC. 14. The provisions of this bill shall be construed and applied in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the California Constitution and the Constitution of the United States.

SEC. 15. The provisions of this act are severable. If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

SEC. 16. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of this act, which adds Section 21 to the Elections Code, imposes a limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest: In order to ensure the confidentiality of privileged communications, documents, and other materials related to court actions, potential court actions, and negotiations related to these matters, including communications subject to the attorney-client privilege and the legislative privilege, it is necessary to prohibit the disclosure of records or information exchanged pursuant to Section 1 of this act.

SEC. 17. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution for certain costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district because, in that regard, this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution. However, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains other costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

SEC. 18. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are: In order for this act to apply to a statewide special election occurring on November 4, 2025, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review. Elections

Senate Bill No. 162, Committee. (Chapter 115)

A special election will be held throughout the state on November 4, 2025. Existing law authorizes consolidation of a local election for the submission of any question, proposition, or office to be filled, which was called by a district, city, or other political subdivision on or before August 8, 2025, and scheduled to be held on November 4, 2025, with the statewide special election. Existing law prohibits a county elections official from certifying the results of the statewide special election before the 28th calendar day following the election.

This bill would also prohibit a county elections official from certifying the results of a local election called by a district, city, or other political subdivision on or before August 8, 2025, and scheduled to be held on November 4, 2025, before the 28th calendar day following the election.

Existing law requires the Secretary of State to report on the final costs of the statewide special election to the Director of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee no later than April 1, 2026.

This bill would appropriate \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Secretary of State for purposes of that report.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as a bill providing for appropriations related to the Budget Bill.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Chapter 97 of the Statutes of 2025 is amended to read:

SEC. 4. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure counties have sufficient funding to effectuate the November 4, 2025, statewide special election. An amount is hereby appropriated from the General Fund ~~to the Controller~~ for the actual and reasonably necessary costs, as determined by the Director of Finance, for the counties to conduct the November 4, 2025, statewide special election.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, the Controller shall allocate these funds to counties according to a schedule provided by the Director of Finance. Any excess funds received by the county shall be used to offset state costs for the next statewide election conducted by the county. Each county shall report its final total cost to administer the statewide special election to the Secretary of State in a manner and by a date determined by the Secretary of State.

(c) An amount is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Secretary of State for the actual and reasonably necessary costs, as determined by the Director of Finance, for the Secretary of State to administer the November 4, 2025, statewide special election.

(d) No later than April 1, 2026, the Secretary of State shall report on the final costs of the statewide special election to the Director of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. The report shall include all of the following:

- (1) The total cost of the statewide special election by county.
- (2) The costs broken out by category for each county.
- (3) Any funds remaining, by county, that can be used to offset state costs for the next election conducted by the county.

SEC. 2. (a) Notwithstanding Sections 10262, 10551, 15301, and 15372 of the Elections Code, for any regular or special local election for the submission of any question, proposition, or office to be filled, which was called by a district, city, or other political subdivision on or before August 8, 2025, and scheduled to be held on November 4, 2025, the elections official shall not certify the results of the election prior to the 28th calendar day following the election. Subdivisions (f), (g), and (h) of Section 3 of Chapter 97 of the Statutes of 2025 apply to that election in the same manner as those provisions apply to the November 4, 2025, statewide special election.

(b) To the extent that the requirement in paragraph (1) of subdivision (f) of Section 3 of Chapter 97 of the Statutes of 2025 is inconsistent with duties of the elections official under Sections 3001, 3105, or 13303 of the Elections Code, for an election scheduled after November 4, 2025, and before December 31, 2025, the County of Santa Clara may by resolution adopt other reasonable timeframes for the elections official to fulfill these duties, provided that the timeframes are consistent with the requirements in paragraph (1) of subdivision (f) of Section 3 of Chapter 97 of the Statutes of 2025.

SEC. 3. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Secretary of State for the 2025–26 fiscal year for purposes of developing the report on the final costs of the November 4, 2025, statewide special election pursuant to Section 4 of Chapter 97 of the Statutes of 2025.

SEC. 4. This act is a bill providing for appropriations related to the Budget Bill within the meaning of subdivision (e) of Section 12 of Article IV of the California Constitution, has been identified as related to the budget in the Budget Bill, and shall take effect immediately.

PRE-ELECTION PERIOD

Elections: precinct maps

Assembly Bill No. 17, Alanis. (Chapter 80)

Existing law requires the county elections official to divide the area under their jurisdiction into precincts and to prepare detailed maps or exterior descriptions of the precincts. If changes or alterations to precinct boundaries are made, existing law requires the elections official to prepare new maps or exterior descriptions. Existing law provides that precinct boundary changes occurring less than 125 days before an election are not effective for purposes of that election.

This bill would require the registrar of voters in each county to make available, upon request by any member of the public, a map in digital form provided free of charge that shows the effective boundaries of each precinct within the county.

By imposing new duties on local officials with respect to elections, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

SECTION 1. Section 12263 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

12263.The registrar of voters in each county shall make available, upon request by any member of the public, a map in digital form provided free of charge that shows the effective boundaries of each precinct within the county.

SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

Elections: voter registration information: elected officials and candidates

Assembly Bill No. 1392, Sharp-Collins. (Chapter 300)

Under existing law, the residence address, telephone number, and email address of a registered voter is confidential, except that under certain circumstances a county elections official must provide that information to any candidate for federal, state, or local office, to any committee for or against any initiative or referendum measure, and to any person for election, scholarly, journalistic, political, or governmental purposes.

This bill would exempt the residence address, telephone number, and email address of a federal, state, or local elected official or candidate from that disclosure requirement, except that the information may be disclosed for journalistic or governmental purposes under specified conditions. The bill would require the Secretary of State to provide each county elections official with a list identifying each federal and state elected official or candidate residing in the county, require the county elections official to add each local elected official or candidate to that list, and require the county elections official to make the elected official or candidate's information confidential within 5 business days. The bill would require the county elections official to exclude the elected official or candidate's confidential information when producing any list, roster, or index. The bill would require an elected official or candidate to contact their county elections official to ensure their voter registration record has been made confidential. The bill would authorize an elected official or candidate to opt out of making their residence address, telephone number, and email address confidential. By adding new duties for county elections officials, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 2194 of the Elections Code proposed by AB 827 to be operative only if this bill and AB 827 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

SECTION 1. *Section 2166.9 is added to the Elections Code, to read:*

2166.9. *(a) For purposes of this section, “elected official or candidate” means a federal, state, or local elected official or a candidate for an elected federal, state, or local office. (b) An elected official or candidate shall have their residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on the affidavit of registration made confidential in accordance with the terms and conditions of this section.*

(c) (1) When a person files nomination papers for an elected federal or state office, the Secretary of State shall provide to each county elections official a list identifying each elected official or candidate residing in each respective county.

(2) When a person files nomination papers for an elected local office, the county elections official shall add that individual’s name to a list identifying each elected official or candidate residing in that county. The county elections official shall periodically update the list for each election cycle.

(3) Within five business days of receipt of the list described in paragraph (1) or, for an office for which nomination papers are filed with the county elections official, within five business days of the filing of nomination papers with the county elections official, the county elections official shall make confidential that elected official or candidate’s residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on the affidavit of registration.

(d) (1) The county elections official, in producing any list, roster, or index, shall exclude voters with a confidential voter status pursuant to this section.

(2) Within 60 days of moving to a new county, if available in the new county, the elected official or candidate shall apply for confidential voter status pursuant to this section. The elections official of the new county, upon notice of the confidential voter moving into the county, shall do all of the following:

(A) Contact the confidential voter and provide information regarding the application for confidential voter status in the new county.

(B) Honor the confidential voter status from the former county for 60 days from the date of notice.

(C) Pursuant to paragraph (1), exclude the confidential voter in any list, roster, or index during the 60-day period.

(D) Remove the confidential voter status if the new voter has not obtained or cannot obtain confidential voter status pursuant to this section in the new county during the 60-day period.

(e) An elected official or candidate shall contact their county elections official to ensure their voter registration record has been made confidential in accordance with the terms and conditions of this section.

(f) An elected official or candidate’s residence address, telephone number, and email address shall remain confidential until, for an elected official, the official no longer holds the office or, for a candidate, the winning candidate takes office.

(g) A county or county elections official shall not be liable for taking or failing to take the actions described in this section when the county or county elections official has received erroneous information from the Secretary of State.

(h) An action in negligence shall not be maintained against any government entity or officer or employee thereof as a result of the disclosure of the information that is the subject of this section, except by a showing of gross negligence or willfulness.

(i) An elected official or candidate holding office as of the effective date of this section shall contact their county elections official to ensure their voter registration record has been made confidential in accordance with the terms and conditions of this section. County elections officials shall make the elected official's information confidential when contacted by the elected official or candidate.

(j) (1) A candidate who does not wish to have confidential voter status may opt out when completing their candidate filing statement provided by a county elections official.

(2) (A) An elected official who wishes to opt out of confidential voter status may submit a letter to the county elections official declaring their decision to be exempt from the requirements of this section.

(B) A request pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall include the elected official's full name, voter registration address, and a clear statement that they wish to opt out of having their residence address, telephone number, and email address made confidential pursuant to this section.

(C) Upon receipt of the request, the county elections official shall remove the confidential designation from the individual's voter registration record within five business days.

(D) The county elections official shall notify the Secretary of State and any other relevant local elections officials of the decision to opt out within five business days of processing the request.

(E) An elected official who opts out may reapply for confidential voter status at any time while serving in or running for office, and confidential voter status shall be reinstated in accordance with this section upon receipt of the request.

(k) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, an elected official or candidate's residence address, telephone number, and email address made confidential pursuant to this section may be disclosed only for bona fide journalistic or governmental purposes. A person seeking an elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for a journalistic purpose pursuant to this section shall apply to the Secretary of State or to a county elections official as specified in paragraph (2).

(2) (A) A person seeking a federal or state elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for journalistic purposes shall submit all of the following to the Secretary of State:

(i) A completed California Voter Registration File Request application.

(ii) A letter of authorization or affiliation from the media outlet that the person represents. If the person submitting the request is a member of the media, a press pass may be submitted in lieu of a letter of authorization.

(iii) A declaration under penalty of perjury attesting to the intended journalistic use of the information.

(B) A person seeking a local elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for journalistic purposes shall submit requests to the county elections official or other local elections official.

(C) A county elections official shall process a request for a local elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for

journalistic purposes consistent with the requirements of regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State.

(D) The county elections official shall retain records of all requests for, and disclosures of, a local elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for journalistic purposes. The county elections official may reject a request that does not clearly adhere to the requirements of this subdivision.

(3) For purposes of this chapter, "journalistic purposes" shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with subdivision (b) of Section 2 of Article I of the California Constitution.

SEC. 2. Section 2194 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

2194. (a) Except as provided in Section 2194.1, the affidavit of voter registration information identified in Section 7924.000 of the Government Code:

(1) Shall be confidential and shall not appear on any computer terminal, list, affidavit, duplicate affidavit, or other medium routinely available to the public at the county elections official's office.

(2) Shall not be used for any personal, private, or commercial purpose, including, but not limited to:

(A) The harassment of any voter or voter's household.

(B) The advertising, solicitation, sale, or marketing of products or services to any voter or voter's household.

(C) Reproduction in print, broadcast visual or audio, or display on the internet or any computer terminal unless pursuant to paragraph (3).

(3) Shall be provided with respect to any voter, subject to the provisions of Sections 2166, 2166.5, 2166.7, 2166.8, 2166.9, and 2188, to any candidate for federal, state, or local office, to any committee for or against any initiative or referendum measure for which legal publication is made, and to any person for election, scholarly, journalistic, or political purposes, or for governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State.

(4) May be used by the Secretary of State for the purpose of educating voters pursuant to Section 12173 of the Government Code.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, the California driver's license number, the California identification card number, the social security number, and any other unique identifier used by the State of California for purposes of voter identification shown on the affidavit of voter registration of a registered voter, or added to voter registration records to comply with the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.), are confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person.

(2) Notwithstanding any other law, the signature of the voter shown on the affidavit of voter registration or an image thereof is confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person, except as provided in subdivision (c).

(c) (1) The home address or signature of any voter shall be released whenever the person's vote is challenged pursuant to Sections 15105 to 15108, inclusive, or Article 3 (commencing with Section 14240) of Chapter 3 of Division 14. The address or signature shall be released only to the challenger, to elections officials, and to other persons as necessary to make, defend against, or adjudicate the challenge.

(2) An elections official shall permit a person to view the signature of a voter for the purpose of determining whether the signature compares with a signature on an affidavit of registration or an image thereof or a petition, but shall not permit a signature to be copied.

(d) A governmental entity, or officer or employee thereof, shall not be held civilly liable as a result of disclosure of the information referred to in this section, unless by a showing of gross negligence or willfulness.

(e) For the purposes of this section, “voter’s household” is defined as the voter’s place of residence or mailing address or any persons who reside at the place of residence or use the mailing address as supplied on the affidavit of registration pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 2150.

(f) Notwithstanding any other law, information regarding voters who did not sign a vote by mail ballot identification envelope or whose signature on the vote by mail ballot identification envelope did not compare with the voter’s signature on file shall be treated as confidential voter registration information pursuant to this section and Section 7924.000 of the Government Code. This information shall be provided with respect to any voter, subject to the provisions of Sections 2166, 2166.5, 2166.7, 2166.8, [2166.9](#), and 2188, to any candidate for federal, state, or local office, to any committee for or against any initiative or referendum measure for which legal publication is made, and to any person for election, scholarly, journalistic, or political purposes, or for governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State, but otherwise shall not be disclosed to any person. Any disclosure of this information shall be accompanied by a notice to the recipient regarding Sections 18109 and 18540. Voter information provided pursuant to this subdivision shall be updated daily, include the name of the voter, and be provided in a searchable electronic format.

SEC. 2.5. Section 2194 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

2194. (a) Except as provided in Section 2194.1, the affidavit of voter registration information identified in Section 7924.000 of the Government Code:

(1) Shall be confidential and shall not appear on any computer terminal, list, affidavit, duplicate affidavit, or other medium routinely available to the public at the county elections official’s office.

(2) Shall not be used for any personal, private, or commercial purpose, including, but not limited to:

(A) The harassment of any voter or voter’s household.

(B) The advertising, solicitation, sale, or marketing of products or services to any voter or voter’s household.

(C) Reproduction in print, broadcast visual or audio, or display on the internet or any computer terminal unless pursuant to paragraph (3).

(3) Shall be provided with respect to any voter, subject to the provisions of Sections 2166, 2166.5, 2166.7, 2166.8, [2166.9](#), and 2188, to any candidate for federal, state, or local office, to any committee for or against any initiative or referendum measure for which legal publication is made, and to any person for election, scholarly, journalistic, or political purposes, or for governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State.

(4) May be used by the Secretary of State for the purpose of educating voters pursuant

to Section 12173 of the Government Code.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, the California driver's license number, the California identification card number, the social security number, and any other unique identifier used by the State of California for purposes of voter identification shown on the affidavit of voter registration of a registered voter, or added to voter registration records to comply with the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.), are confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person.

(2) Notwithstanding any other law, the signature of the voter shown on the affidavit of voter registration or an image thereof is confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person, except as provided in subdivision (c).

(c) (1) The home address or signature of any voter shall be released whenever the person's vote is challenged pursuant to Sections 15105 to 15108, inclusive, or Article 3 (commencing with Section 14240) of Chapter 3 of Division 14. The address or signature shall be released only to the challenger, to elections officials, and to other persons as necessary to make, defend against, or adjudicate the challenge.

(2) An elections official shall permit a person to view the signature of a voter for the purpose of determining whether the signature compares with a signature on an affidavit of registration or an image thereof or a petition, but shall not permit a signature to be copied.

(d) A governmental entity, or officer or employee thereof, shall not be held civilly liable as a result of disclosure of the information referred to in this section, unless by a showing of gross negligence or willfulness.

(e) For the purposes of this section, "voter's household" is defined as the voter's place of residence or mailing address or any persons who reside at the place of residence or use the mailing address as supplied on the affidavit of registration pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 2150.

(f) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, information regarding voters who did not sign a vote by mail ballot identification envelope or whose signature on the vote by mail ballot identification envelope did not compare with the voter's signature on file shall be treated as confidential voter registration information pursuant to this section and Section 7924.000 of the Government Code. This information shall be provided with respect to any voter, subject to the provisions of Sections 2166, 2166.5, 2166.7, 2166.8, 2166.9, and 2188, to any candidate for federal, state, or local office, to any committee for or against any initiative or referendum measure for which legal publication is made, and to any person for election, scholarly, journalistic, or political purposes, or for governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State, but otherwise shall not be disclosed to any person. Any disclosure of this information shall be accompanied by a notice to the recipient regarding Sections 18109 and 18540. ~~Voter information provided pursuant to this subdivision shall be updated daily, include the name of the voter, and be provided in a searchable electronic format.~~

(2) Voter information provided pursuant to this subdivision shall be updated daily, include the name of the voter, and be provided in a searchable electronic format. The daily update shall also include, as applicable, information regarding whether a form has been received from the voter to verify their signature pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 3019, whether a form has been received or the voter has otherwise provided

a signature pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 3019, and whether the signature provided pursuant to subdivision (d) or (e) of Section 3019 did or did not compare.

SEC. 3. Section 2227 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

2227. (a) In lieu of mailing a residency confirmation postcard, as prescribed in subdivision (a) of Section 2220, the county elections official may contract with a consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees to obtain use of change-of-address data in accordance with this section.

(b) If the county elections official contracts with a consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees pursuant to subdivision (a), all of the following shall occur:

(1) For each registered voter in the county, the county elections official shall initiate a search for change-of-address data with the consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees by providing the name and residence address of each registered voter in the county to the consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees.

(2) The consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees shall search their databases for each name and address provided by the county elections official and shall report to the county elections official any information indicating that the registered voter changed the voter's residence address.

(c) (1) Notwithstanding Section 2194 of this code or Section 7924.000 of the Government Code, and except as provided in paragraph (2), a county elections official may disclose a registered voter's name and residence address to a consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees pursuant to, and in accordance with, this section.

(2) A county elections official shall not disclose to a consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees the name and residence address of a registered voter if that information is deemed confidential pursuant to Section 2166, 2166.5, 2166.7, [2166.8](#), or ~~2166.8~~ [2166.9](#) of this code, or Chapter 3.1 (commencing with Section 6205) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

(d) A consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees shall use the information provided by a county elections official only pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), and shall not retain any information received from the county elections official pursuant to this section.

(e) Based on change-of-address data received from a consumer credit reporting agency or its licensees, the county elections official shall send a forwardable notice, including a postage-paid and preaddressed return form, which may be in the form of a postcard, to the registered voter to enable the voter to verify or correct address information. The forwardable notice shall be in substantially the following form:

"We have received notification that you have moved to a new residence address in _____ County. You will remain registered to vote at your old address unless you notify our office that the address to which this card was mailed is a change of your permanent residence. Please notify our office in writing by returning the attached postage-paid postcard. If this is not a permanent residence, and you do not wish to change your address for voting purposes, please disregard this notice."

(f) The county elections official shall take all of the following actions as appropriate:

- (1) If a voter responds to the forwardable notice sent pursuant to subdivision (e) or otherwise verifies in a signed writing that the voter has moved to a new residence address in California, the county elections official shall verify the signature on the response by comparing it to the signature on file for the voter and, if appropriate, immediately update the voter's registration record with the new residence address.
- (2) If a voter does not respond to the forwardable notice sent pursuant to subdivision (e) and does not otherwise verify in a signed writing that the voter has moved to a new residence address, the elections official shall not update the status of the voter's registration to inactive or cancel the voter registration.
- (g) For purposes of this section, "consumer credit reporting agency" has the same meaning as set forth in subdivision (d) of Section 1785.3 of the Civil Code.

SEC. 4. Section 8040 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

8040. (a) The declaration of candidacy by a candidate shall be substantially as follows:

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY
<p>I hereby declare myself a candidate for nomination to the office of _____ District Number _____ to be voted for at the primary election to be held _____, 20__, and declare the following to be true: My name is . I want my name and occupational designation to appear on the ballot as follows: _____.</p>
<p>Addresses:</p> <p>Residence</p> <p>Business</p> <p>Mailing</p>
<p>Telephone numbers: Day _____ Evening _____</p>
<p>Internet website: _____</p>
<p>I meet the statutory and constitutional qualifications for this office (including, but not limited to, citizenship, residency, and party preference, if required).</p>

I am at present an incumbent of the following public office		
(if any) _____.		
If nominated, I will accept the nomination and not withdraw, except as permitted by state law.		
Signature of candidate		
A candidate for voter-nominated office shall also complete all of the following:		
(1) I hereby certify that:		
(a) At the time of presentation of this declaration, as shown by my current affidavit of registration, I have disclosed the following political party preference, if any: .		
(b) My complete voter registration and party affiliation/preference history, from [10 years prior to current year] through the date of signing this document, is as follows:		
Party Registration	County	Timeframe (by year)
(2) Pursuant to Section 8002.5 of the Elections Code, select one of the following:		
_____ Party Preference: _____ (insert the name of the qualified political party as disclosed upon your affidavit of registration).		

_____ Party Preference: None (if you have declined to disclose a preference for a qualified political party upon your affidavit of registration).		
		Dated this ____ day of _____, 20____.
		Signature of candidate

A Notary Public or other officer completing his certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of California)	
County of) ss.	
)	

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ____ day of _____, 20____.
Signature of Notary Public (or other official) Notary Public Seal
Examined and certified by me this _____ day of _____, 20____.
County Elections Official
WARNING: Every person acting on behalf of a candidate is guilty of a misdemeanor who deliberately fails to file at the proper time and in the proper place any declaration of candidacy in the person's possession which is entitled to be filed under the provisions of the Elections Code Section 18202.

(b) At the discretion of the elections official, a candidate for a judicial office, or a candidate

for any office whose voter registration information is confidential under Section 2166, 2166.5, 2166.7, 2166.8, or ~~2166.8~~ 2166.9 may withhold the candidate's residence address from the declaration of candidacy. If a candidate does not state the candidate's residence address on the declaration of candidacy, the elections official shall verify whether the candidate's address is within the appropriate political subdivision and add the notation "verified" where appropriate on the declaration.

(c) If a candidate will not be within the State of California during the entire nomination period and is unable to appear before a notary public appointed by the Secretary of State or other California official to complete their declaration of candidacy, the candidate may appear before a notary public in another state to complete the declaration of candidacy. The candidate shall attach to their declaration of candidacy a notarial certificate from the out-of-state notary that complies with the law of the notary's state.

SEC. 5. Section 8600 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

8600. (a) Every person who desires to be a write-in candidate and have ~~his-or~~ her their name as written on the ballot of an election counted for a particular office shall ~~file:~~ file both of the following:

(a) (1) A statement of write-in candidacy that contains the following information:

~~(1)~~ (A) Candidate's name.

~~(2)~~ (B) Residence address.

~~(3)~~ (C) A declaration stating that he or she is they are a write-in candidate.

~~(4)~~ (D) The title of the office for which he or she is they are running.

~~(5)~~ (E) The party nomination which he or she seeks, they seek, if running in a partisan primary election.

~~(6)~~ (F) The date of the election.

~~(7)~~ (G) A certification of the candidate's complete voter registration and party affiliation/preference history for the preceding 10 years, or for as long as ~~he-or-she-has~~ they have been eligible to vote in the state if less than 10 years, if running for a voter-nominated office.

~~(8)~~ (H) For any of the offices described in Section 13.5, a statement that the candidate meets the statutory and constitutional requirements for that office as described in that section.

~~(b)~~ (2) The requisite number of signatures on the nomination papers, if any, required pursuant to Sections 8062, 10220, and 10510, or, in the case of a special district not subject to the Uniform District Election Law (Part 4 (commencing with Section 10500) of Division 10), the number of signatures required by the principal act of the district.

~~(c)~~ (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person may not be a write-in candidate at the general election for a voter-nominated office.

(c) A write-in candidate shall have their residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on the affidavit of registration made confidential in accordance with the terms and conditions of Section 2166.9. If a candidate does not state the candidate's residence address on the statement of write-in candidacy, the elections official shall verify whether the candidate's address is within the appropriate political subdivision and add the notation "verified" where appropriate on the declaration.

SEC. 6. Section 10226.3 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

10226.3. (a) The declaration of candidacy by a candidate shall be substantially as follows:

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY
<p>I hereby declare myself a candidate for nomination to the office of _____ District Number _____ to be voted for at the municipal election to be held _____, 20__, and declare the following to be true: My name is . I want my name and occupational designation to appear on the ballot as follows: _____.</p>
<p>Addresses: Residence Business Mailing</p>
<p>Telephone numbers: Day _____ Evening _____</p>
<p>Internet website: _____</p>
<p>I meet the statutory and constitutional qualifications for this office (including, but not limited to, citizenship, and residency).</p>
<p>I am at present an incumbent of the following public office</p>
<p>(if any) _____.</p>
<p>If nominated, I will accept the nomination, and if elected, I will accept the office.</p>
<p>Signature of candidate</p>

A Notary Public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of California)	
County of) ss.	
)	

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Signature of Notary Public (or other official)
Notary Public Seal

Examined and certified by me this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

County Elections Official

WARNING: Every person acting on behalf of a candidate is guilty of a misdemeanor who deliberately fails to file at the proper time and in the proper place any declaration of candidacy in the person's possession which is entitled to be filed under the provisions of the Elections Code Section 18202.

- (b) At the discretion of the elections official, a candidate for any office whose voter registration information is confidential under Section 2166, 2166.5, 2166.7, [2166.8](#), or ~~2166.8~~ [2166.9](#) may withhold the candidate's residence address from the declaration of candidacy. If a candidate does not state the candidate's residence address on the declaration of candidacy, the elections official shall verify whether the candidate's address is within the appropriate political subdivision and add the notation "verified" where appropriate on the declaration.
- (c) If a candidate will not be within the State of California within the entire nomination period and is unable to appear before a notary public appointed by the Secretary of State or other state official to complete their declaration of candidacy, the candidate may appear before a notary public in another state to complete the declaration of candidacy. The candidate shall attach to their declaration of candidacy a notarial certificate from the out-of-state notary that complies with the law of the notary's state.

SEC. 7. Section 2.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 2194 of the Elections Code proposed by both this bill and Assembly Bill 827. That section of this bill shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2026, (2) each bill amends Section 2194 of the Elections Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after Assembly Bill 827, in which case Section 2 of this bill shall not become operative.

SEC. 8. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of this act, which adds Section 2166.9 to the Elections Code, imposes a limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest: In order to ensure the safety of elected officials and candidates for elective office, it is necessary to make the residence address, telephone number, and email address listed on the affidavit of voter registration for an elected official or candidate confidential.

SEC. 9. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

Voter education and outreach plans

Assembly Bill No. 1411, Sharp-Collins. (Chapter 301)

Existing law requires the Secretary of State to adopt regulations requiring counties to design and implement programs intended to identify and register qualified voters who are not registered to vote. Existing law further requires the Secretary of State to adopt regulations prescribing minimum requirements for those programs. If the Secretary of State finds that a county has not designed and implemented a program meeting those minimum requirements, the Secretary of State must design the program for the county and report the violation to the Attorney General.

This bill would repeal the above provisions. The bill would instead require counties that do not conduct an election as an all-mailed ballot election, as specified, to design and implement a voter education and outreach plan to identify and register qualified voters who are not registered to vote. The bill would require such plans to provide information to the public about specified topics, such as vote by mail procedures and options for military and overseas voters. The bill would require county elections officials to submit amendments to their plans to the Secretary of State, who must make the current version of each plan available on the Secretary of State's internet website. The bill would require the Secretary of State to provide county elections officials a template for their plans.

By imposing new duties on local elections officials, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

SECTION 1. Section 2105 of the Elections Code is repealed.

~~2105. It is the intent of the Legislature that voter registration be maintained at the highest possible level. The Secretary of State shall adopt regulations requiring each county to design and implement programs intended to identify qualified electors who are not registered voters, and to register those persons to vote. The Secretary of State shall adopt regulations prescribing minimum requirements for those programs. If the Secretary of State finds that a county has not designed and implemented a program meeting the prescribed minimum requirements, the Secretary of State shall design a program for the county and report the violation to the Attorney General.~~

SEC. 2. Section 2105 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

2105. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to maintain voter registration at the highest possible level.

(b) A county that does not satisfy the conditions to conduct an all-mailed ballot election pursuant to Section 4005 shall design and implement a voter education and outreach plan pursuant to this section. The purpose of the plan shall be to identify and register qualified electors who are not registered to vote and to encourage participation in the electoral process.

(c) Each voter education and outreach plan shall, at a minimum, provide information to the public about online voter registration, preregistration opportunities, vote by mail procedures, ballot tracking services, options for military and overseas voters, options for voters with disabilities, options for in-person voting opportunities, language accessibility, and key election dates and deadlines.

(d) (1) The Secretary of State shall provide county elections officials a template for their voter education and outreach plans.

(2) (A) The Secretary of State shall make the most current version of each voter education and outreach plan available on the Secretary of State's internet website.

(B) The county elections official shall make the most current version of its voter education and outreach plan available on the county elections internet website.

(3) County elections officials shall submit any amendments to their voter education and outreach plans to the Secretary of State by October 1 of each odd-numbered year.

SEC. 3. *If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*

Election procedures: certified mail and superior courts

Assembly Bill No. 1513, Committee on Elections. (Chapter 304)

(1) Existing law requires specified notices, affidavits, and communications regarding elections to be delivered by registered mail.

This bill would instead require delivery by certified mail or, for certain communications between local officials and the Secretary of State, by electronic delivery. By imposing new duties on local officials with respect to elections, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

(2) Existing law provides procedures for the recall of enumerated elective officers, including, among others, trial court judges.

This bill would replace references to trial courts in these provisions with references to superior courts.

(3) This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 15621 of the Elections Code proposed by Assembly Bill 930 to be operative only if this bill and Assembly Bill 930 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

(4) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

SECTION 1. Section 12 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

12. Whenever any candidate files a declaration of candidacy, nomination paper, or any other paper evidencing an intention to be a candidate for any public office at any election in this state with either the Secretary of State or a county elections official, the candidate shall by the filing irrevocably appoint the Secretary of State or the county elections official with whom the filing is made, and their successors in office, the candidate's attorneys upon whom all process in any action or proceeding against ~~him or her concerning his or her~~ the candidate concerning the candidacy or the election laws may be served with the same effect as if the candidate had been lawfully served

with process. The appointment shall continue until the day of the election. If in any action or proceeding arising out of or in connection with any matters concerning ~~his or her~~ the candidate's candidacy or the election laws it is shown by affidavit to the satisfaction of a court or judge that personal service of process against the candidate cannot be made with the exercise of due diligence, the court or judge may make an order that the service be made upon the candidate by delivering by hand to the Secretary of State or the county elections official appointed as the candidate's attorney for service of process, or to any person employed in ~~his or her office~~ the office of the Secretary of State or the county elections official in the capacity of assistant or deputy, one copy of the process for the defendant to be served, together with a copy of the order authorizing the service. Service in this manner constitutes personal service upon the candidate. The Secretary of State and the county elections officials of all counties shall keep a record of all process served upon them under this section, and shall record therein the time of service and their action with reference thereto.

Upon the receipt of service of process the Secretary of State or the county elections official shall immediately give notice of the service of the process to the candidate by forwarding the copy of the process to the candidate at the address shown on ~~his or her~~ the candidate's declaration, nomination paper, affidavit, or other evidence of intention to be a candidate filed with that officer, by ~~special-delivery-registered~~ certified mail with request for return receipt.

SEC. 2. Section 5200 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

5200. (a) Not less than 123 days before a primary or presidential general election, the Secretary of State shall, with the advice and consent of the Attorney General, determine which parties are disqualified to participate in any primary election under Section 5102 or a presidential general election under Section 5154. If it is proposed to disqualify a party that was qualified to participate in the next preceding direct primary, notice of intention to disqualify shall be served by ~~registered~~ certified mail on the chairperson of the state central committee of the party, as shown by the records of the Secretary of State. In any event, notice of intention to disqualify shall be given in each county of the state by publication pursuant to Section 6061 of the Government Code. If there is no newspaper of general circulation printed and published in any county, publication shall be made in a newspaper of general circulation printed and published in an adjoining county.

(b) If the party desires a hearing on the notice of intention to disqualify, it shall, within 10 days after service by mail or within 10 days after the last date upon which the notice was published in any county, whichever is later, file an affidavit in the Supreme Court pursuant to Section 13314 setting forth facts showing that the political party is not disqualified to participate in any primary election under Section 5102 or a presidential general election under Section 5154. If the party does not file the affidavit within the time specified, the notice of intention to disqualify shall constitute final disqualification. Before the affidavit is filed, a copy shall be personally served on the Secretary of State. When filed, the matter shall be set for return in not more than 10 days and shall have priority over any other pending cases.

(c) In connection with proceedings in the Supreme Court under this section, the

Legislature hereby declares its intent to create a speedy and expeditious method for judicial determination of the vital questions involved, and urges the Supreme Court to accept jurisdiction in any such proceeding. The Legislature further urges that the court instruct any referee before whom the taking of evidence is ordered to report back to the court in sufficient time so that the court's final order may be made effective on or before the 80th day before the primary or presidential general election.

SEC. 3. Section 11000 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

11000. This division governs the recall of elective officers of the State of California and of all counties, cities, school districts, county boards of education, community college districts, special districts, and judges of courts of appeal and ~~trial~~ superior courts. It does not supersede the provisions of a city charter or county charter, or of ordinances adopted pursuant to a city charter or county charter, relating to recall.

SEC. 4. Section 11001 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

11001. For the purposes of this division, judges of courts of appeal shall be considered state officers, and judges of ~~trial~~ superior courts shall be considered county officers.

SEC. 5. Section 11002 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

11002. For the purposes of this division, "elections official" means one of the following: (a) A county elections official in the case of the recall of elective officers of a county, school district, county board of education, community college district, or resident voting district, and of judges of ~~trial~~ superior courts.

(b) A city elections official, including, but not necessarily limited to, a city clerk, in the case of the recall of elective officers of a city.

(c) The secretary of the governing board in the case of the recall of elective officers of a landowner voting district or any district in which, at a regular election, candidate's nomination papers are filed with the secretary of the governing board.

SEC. 6. Section 11003 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

11003. For the purposes of this division, "governing board" means a city council, the board of supervisors of a county, the board of trustees of a school district or community college district, or the legislative body of a special district, as the context requires. In the case of the recall of a ~~trial~~ superior court judge, "governing board" means the board of supervisors.

SEC. 7. Section 11004 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

11004. For the purposes of this division, a "local officer" is an elective officer of a city,

county, school district, community college district, or special district, or a judge of a ~~trial~~ superior court.

SEC. 8. Section 11221 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

11221. The number of qualified signatures required in order to qualify a recall for the ballot shall be as follows:

(a) In the case of an officer of a city, county, school district, community college district, county board of education, or resident voting district, but not including a judge of a superior court, the number of signatures shall be equal in number to not less than the following percent of the registered voters in the electoral jurisdiction:

- (1) Thirty percent if the registration is less than 1,000.
- (2) Twenty-five percent if the registration is less than 10,000 but at least 1,000.
- (3) Twenty percent if the registration is less than 50,000 but at least 10,000.
- (4) Fifteen percent if the registration is less than 100,000 but at least 50,000.
- (5) Ten percent if the registration is 100,000 or above.

(b) For purposes of this section, the number of registered voters shall be calculated as of the time of the last report of registration by the county elections official to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 2187, and prior to the finding by the elections official or Secretary of State that no alterations are required in the form of the recall petition pursuant to Section 11042.

(c) (1) In the case of a state officer, including ~~judges of courts of appeal and trial courts, the a judge of a court of appeal, and in the case of a judge of a superior court, the~~ number of signatures shall be as provided for in subdivision (b) of Section 14 of Article II of the California Constitution. In the case of a judge of a superior court, which office has never appeared on the ballot since its creation, or did not appear on the ballot at its last election pursuant to Section 8203, the number of signatures shall be as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 14 of Article II of the California Constitution, except that the percentage shall be based on the number of votes cast within the judicial jurisdiction for the countywide office which had the least number of votes in the most recent general election in the county in which the judge holds ~~his or her~~ office.

(2) For purposes of this subdivision, “countywide office” means an elective office wholly within the county which is voted on throughout the county.

(d) In the case of a landowner voting district, signatures of voters owning at least 10 percent of the assessed value of land within the electoral jurisdiction of the officer sought to be recalled.

SEC. 9. Section 13113 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

13113. (a) In the case of an election of candidates in a special district, school district,

charter city (whose charter does not provide to the contrary), or other local government body, occurring on other than one of the election dates specified in subdivision (b) of Section 13112, the official responsible for conducting the election shall, at the same time that the election is called, notify the Secretary of State by ~~registered-mail~~ electronic delivery of the date of the election, the date of the close of filing, and the last possible date for filing in the event there is an extension of filing due to an incumbent failing to ~~file~~: file, and the Secretary of State shall confirm receipt of that information in writing by electronic delivery. The Secretary of State shall conduct a randomized alphabet drawing pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 13112 on the first weekday following the last possible day of filing in the event there is an extension for the election.

(b) Except as provided for runoff elections in subdivision (d), if two or more drawings for local government elections would occur on the same date, the Secretary of State may use a single randomized alphabet drawing for all of these elections. The Secretary of State shall communicate the results of the drawing by ~~registered-mail~~ electronic delivery to each respective official responsible for conducting the election who shall use it to determine the order on the ballot of all candidates' names. Each respective official shall confirm receipt of the drawing results in writing by electronic delivery to the Secretary of State.

(c) All drawings held pursuant to this section shall be open to the public.

(d) If a charter city conducts a runoff election, it shall use the results of a randomized alphabet drawing separate from the results of the randomized alphabet drawing used for the initial election for that runoff election. The city shall, within three days following the initial election, notify the Secretary of State by ~~registered-mail~~ electronic delivery of the date of the election and request that ~~he or she~~ the Secretary of State conduct a randomized alphabet drawing for the runoff election. The Secretary of State shall confirm receipt of the request in writing by electronic delivery to the city, and shall immediately conduct a randomized alphabet drawing for the runoff election and communicate the results of the drawing to the elections official responsible for conducting the runoff election who shall use the results to determine the order of all the candidates' names on the ballot. The results of the randomized alphabet drawing shall be clearly labeled "FOR USE IN A RUNOFF ELECTION ONLY."

SEC. 10. Section 15621 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15621. (a) Following completion of the official canvass any voter may, within five days beginning on the 31st day after a statewide election, file with the Secretary of State a written request for a recount of the votes cast for candidates for any statewide office or for or against any measure voted on statewide. The request filed pursuant to this section shall specify in which county or counties the recount is sought and shall specify on behalf of which candidate, slate of electors, or position on a measure (affirmative or negative) it is filed.

(b) The Secretary of State shall forthwith send by ~~registered-mail~~ electronic delivery one copy of the request to the elections official of each county in which a recount of the votes is ~~sought~~: sought, and the elections official shall confirm receipt of the copy in

[writing by electronic delivery to the Secretary of State.](#)

(c) All the other provisions of this article apply to recounts conducted under this section.

SEC. 10.5. Section 15621 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15621. (a) Following completion of the official canvass any voter may, within five [calendar](#) days beginning on the 31st day after a statewide election, file with the Secretary of State a written request for a recount of the votes cast for candidates for any statewide office or for or against any measure voted on statewide. The request filed pursuant to this section shall specify in which county or counties the recount is sought and shall specify on behalf of which candidate, slate of electors, or position on a measure (affirmative or negative) it is filed.

(b) The Secretary of State shall forthwith send by ~~registered-mail~~ [electronic delivery](#) one copy of the request to the elections official of each county in which a recount of the votes is ~~sought~~: [sought, and the elections official shall confirm receipt of the copy in writing by electronic delivery to the Secretary of State.](#)

(c) All the other provisions of this article apply to recounts conducted under this section.

SEC. 11. Section 16442 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

16442. After the affidavit is filed with the clerk of the superior court, a copy of the affidavit shall be personally served upon the defendant or sent to ~~him or her by registered~~ [the defendant by certified](#) mail in a sealed envelope with postage prepaid, addressed to the defendant at the place of residence named in ~~his or her~~ [the defendant's](#) affidavit of registration. The contestant shall make an affidavit of mailing if ~~he or she~~ [the contestant](#) serves the affidavit by mail, and file it on the same day with the county elections official.

SEC. 12. Section 16462 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

16462. No service other than as provided in this section need be made upon the defendant. The affidavit shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the superior court within five days after the completion of the official canvass. Upon the filing of the affidavit the county elections official shall forthwith post, in a conspicuous place in ~~his or her~~ [the official's](#) office, a copy of the affidavit. Upon the filing of the affidavit and its posting, the superior court of the county shall have jurisdiction of the subject matter and of the parties to the contest. The contestant on the date of filing the affidavit shall send by ~~registered~~ [certified](#) mail a copy thereof to the defendant in a sealed envelope, with postage prepaid, addressed to the defendant at the place of residence named in the affidavit of registration of the defendant, and shall make and file an affidavit of mailing with the county elections official, which shall become a part of the records of the contest.

SEC. 13. Section 16464 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

16464. At any time within three days after the filing of the affidavit of the contestant to the effect that ~~he or she~~ the contestant has sent by ~~registered~~ certified mail a copy of the affidavit to the defendant, the defendant may file with the clerk of the superior court an affidavit in ~~his or her~~ the defendant's own behalf, setting up ~~his or her~~ the defendant's desire to have the votes counted in any precincts, designating them, in addition to the precincts designated in the affidavit of the contestant, and setting up ~~his or her~~ the defendant's grounds therefor. On the trial of the contest all of the precincts named in the affidavits of the contestant and the defendant shall be considered, and a recount had with reference to all of those precincts. The contestant shall have the same right to answer the affidavit of the defendant as is given to the defendant with reference to the affidavit of the contestant except that the contestant's answer shall be filed not later than the first day of the trial of the contest.

SEC. 14. Section 10.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 15621 of the Elections Code proposed by both this bill and Assembly Bill 930. That section of this bill shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2026, (2) each bill amends Section 15621 of the Elections Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after Assembly Bill 930, in which case Section 10 of this bill shall not become operative.

SEC. 15. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

Election crimes: payment based on voting or voter registration

Senate Bill No. 398, Umberg. (Chapter 246)

Under existing law, it is a crime for a person to receive money or other valuable consideration to assist another to register to vote by receiving the completed affidavit of registration if the person fails to sign the affidavit and include certain other information, including the name and telephone number of the person, company, or organization, if any, that has agreed to pay the money or other valuable consideration.

This bill would make it a crime, punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000, imprisonment for up to 3 years, or both, for a person to knowingly or willfully pay or offer to pay money or other valuable consideration to another person with the intent to induce the person to vote or to register to vote, or where the payment is contingent upon whether the person voted or the person's voter registration status. By creating a new crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

SECTION 1. Section 18107.5 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

18107.5. (a) (1) A person who knowingly or willfully pays or offers to pay money or other valuable consideration to another person with the intent to induce the person to vote or to register to vote, or where the payment is contingent upon whether the person voted or the person's voter registration status, is guilty of a crime.

(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), "other valuable consideration" includes, but is not limited to, a chance to win a lottery or similar prize-drawing contest.

(3) This section does not apply to any of the following:

(A) Transportation to or from a voting location.

(B) Compensation provided to an individual by a governmental entity.

(C) Granting time off to an employee to vote.

(b) A violation of subdivision (a) shall be punishable by a fine of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years, or in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

Voter registration: military and overseas voters

Senate Bill No. 621, Grove. (Chapter 101)

Existing law authorizes an individual who registers to vote at least 15 days before an election day, to vote in that election by a regular ballot. Existing law permits an individual who is eligible to register to vote to complete a registration application during the 14 days immediately preceding an election or on the day of the election, and to vote by conditional ballot or regular ballot, as specified. Existing law provides that otherwise qualified military and overseas voters and voters with disabilities may complete a conditional voter registration and cast a provisional ballot or nonprovisional

ballot under those provisions. Existing law also permits a military or overseas voter to register after the closing date of registration if the voter is released from service after the closing date, returns to the voter's county of residence, and is not a registered voter in that county, or if the voter is required to move under official active duty military orders after the closing date.

This bill would repeal the latter provision as obsolete due to the inclusion of military and overseas voters in the general conditional voter registration process.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

SECTION 1. Section 3108 of the Elections Code is repealed.

~~3108. (a) A military or overseas voter who is qualified pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 300 may apply in person to the voter's elections official for permission to register after the closing date of registration under the following conditions:~~

~~(1) The military or overseas voter is released from service after the closing date of registration for an election, returns to the county of his or her residence, and is not a registered voter. To register, the elector shall furnish documentary proof that he or she was released from service after the closing date of registration for the election.~~

~~(2) The military or overseas voter is required to move under official active duty military orders after the closing date of registration. To register, the elector shall furnish a copy of his or her official military orders.~~

~~(b) On or before the day of election, or the first day a vote center opens, the elections official shall deliver to the precinct board a list of military or overseas voters who registered under this section.~~

ELECTION PERIOD

Vote by mail ballots: processing

[Assembly Bill No. 16, Alanis](#), (Chapter 140)

Existing law requires elections officials to begin mailing ballots to every registered voter no later than 29 days before an election. Existing law authorizes a jurisdiction to begin processing vote by mail ballot return envelopes and, if the jurisdiction has the necessary computer capability, vote by mail ballots 29 days before an election.

This bill would authorize elections officials to begin processing vote by mail ballot return envelopes and vote by mail ballots on the date on which the ballots are mailed, thereby allowing elections officials to begin processing vote by mail return envelopes and ballots earlier than 29 days before an election.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 15104 of the Elections Code proposed by SB 3 to be operative only if this bill and SB 3 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

SECTION 1. Section 15101 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15101. (a) An elections official may begin to process vote by mail ballot return envelopes and vote by mail ballots on the date on which the ballots are mailed, which shall not be later than 29 days before the election.

~~(a) (b) Any (1) jurisdiction in which vote by mail ballots are cast may begin to process vote by mail ballot return envelopes beginning 29 days before the election.~~ Processing vote by mail ballot return envelopes may include verifying the voter's signature on the vote by mail ballot return envelope pursuant to Section 3019 and updating voter history records.

~~(b) (2) Any jurisdiction having the necessary computer capability may start to process vote by mail ballots on the 29th day before the election.~~ Processing vote by mail ballots includes opening vote by mail ballot return envelopes, removing ballots, duplicating any damaged ballots, and preparing the ballots to be machine read, or machine reading them, including processing write-in votes so that they can be tallied by the machine, but under no circumstances may a vote count be accessed or released until 8 p.m. on the day of the election. ~~All other jurisdictions shall start to process vote by mail ballots at 5 p.m. on the day before the election.~~

(c) Results of any vote by mail ballot tabulation or count shall not be released before the close of the polls on the day of the election.

SEC. 2. Section 15104 of the elections code is amended to read:

15104. (a) The processing of vote by mail ballot return envelopes, and the processing and counting of vote by mail ballots, shall be open to the public, both prior to and after the election.

(b) A member of the county grand jury, and at least one member each of the Republican county central committee, the Democratic county central committee, and of any other party with a candidate on the ballot, and any other interested organization, shall be permitted to observe and challenge the manner in which the vote by mail ballots are handled, from the processing of vote by mail ballot return envelopes through the counting and disposition of the ballots.

(c) The elections official shall notify vote by mail voter observers and the public at least 48 hours in advance of the dates, times, and places where vote by mail ballots will be processed and counted.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 2194, vote by mail voter observers shall be allowed sufficiently close access to enable them to observe the vote by mail ballot return envelopes and the signatures thereon and challenge whether those individuals handling vote by mail ballots are following established procedures, including all of the following:

(1) Verifying signatures on the vote by mail ballot return envelopes by comparing them

to voter registration information.

(2) Duplicating accurately damaged or defective ballots.

(3) Securing vote by mail ballots to prevent tampering with them before they are ~~counted on election day~~: counted.

(e) A vote by mail voter observer shall not interfere with the orderly processing of vote by mail ballot return envelopes or the processing and counting of vote by mail ballots, including the touching or handling of the ballots.

SEC. 2.5. Section 15104 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15104. (a) The processing of vote by mail ballot return envelopes, and the processing and counting of vote by mail ballots, shall be open to the public, both prior to and after the election.

(b) A member of the county grand jury, and at least one member each of the Republican county central committee, the Democratic county central committee, and of any other party with a candidate on the ballot, and any other interested organization, shall be permitted to observe and challenge the manner in which the vote by mail ballots are handled, from the processing of vote by mail ballot return envelopes through the counting and disposition of the ballots.

(c) The elections official shall notify vote by mail voter observers and the public at least 48 hours in advance of the dates, times, and places where vote by mail ballots will be processed and counted.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 2194, vote by mail voter observers shall be allowed sufficiently close access to enable them to observe the vote by mail ballot return envelopes and the signatures thereon and challenge whether those individuals handling vote by mail ballots are following established procedures, including all of the following:

(1) Verifying signatures on the vote by mail ballot return envelopes by comparing them to voter registration information.

(2) Duplicating accurately damaged or defective ballots.

(3) Securing vote by mail ballots to prevent tampering with them before they are ~~counted on election day~~: counted.

(4) Verifying signatures on statements completed pursuant to subdivisions (d) and (e) of Section 3019.

(e) A vote by mail voter observer shall not interfere with the orderly processing of vote by mail ballot return envelopes or the processing and counting of vote by mail ballots, including the touching or handling of the ballots.

SEC. 3. Section 2.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 15104 of the Elections Code proposed by both this bill and Senate Bill 3. That section of this bill shall become operative only if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2026, (2) each bill amends Section 15104 of the Elections Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after Senate Bill 3, in which case Section 2 of this bill shall not become operative.

Elections: polling places and vote centers

Assembly Bill No. 287, Lackey. (Chapter 253)

Existing law authorizes the governing body with jurisdiction over school buildings or other public buildings, as defined, to allow its buildings to be used for polling places, or for vote centers, beginning up to 10 days before the election and continuing through election day, or to store voting machines and other vote-tabulating devices. Once a governing body has approved the use of a building as a polling place or vote center, existing law requires the governing body to instruct the school district or other public administrator to provide the elections official a site with an adequate amount of space that will allow the precinct board or vote center to perform its duties.

This bill would require the governing body to instruct the school district or other public administrator to provide the elections official with an adequate amount of space for voting operations and storage of associated supplies.

Existing law requires the district administrator to make building parking available at no charge to the precinct or vote center board and voters, as specified.

This bill would require the district administrator to also make accessible parking spaces and parking for assisting voters curbside available, if requested by the elections official.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

SECTION 1. Section 12283 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

12283. (a) For purposes of this section, “public building” means a building owned or controlled by any of the following:

- (1) A local governmental agency, including a city or county.
- (2) The University of California.
- (3) The California State University.
- (4) A community college district.

(b) (1) The governing body having jurisdiction over school buildings or other public buildings may authorize the use of its buildings for polling places, or for vote centers, as described in Section 4005, beginning up to 10 days before the election and continuing through election day, and it may also authorize the use of its buildings, without cost, for the storage of voting machines and other vote-tabulating devices.

(2) If a city or county elections official specifically requests the use of a school building or public building for polling places, or vote centers beginning up to 10 days before the election and continuing through election day, as well as during key dates necessary for drop-off, set-up, and pick-up of election materials, as determined by the elections official, the governing body having jurisdiction over the particular school building or public building shall allow its use for the purpose requested, except that the University of California is encouraged, but not required, to comply with a request made pursuant to this paragraph.

(3) When allowing use of a school building for polling places or vote centers, the

governing body may, but is not required to, do any of the following:

(A) Continue school in session, if the governing body identifies to the elections official making the request the specific areas of the school buildings not occupied by school activities that will be allowed for use as polling places or vote centers.

(B) Designate the day for staff training and development.

(C) Close the school to students and certificated employees.

(c) (1) An elections official requesting the use of a school building pursuant to subdivision (b) shall include in the official's request a list of the schools from which the use of a building for polling places or vote centers is needed. Requests must be made within sufficient time in advance of the school year for the governing body to determine, on a school-by-school or districtwide basis, whether to keep the affected schools in session, designate the schoolday for staff training and development, or close the school to students and nonclassified employees before school calendars are printed and distributed to parents.

(2) An elections official requesting the use of a public building pursuant to subdivision (b) shall include in the official's request a list of the buildings from which the use of a building for polling places or vote centers is needed. Requests shall be made sufficiently before election day for the governing body of the city, county, or other local governmental agency to adequately plan for the public building's use as a polling place or vote center.

(d) (1) Once a governing body has approved the use of a school building or public building as a polling place or vote center, the governing body shall instruct the school district or other public administrator to provide the elections official a site with an adequate amount of space for voting operations and storage of associated supplies that will allow the precinct board or vote center to perform its duties in a manner that will not impede, interfere, or interrupt the normal process of voting and to make internet access available for use by local elections officials, if requested. ~~Beginning 10 days before the election and continuing through election day, if requested by the elections official, the district administrator shall make building parking available at no charge to the precinct or vote center board and voters.~~

(2) Beginning 10 days before the election and continuing through election day, if requested by the elections official, the district administrator shall make building parking available at no charge to the precinct or vote center board and voters. If requested by the elections official, the district administrator shall also make accessible parking spaces and parking for assisting voters curbside available.

(e) A public building, including, but not limited to, a building operated by a school district, that is used as a polling place or vote center shall comply with applicable accessibility requirements described in this article, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.), the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.), and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

Elections: ballot mistakes

[Assembly Bill No. 1072, Pellerin.](#) (Chapter 289)

Existing law makes the Secretary of State the chief elections officer of the state and authorizes the Secretary of State to adopt regulations to ensure the uniform application and administration of state election laws.

This bill would require the Secretary of State, in consultation with county elections officials, to develop uniform standards and guidelines for a voter to correct mistakes made on the voter's ballot. The bill would authorize the Secretary of State to adopt regulations to ensure uniform application of the standards and guidelines.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

[SECTION 1.](#) *Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 13600) is added to Division 13 of the Elections Code, to read:*

[CHAPTER 7. Ballot Mistakes](#) [13600.](#)

[The Secretary of State, in consultation with county elections officials, shall develop uniform standards and guidelines for a voter to correct mistakes made on the voter's ballot. The Secretary of State may adopt appropriate regulations for the purpose of ensuring uniform application of the standards and guidelines.](#)

Early voting: satellite locations

[Assembly Bill No. 1249, Wilson.](#) (Chapter 296)

Existing law requires an elections official, no later than 29 days before the day of an election, to begin mailing vote by mail ballots to registered voters. Existing law permits a voter using a vote by mail ballot to vote the ballot at the office of the elections official, including satellite locations, before the close of polls on election day. Existing law requires the elections official to provide notice of a satellite location by issuing a general news release no later than 14 days before voting at the satellite location may occur. Existing law requires a vote by mail ballot voted at a satellite location pursuant to the above provisions to be placed in a vote by mail voter identification envelope for processing, except as specified.

This bill would permit a voter using a vote by mail ballot, no later than 29 days before the day of an election, to vote the ballot at the office of the elections official or a satellite location. For a statewide election, if the county does not conduct an all-mailed ballot election, as specified, the bill would require the county to provide at least one early voting location on the Saturday before the day of the election that is open for at least

6 hours. The bill would require the early voting location to permit the voter to return their vote by mail ballot, register to vote, receive and vote a provisional ballot, and receive a replacement ballot, among other requirements. The bill would repeal the above requirement that the voter use a voter identification envelope when voting their vote by mail ballot at the satellite location. The bill would repeal the above requirement that the elections official issue a news release regarding satellite locations, and instead require the elections official to provide notice of a satellite location not later than two weeks before voting may occur at the satellite location.

By imposing new duties on local elections officials, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

SECTION 1. Section 319.5 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

319.5. (a) “Electioneering” means the visible display or audible dissemination of information that advocates for or against any candidate or measure on the ballot within the 100 foot limit specified in subdivision (b). Prohibited electioneering information or activity includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- (1) A display of a candidate’s name, likeness, or logo.
- (2) A display of a ballot measure’s number, title, subject, or logo.
- (3) Buttons, hats, pencils, pens, shirts, signs, or stickers containing electioneering information.
- (4) Dissemination of audible electioneering information.
- (5) Obstructing access to, loitering near, or disseminating visible or audible electioneering information at vote by mail ballot drop boxes.

(b) The activities described in subdivision (a) are prohibited within 100 feet of either of the following:

- (1) The entrance to a building that contains a polling place as defined by Section 338.5, an elections official’s office, or a satellite ~~location specified in Section 3018:~~ [location](#).
- (2) An outdoor site, including a curbside voting area, at which a voter may cast or drop off a ballot.

SEC. 2. Section 3016.3 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

3016.3. (a) No later than 29 days before the day of the election, any voter using a vote by mail ballot may, prior to the close of the polls on election day, vote the ballot at the office of the elections official or a satellite location. The voter shall vote the ballot in the presence of an officer of the elections official or in a voting booth, at the discretion of the elections official, but in no case may their vote be observed.

(b) For a statewide election, a county that does not conduct an election pursuant to Section 4005 shall provide at least one early voting location on the Saturday before the day of the election that is open for a minimum of six hours.

(c) (1) For purposes of subdivisions (a) and (b), the elections official shall do all of the following:

(A) Provide at least one voting unit that is certified or conditionally approved by the Secretary of State to allow voters with disabilities the access required under the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.).

(B) Permit a voter to vote their vote by mail ballot as provided in Section 3016.5.

(C) Provide notice of any satellite location not later than two weeks before voting may occur at the satellite location.

(2) For purposes of the early voting location described in subdivision (b), the elections official shall also permit a voter to do all of the following:

(A) Return the voter's vote by mail ballot.

(B) Register to vote, update the voter's voter registration, and vote pursuant to Section 2170.

(C) Receive and vote a provisional ballot pursuant to Section 3016 or Article 5 (commencing with Section 14310) of Chapter 3 of Division 14.

(D) Receive a replacement ballot upon verification that a ballot for the same election has not been received from the voter by the county elections official. If the county elections official is unable to determine if a ballot for the same election has been received from the voter, the county elections official may issue a provisional ballot.

(E) Vote a regular, provisional, or replacement ballot using accessible voting equipment that provides for a private and independent voting experience.

SEC. 3. Section 3016.5 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

3016.5. (a) A voter may vote their vote by mail ballot, without the identification envelope, in person at the office of the county elections official, a satellite location, the polling place designated for the voter's home ~~precinct~~ precinct, or ~~at~~ a vote center established pursuant to Section 4005, if all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The ~~precinct board or~~ county elections official or their staff, including any staff managing a satellite location, a precinct board, or a vote center election ~~board board, as applicable,~~ has real-time access to the county elections official's election management system, and does both of the following:

- (A) Verifies that the voter has not returned a vote by mail ballot for that election.
- (B) Changes the status of the voter in the election management system from a vote by mail voter to an in person voter.

(2) After the voter's status has been changed pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1), the voter provides their name, address, and signature pursuant to Section 14216.

(3) The county elections official has established procedures to ensure that a voter who casts a ballot pursuant to this subdivision does not submit more than one vote by mail ballot without the identification envelope, and the precinct board or vote center election board complies with those procedures.

(b) A ballot cast pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be processed and counted in the same manner as a nonprovisional ballot cast in person at the polling place or vote center.

(c) The elections official shall provide notice of any satellite location not later than two weeks before voting may occur at the satellite location.

SEC. 4. Section 3018 of the Elections Code is repealed.

~~3018. (a) Any voter using a vote by mail ballot may, prior to the close of the polls on election day, vote the ballot at the office of the elections official. The voter shall vote the ballot in the presence of an officer of the elections official or in a voting booth, at the discretion of the elections official, but in no case may his or her vote be observed. Where direct recording electronic voting systems, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 19271, are used the elections official shall provide sufficient direct recording electronic voting systems to include all ballot types in the election.~~

~~(b) For purposes of this section, the office of an elections official may include satellite locations. Notice of the satellite locations shall be made by the elections official by the issuance of a general news release, issued not later than 14 days prior to voting at the satellite location, except that in a county with a declared emergency or disaster, notice shall be made not later than 48 hours prior to voting at the satellite location. The news release shall set forth the following information:~~

- ~~(1) The satellite location or locations;~~
- ~~(2) The dates and hours the satellite location or locations will be open;~~
- ~~(3) A telephone number that voters may use to obtain information regarding vote by mail ballots and the satellite locations;~~
- ~~(c) Vote by mail ballots voted at a satellite location pursuant to this section shall be~~

~~placed in a vote by mail voter identification envelope to be completed by the voter pursuant to Section 3011. However, if the elections official provides sufficient direct recording electronic voting systems such that all ballot types in the election may be cast, the vote by mail ballot may be cast on a direct recording electronic voting system.~~

SEC. 5. Section 18370 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

18370. (a) A person shall not, on election day, or at any time that a voter may be casting a ballot, within the 100 foot limit specified in subdivision (b), do any of the following:

- (1) Circulate an initiative, referendum, recall, or nomination petition or any other petition.
- (2) Solicit a vote or speak to a voter on the subject of marking the voter's ballot.
- (3) Place a sign relating to voters' qualifications or speak to a voter on the subject of the voter's qualifications except as provided in Section 14240.
- (4) Do any electioneering as defined by Section 319.5.

(b) The activities described in subdivision (a) are prohibited within 100 feet of either of the following:

- (1) The entrance to a building that contains a polling place as defined by Section 338.5, an elections official's office, or a satellite ~~location specified in Section 3018:~~ [location.](#)
- (2) An outdoor site, including a curbside voting area, at which a voter may cast or drop off a ballot.
- (c) A person shall not, on election day, or at any time that a voter may be casting a ballot, do any of the following within the immediate vicinity of a voter in line to cast a ballot or drop off a ballot:

- (1) Solicit a vote.
- (2) Speak to a voter about marking the voter's ballot.
- (3) Disseminate visible or audible electioneering information.
- (d) Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

SEC. 6. Section 18502 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

18502. (a) Any person who in any manner interferes with the officers holding an election or conducting a canvass, as to prevent the election or canvass from being fairly held and lawfully conducted, or with the voters lawfully exercising their rights of voting at an election, is punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years.

(b) For purposes of this section, “officers holding an election or conducting a canvass” include, but are not limited to, the Secretary of State as the chief elections officer, and their staff, as it relates to performance of any of their duties related to administering the provisions of the Elections Code, and elections officials and their staff, including temporary workers and poll workers, and members of a precinct board, in their performance of any duty related to assisting with holding an election or conducting a canvass.

(c) For purposes of this section, “holding an election or conducting a canvass” includes, but is not limited to, the election observation process governed by the Elections Code and applicable regulations adopted by the Secretary of State.

(d) For purposes of this section, “voting at an election” includes, but is not limited to, voting in person at a polling ~~place or at~~ [place](#), the office of the elections official, ~~including satellite locations pursuant to Section 3018;~~ [and satellite locations](#), and voting by mail and returning a voted ballot pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 3017.

SEC. 7. Section 18540 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

18540. (a) Every person who makes use of or threatens to make use of any force, violence, or tactic of coercion or intimidation, to induce or compel any other person to vote or refrain from voting at any election or to vote or refrain from voting for any particular person or measure at any election, or because any person voted or refrained from voting at any election or voted or refrained from voting for any particular person or measure at any election is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years.

(b) Every person who hires or arranges for any other person to make use of or threaten to make use of any force, violence, or tactic of coercion or intimidation, to induce or compel any other person to vote or refrain from voting at any election or to vote or refrain from voting for any particular person or measure at any election, or because any person voted or refrained from voting at any election or voted or refrained from voting for any particular person or measure at any election is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code for 16 months or two or three years.

(c) For purposes of this section, “voting at any election” includes, but is not limited to, voting in person at a polling ~~place or at~~ [place](#), the office of the elections official, ~~including satellite locations pursuant to Section 3018;~~ [and satellite locations](#), and voting by mail and returning a voted ballot pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 3017.

SEC. 8. Section 18541 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

18541. (a) A person shall not, with the intent of dissuading another person from voting, within the 100 foot limit specified in subdivision (b), do any of the following:

(1) Solicit a vote or speak to a voter on the subject of marking the voter’s ballot.

(2) Place a sign relating to voters’ qualifications or speak to a voter on the subject of the

voter's qualifications except as provided in Section 14240.

(3) Photograph, video record, or otherwise record a voter entering or exiting a polling place.

(4) Obstruct ingress, egress, or parking.

(b) The activities described in subdivision (a) are prohibited within 100 feet of either of the following:

(1) The entrance to a building that contains a polling place as defined by Section 338.5, an elections official's office, or a satellite ~~location specified in Section 3018:~~ [location](#).

(2) An outdoor site, including a curbside voting area, at which a voter may cast or drop off a ballot.

(c) A person shall not, with the intent of dissuading another person from voting, do any of the following within the immediate vicinity of a voter in line to cast a ballot or drop off a ballot:

(1) Solicit a vote.

(2) Speak to a voter about marking the voter's ballot.

(3) Disseminate visible or audible electioneering information.

(d) A violation of this section is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than 12 months, or in state prison. Any person who conspires to violate this section is guilty of a felony.

SEC. 9. Section 66852 of the Education Code is amended to read:

66852. Each campus of the California Community Colleges and the California State University shall, and each campus of the University of California is requested to, do all of the following:

(a) (1) In consultation with the Secretary of State, during the first month of each academic semester or quarter, distribute campuswide emails to all students providing the following civic and election dates and information:

(A) National Voter Registration Day, held annually on the fourth Tuesday in September.

(B) The last day to register to vote online or to register to vote by mail or in person.

(C) The date when a county may begin to offer early voting at the office of the elections official or at a satellite location, pursuant to Section ~~3018~~ [3016.3](#) of the Elections Code, and a statement that the date, times, and locations for early voting and conditional voter registration may be confirmed on the internet website of the Secretary of State or at the county elections office.

(D) The primary and general election dates as provided in Chapter 4 of Division 0.5 of the Elections Code and Division 1 of the Elections Code.

(E) A statement that, pursuant to Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the Elections Code, a voter may apply to vote by mail at any time until after the seventh day prior to an election, and that a vote by mail voter may vote in person at the office of the county elections official or at a satellite location established by the county elections official on or before the day of the election.

(F) A link to the internet web page for the Secretary of State's Students Vote Project, established pursuant to Section 2148.5 of the Elections Code.

(2) In consultation with the Secretary of State, one month before each statewide election, distribute by campuswide emails to all students the dates and information specified in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1) and an internet website address link or unique Uniform Resource Locator (URL) link furnished by the Secretary of State's office providing all of the following election information:

(A) The Secretary of State's internet web page for online voter registration. That website shall include a statement providing the information specified in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1).

(B) The Secretary of State's internet website address for election information.

(C) The Secretary of State's internet website address for the most current voter information guide, required to be prepared pursuant to Section 9082.7 of the Elections Code.

(D) The Secretary of State's internet website address for the voter registration status tool, or a similar web page that directs the recipient to voter or election information for the county of the recipient.

(E) A disclaimer stating all of the following:

(i) That the civic and election information provided applies to the county where the campus is located.

(ii) That election information varies by county.

(iii) That recipients of the email are encouraged to check the internet website containing the Secretary of State's voter registration status tool, or a similar web page, to find election information for the county where the recipient's voter registration is active.

(3) Include in both printed and electronic academic calendars the dates specified in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of paragraph (1).

(b) (1) Post on social media reminders to students, at least one day before each event occurs unless specified otherwise, of all of the following:

(A) The early voting and conditional voter registration information specified in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a).

(B) Election day, including a reminder the day before and the day of the election. The reminders shall state that a qualified voter may register to vote on the day of the election, if necessary, at a conditional voter registration site established by the voter's county elections official.

(C) After the emails required by paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) are sent, the voter information guide and county sample ballot information provided in that email.

(2) For the purposes of this subdivision, the social media content can be furnished, or requested, by the Secretary of State.

(c) (1) Designate one person per campus to act as a Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator, who shall do all of the following:

(A) Implement the requirements of this section.

(B) Ensure that, in every academic year, each campus holds a minimum of three election outreach events to increase civic learning, democratic participation, civic engagement, and voter turnout consistent with all of the following:

(i) During an academic term in each even-numbered year, an outreach event shall occur within the final 30 days preceding each statewide primary and general election.

(ii) All students shall be invited to participate in the coordination of and to attend these events.

(iii) All events may be sponsored by a campus-based student organization.

(C) Develop a Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan consistent with all of the following:

(i) The coordinator shall invite leadership from faculty and students, and administrators from each of student affairs, academic affairs, and government relations or a similar office to participate in a meeting or meetings to develop the action plan.

(ii) The action plan shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, a campus-specific effort to increase civic learning and democratic participation, with an emphasis on civic engagement, voter turnout, and community building.

(iii) Students shall be invited to develop the action plan and to coordinate the meeting or meetings to develop the action plan.

(D) The coordinator shall share the action plan developed pursuant to subparagraph (C) with the Secretary of State no later than December 1, 2020, for inclusion in the report to the Legislature submitted pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 66851. The action plan shall be periodically updated and resubmitted to the Secretary of State, as determined necessary by the coordinator.

(2) The Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator shall be nonpartisan.

SEC. 10. *If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*

Elections: ballot language

Assembly Bill No. 1512, Assembly Elections Committee. (Chapter 303)

Existing law specifies the format of language printed on ballots for various ballot measures relating to local governments, including cities, counties, school districts, and other special districts.

This bill would revise these ballot language requirements. The bill would generally require the words “Yes” and “No” to be printed on separate lines of the ballot, with voting targets, to the right of or below the description of the proposal to be voted on.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

SECTION 1. Section 1004 of the Education Code is amended to read:

1004. The resolution of the county committee approving a reduction or increase in the number of members of the county board of education shall constitute an order of election, and the proposal shall be presented to the electors of the county not later than the next succeeding election for members of the county board of education. The ballot shall contain the following words, as appropriate: *“Shall the number of members of the county board of education be decreased (increased) from seven (five) to five (seven)?” To the right of or below those words, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets. If a voter marks the voting target next to the printed word “Yes,” the voter’s vote shall be counted in favor of the adoption of the measure. If the voter marks the voting target next to the printed word “No,” the voter’s vote shall be counted against its adoption.*

~~“For decreasing (increasing) the number of members of the county board of education from seven (five) to five (seven)—Yes”~~

~~“For decreasing (increasing) the number of members of the county board of education from seven (five) to five (seven)—No”~~

SEC. 2. Section 5020 of the Education Code is amended to read:

5020. (a) (1) The resolution of the county committee approving a proposal to establish or abolish trustee areas, to adopt one of the alternative methods of electing governing board members specified in Section 5030, or to increase or decrease the number of members of the governing board shall constitute an order of election, and the proposal

shall be presented to the electors of the district not later than the next succeeding election for members of the governing board.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a county committee may, by resolution, approve a proposal to establish trustee areas and to elect governing board members using district-based elections, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 14026 of the Elections Code, without being required to submit the resolution to the electors of the district for approval. A resolution adopted pursuant to this paragraph shall include a declaration that the change in the method of electing members of the governing body is being made

in furtherance of the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 14025) of Division 14 of the Elections Code). The resolution shall take effect upon adoption and shall govern all elections for governing board members occurring at least 125 days after the adoption of the resolution.

(b) If a petition requesting an election on a proposal to rearrange trustee area boundaries is filed, containing at least 5 percent of the signatures of the district's registered voters as determined by the elections official, the proposal shall be presented to the electors of the district, at the next succeeding election for the members of the governing board, at the next succeeding statewide primary or general election, or at the next succeeding regularly scheduled election at which the electors of the district are otherwise entitled to vote if there is sufficient time to place the issue on the ballot. The rearranged trustee areas shall comply with the criteria and requirements in Section 21130 of the Elections Code.

(c) If a petition requesting an election on a proposal to establish or abolish trustee areas, to increase or decrease the number of members of the board, or to adopt one of the alternative methods of electing governing board members specified in Section 5030 is filed, containing at least 10 percent of the signatures of the district's registered voters as determined by the elections official, the proposal shall be presented to the electors of the district, at the next succeeding election for the members of the governing board, at the next succeeding statewide primary or general election, or at the next succeeding regularly scheduled election at which the electors of the district are otherwise entitled to vote if there is sufficient time to place the issue on the ballot. Before the proposal is presented to the electors, the county committee on school district organization may call and conduct one or more public hearings on the proposal.

(d) The resolution of the county committee approving a proposal to establish or abolish a common governing board for a high school and an elementary school district within the boundaries of the high school district shall constitute an order of election. The proposal shall be presented to the electors of the district at the next succeeding statewide primary or general election, or at the next succeeding regularly scheduled election at which the electors of the district are otherwise entitled to vote if there is sufficient time to place the issue on the ballot.

(e) (1) For each proposal there shall be a separate proposition on the ballot. The ballot shall contain the following words:

~~"For the establishment (or abolition or rearrangement) of trustee areas in _____ (insert~~

name) School District—Yes” and “For the establishment (or abolition or rearrangement) of trustee areas “Shall trustee areas be established (or abolished or rearranged) in _____ (insert name) School District—No.” District?”

“For increasing Shall the number of members of the governing board of _____ (insert name) School District be increased from five to ~~seven—Yes~~ and “For increasing the number of members of the governing board of _____ (insert name) School District from five to seven—No.” seven?”

“For decreasing Shall the number of members of the governing board of _____ (insert name) School District be decreased from seven to ~~five—Yes~~ and “For decreasing the number of members of the governing board of _____ (insert name) School District from seven to five—No.” five?”

~~“For the election of~~ “Shall each member of the governing board of the _____ (insert name) School District be elected by the registered voters of the entire _____ (insert name) School District—Yes” and ~~“For the election of each member of the governing board of the _____ (insert name) School District by the registered voters of the entire _____ (insert name) School District—No.” District?”~~

~~“For the election of~~ “Shall one member of the governing board of the _____ (insert name) School District residing in each trustee area be elected by the registered voters in that trustee area—Yes” and ~~“For the election of one member of the governing board of the _____ (insert name) School District residing in each trustee area elected by the registered voters in that trustee area—No.” area?”~~

~~“For the election of~~ “Shall one member, or more than one member for one or more trustee areas, of the governing board of the _____ (insert name) School District residing in each trustee area be elected by the registered voters of the entire _____ (insert name) School District—Yes” and ~~“For the election of one member, or more than one member for one or more trustee areas, of the governing board of the _____ (insert name) School District residing in each trustee area elected by the registered voters of the entire _____ (insert name) School District—No.” District?”~~

~~“For the establishment (or abolition) of~~ “Shall a common governing board in the _____ (insert name) School District and the _____ (insert name) School District—Yes” and ~~“For the establishment (or abolition) of a common governing board in the _____ (insert name) School District and the _____ (insert name) School District—No.” District be established (or abolished)?”~~

(2) To the right of or below the words describing each proposal to be voted on, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets. If a voter marks the voting target next to the printed word “Yes,” the voter’s vote shall be counted in favor of the adoption of the proposal. If the voter marks the voting target next to the printed word “No,” the voter’s vote shall be counted against its adoption.

(f) If more than one proposal appears on the ballot, all must carry in order for any to become effective, except as follows:

(1) A proposal to adopt one of the methods of election of board members specified in Section 5030 that is approved by the voters shall become effective unless a proposal that is inconsistent with that proposal has been approved by a greater number of voters.

(2) An inconsistent proposal approved by a lesser number of voters than the number which have approved a proposal to adopt one of the methods of election of board members specified in Section 5030 shall not be effective.

SEC. 3. Section 15122 of the Education Code is amended to read:

15122. ~~The (a) words to appear upon the ballots shall be “Bonds—Yes” and “Bonds—No,” or words of similar import.~~ A brief statement of the proposition, setting forth the amount of the bonds to be voted upon, the maximum rate of interest, and the purposes for which the proceeds of the sale of the bonds are to be used, shall be printed upon the ballot. ~~No defect in the statement other than in~~ To the right of or below the statement of the ~~amount of the bonds to be authorized shall invalidate the bonds election.~~ proposition to be voted on, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets. If a voter marks the voting target next to the printed word “Yes,” the voter’s vote shall be counted in favor of the adoption of the proposition. If the voter marks the voting target next to the printed word “No,” the voter’s vote shall be counted against its adoption.
(b) A defect in the statement, other than in the statement of the amount of the bonds to be authorized, shall not invalidate the bonds election.

SEC. 4. Section 18333 of the Education Code is amended to read:

18333. The election shall be conducted in accordance with the general election laws of this state, where applicable, without reference to form of ballot or manner of ~~voting; except that the ballots~~ voting. The ballot shall contain the ~~words, “For~~ words “Shall the Union High School Library District.” The voter shall write or print after the words on his ballot the word “Yes” or the word “No.” District be established?” To the right of or below those words, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets. If a voter marks the voting target next to the printed word “Yes,” the voter’s vote shall be counted in favor of the adoption of the proposal. If the voter marks the voting target next to the printed word “No,” the voter’s vote shall be counted against its adoption.

SEC. 5. Section 18513 of the Education Code is amended to read:

18513. Voting shall be by ballot, without reference to the general election law in regard to form of ballot or manner of ~~voting, except that the words to appear on the ballot shall be “Bonds—Yes” and “Bonds—No.”~~ Persons voting at the bond election shall put a cross (+) upon their ballot with pencil or ink, after the words “Bonds—Yes” or “Bonds—No,” as the case may be, to indicate whether they have voted for or against the issuance of the bonds. ~~The ballot shall be handed by the elector voting to the inspector, who shall then, in his presence, deposit it in the ballot box, and the judges~~

~~shall enter the elector's name on the poll list.~~ voting. The ballots shall have printed on them the words "Shall the measure (stating the nature thereof) be adopted?" To the right or below the statement of the measure to be voted on, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets. If a voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "Yes," the voter's vote shall be counted in favor of the adoption of the measure. If the voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "No," the voter's vote shall be counted against its adoption.

SEC. 6. Section 19608 of the Education Code is amended to read:

19608. The election shall be conducted in accordance with the general election laws of this state, where applicable, without reference to form of ballot or manner of ~~voting; except that the ballots-~~ voting. The ballot shall contain the ~~words, "For library district," and the voter shall write or print after the words on his ballot the word "Yes," or the word "No;"~~ words "Shall the library district be established?" To the right of or below those words, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets. If a voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "Yes," the voter's vote shall be counted in favor of the adoption of the proposal. If the voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "No," the voter's vote shall be counted against its adoption.

SEC. 7. Section 19724 of the Education Code is amended to read:

19724. Voting shall be by ballot, without reference to the general election law in regard to form of ballot, or manner of ~~voting, except that the words to appear on the ballot shall be, "Bonds—Yes," and "Bonds—No." Persons voting at the bond election shall put a cross (+) upon their ballots, with pencil or ink, after the words, "Bonds—Yes," or "Bonds—No," as the case may be, to indicate whether they have voted for or against the issuance of the bonds. The ballot shall be handed by the elector voting to the inspector, who shall then, in his presence, deposit the ballot in the ballot box, and the judges shall enter the elector's name on poll list.~~ voting. The ballots shall have printed on them the words "Shall the measure (stating the nature thereof) be adopted?" To the right or below the statement of the measure to be voted on, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets. If a voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "Yes," the voter's vote shall be counted in favor of the adoption of the measure. If the voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "No," the voter's vote shall be counted against its adoption.

SEC. 8. Section 24906 of the Education Code is amended to read:

24906. There shall be printed on the ballots to be used at the election the proposition: "Shall the governing boards of (here insert the names of the districts under the control of the boards submitting the proposition) school districts be authorized to establish a plan for a joint district retirement salary for the teachers and such other employees of the districts as the governing boards or the petition determines." To the right of or below the proposition ~~shall to be printed-~~ voted on, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed

on separate lines. with voting ~~squares:~~ targets.

SEC. 9. Section 35762 of the Education Code is amended to read:

35762. (a) The words to appear upon the ballots used for voting upon the adoption or rejection of the proposals for the reorganization of school districts shall be “Shall the school districts be reorganized as proposed?”, or words of similar import. To the right of or below those words, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets. If a voter marks the voting target next to the printed word “Yes,” the voter’s vote shall be counted in favor of the adoption of the proposal. If the voter marks the voting target next to the printed word “No,” the voter’s vote shall be counted against its adoption.

~~The (b) words to appear upon the ballots used for voting upon the adoption or rejection of the proposals for the reorganization of school districts shall be “Reorganization of school districts—Yes,” and “Reorganization of school districts—No,” or words of similar import.~~ If the plans and recommendations include a proposal for trustee areas in accordance with Section 35734, such proposal shall be considered a part of the reorganization proposition to be voted upon, and the ballot shall include wording to that effect.

SEC. 10. Section 72026 of the Education Code is amended to read:

72026. (a) Notwithstanding any ~~provision of law to the contrary;~~ other law, if the governing board of a community college district finds that the boundaries of trustee areas do not conform to the district’s geography or population distribution due to annexation of territory to the district after the trustee boundaries were formed, the board may, in its discretion, order a special election seeking voter approval for rearrangement of such areas in the manner provided in this section.

(b) (1) Upon adoption of a resolution by a majority of the members, the board shall call and conduct at least one ~~(+)~~ public hearing on the proposed rearrangement of trustee area boundaries by publishing notice ~~thereof~~ of the proposed rearrangement in accordance with Section 6061 of the Government Code. The notice shall be published at least 10 days prior to each hearing to be held and shall state the time and place of the hearing and the general nature of the proposed boundary rearrangement.

(2) At the conclusion of ~~such~~ the public hearing or hearings, the board may adopt a resolution by majority vote of ~~the its~~ members ~~thereof~~ ordering a special election on the proposed rearrangement of trustee areas within the district. The election shall be consolidated with the next scheduled primary or general statewide election and shall be called and conducted by the county superintendent of schools having jurisdiction in the manner otherwise prescribed for elections in Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 5300) of Part 4 of Division 1 of Title 1.

(c) The ballot shall contain the following words properly located ~~thereon:~~ “For the rearrangement of on the ballot: “Shall the trustee areas in _____ (insert name) District—~~Yes” and “For the rearrangement of trustee areas in~~ _____ (insert name) District—No.”

(insert name) Community College District be rearranged?" To the right of or below those words, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets. If a voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "Yes," the voter's vote shall be counted in favor of the adoption of the rearrangement. If the voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "No," the voter's vote shall be counted against its adoption.

(d) If the proposal for the rearrangement of trustee areas within the district pursuant to this section is approved by a majority of the electors voting at the election and it appears that one or more trustee areas in the district will not be represented in the membership of the governing board or that one or more trustee areas will have more than its allotted number of representatives in the membership of the governing board, the county superintendent of schools having jurisdiction shall call and conduct an election to determine who shall represent such trustee area or areas at the next regular election for community college trustees as otherwise provided by law. The term of office of a newly elected and qualified member shall expire on the date the term of the former member would have expired if the former member had remained in office. If the offices of two or more members become vacant due to the operation of this ~~paragraph;~~ subdivision, the county superintendent of schools shall determine by lot which term of office of former members shall be assumed by which of the newly elected and qualified members.

SEC. 11. Section 23271 of the Government Code is amended to read:

23271. Ballots at the election shall contain the words ~~"For the transfer of~~ "Shall (description of territory) be transferred to (name of county accepting transferred territory) Yes," and ~~"For the transfer of (description of territory) to (name of county accepting transferred territory) No."~~ Each voter shall stamp a cross (+) opposite the words "Yes," or "No," territory?" To the right of or below those words, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets. If a voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "Yes," the voter's vote shall be counted in favor of the adoption of the transfer of territory. If the voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "No," the voter's vote shall be counted against its adoption.

SEC. 12. Section 23355 of the Government Code is amended to read:

23355. Ballots at the election shall contain the ~~statement:~~ question:

"Shall the new County of (insert the name of the proposed county) be formed?"

~~Opposite the question, and to its right,~~ To the right of or below the question, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting ~~squares:~~ targets. If a voter ~~stamps a cross (+) in the voting square after~~ marks the voting target next to the printed word "Yes," ~~his or her~~ the voter's vote shall be counted in favor of the ~~adoption.~~ adoption of the formation of the new county. ~~If he or she stamps a cross (+) in the voting square after~~ If the voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "No," ~~his or her~~ the voter's vote shall be counted against ~~the~~ its adoption.

SEC. 13. Section 23374.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:

23374.5. Ballots at the election provided for in this article shall contain the ~~statement:~~
question:

~~“For (name of county seat as determined by commission)” as county seat~~

“Shall (insert the name of the county seat as determined by commission) be the county seat of the County of (insert the name of the county)?”

~~Opposite the statement, and to its right, the~~ To the right of or below the question, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting ~~squares:~~ targets. If a voter ~~stamps a cross (+) in the voting square after~~ marks the voting target next to the printed word “Yes,” ~~his or her~~ the voter’s vote shall be counted in favor of the ~~adoption.~~ If he or she stamps a cross (+) in the voting square after adoption of the county seat. If the voter marks the voting target next to the printed word “No,” ~~his or her~~ the voter’s vote shall be counted against its adoption.

SEC. 14. Section 29903 of the Government Code is repealed.

~~29903. The words “Bonds—Yes,” and “Bonds—No,” or words of similar import shall appear on the ballot adjacent to each bond proposition.~~

SEC. 15. Section 29903 is added to the Government Code, to read:

29903. To the right of or below each bond proposition on the ballot, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 16. Section 34876.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:

34876.5. (a) (1) If an ordinance is submitted to the voters pursuant to Section 34871, there shall be printed on the ballots substantially as follows:

“Shall members of the legislative body of the City of ____ be elected by (or from) districts?”

or, if applicable:

“Shall members of the legislative body of the City of ____ be elected by (or from) districts, and the Mayor of the City of ____ be elected on a citywide basis by the voters of the entire city?”

~~followed (2) by the words “Yes” and “No,” so printed that the voters may express their choice:~~ To the right of or below the words describing the proposal pursuant to paragraph (1), the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets. If a voter marks the voting target next to the printed word “Yes,” the voter’s vote shall be

counted in favor of the adoption of the proposal. If the voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "No." the voter's vote shall be counted against its adoption.

(b) If a majority of the voters voting on the proposed ordinance vote in its favor, members of the legislative body shall be elected in the manner approved by the voters beginning at the first election following approval of the district boundaries pursuant to Section 34877.5, and for which the election consolidation deadlines established in the Elections Code have not passed.

SEC. 17. Section 51929 of the Government Code is amended to read:

51929. Upon the ballots used at the election shall be printed the words: "Shall the city (or cities) of (naming them) and the County of Sacramento be reorganized and consolidated and shall the proposed Charter of the City-County of Sacramento be adopted as the governing law of the City-County of Sacramento?"

~~Opposite and to~~ To the right of or below these words, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting ~~squares:~~ targets. Each proposition separately submitted shall also be similarly presented to the electors.

SEC. 18. Section 51930 of the Government Code is amended to read:

51930. If, voting on a proposition presented pursuant to Section 51929, an elector ~~stamps a cross in~~ marks the voting ~~square after~~ target next to the word "Yes," ~~his~~ the elector's vote shall be counted for reorganization and charter adoption, and if ~~he stamps a cross in the voting square after~~ the elector marks the voting target next to the word "No," ~~his~~ the elector's vote shall be counted against reorganization and charter adoption.

SEC. 19. Section 51931 of the Government Code is amended to read:

51931. On each proposition separately submitted, including the proposition presented pursuant to Section 51929.5, if an elector ~~stamps a cross in~~ marks the voting ~~square after~~ target next to the word "Yes," ~~his~~ the elector's vote shall be counted for the adoption of the proposition, and if ~~he stamps a cross in the voting square after~~ the elector marks the voting target next to the word "No," ~~his~~ the elector's vote shall be counted against the adoption of the proposition.

SEC. 20. Section 57137 of the Government Code is amended to read:

57137. On the ballot ~~opposite each question and to its right, the~~ to the right of or below each question, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines with voting ~~squares:~~ targets.

SEC. 21. Section 6463 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

6463. The ballots shall contain the words, ~~“sanitary district: yes,” and “sanitary district: no,” or equivalent words, and~~ “Shall the sanitary district be formed?” To the right of or below these words, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets. The ballot shall also contain the names of the persons to be voted for at the election.

SEC. 22. Section 6612 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

6612. The vote shall be by ballot, without reference to the general law in regard to form of ballot.

The ~~ballot shall contain the words “Bonds—Yes” and “Bonds—No,” and the person voting at the election shall put a cross (+) upon his ballot after the “Yes” or “No” to indicate whether he has voted for or against the bonds.~~ ballots shall have printed on them the words “Shall the measure (stating the nature thereof) be adopted?” To the right or below the statement of the measure to be voted on, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 23. Section 20104 of the Health and Safety Code is repealed.

~~20104.~~

~~The ballots used at the election shall contain the words “Tax—Yes,” and “Tax—No.”~~

SEC. 24. Section 20104 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

20104. To the right of or below the question on the ballot, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 25. Section 5105 of the Public Resources Code is repealed.

~~5105. There shall be placed on the ballots for such election the words “Tax for pioneer monument—Yes” and “Tax for pioneer monument—No.”~~

SEC. 26. Section 5105 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

5105. The ballots shall have printed on them the words “Shall the measure (stating the nature thereof) be adopted?” To the right or below the statement of the measure to be voted on, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 27. Section 2965 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

2965. The ballots to be used at any general municipal election or at any special election, at which is submitted the question whether a municipal corporation shall retain its powers of control respecting public utilities shall have printed thereon, in addition

to the other matters required by law, ~~such~~ those of the following propositions as are specified in the ordinance of intention or the petition:

"Proposition No. 1. Shall _____ (name of municipal corporation) retain its powers of control over railroad corporations?"

"Proposition No. 2. Shall _____ (name of municipal corporation) retain its powers of control over street railroad corporations?"

"Proposition No. 3. Shall _____ (name of municipal corporation) retain its powers of control over common carriers other than railroad and street railroad corporations?"

"Proposition No. 4. Shall _____ (name of municipal corporation) retain its powers of control over gas corporations?"

"Proposition No. 5. Shall _____ (name of municipal corporation) retain its powers of control over electrical corporations?"

"Proposition No. 6. Shall _____ (name of municipal corporation) retain its powers of control over telephone corporations?"

"Proposition No. 7. Shall _____ (name of municipal corporation) retain its powers of control over telegraph corporations?"

"Proposition No. 8. Shall _____ (name of municipal corporation) retain its powers of control over water corporations?"

"Proposition No. 9. Shall _____ (name of municipal corporation) retain its powers of control over wharfingers?"

"Proposition No. 10. Shall _____ (name of municipal corporation) retain its powers of control over warehousemen?"

~~Opposite each such~~ To the right of or below each proposition to be voted upon, ~~and to the right thereof, the~~ the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting ~~squares. Any voter desiring to vote~~ targets. If a voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "Yes," the voter's vote shall be counted in favor of the retention of the powers of control of the municipal ~~corporation respecting any particular class of public utility, shall stamp a cross (x) in the voting square after~~ corporation. If the voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "Yes" ~~opposite the proposition as to such class, and any voter desiring to vote~~ "No," the voter's vote shall be counted against the retention of ~~such powers of the municipal corporation respecting any particular class of public utility, shall stamp a cross (x) in the voting square after the printed word "No" opposite such proposition.~~ those powers.

SEC. 28. Section 2973 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

2973. The ballots to be used at the election shall have printed thereon, in addition to the other matters required by law, separate propositions as to each class of public utilities as to which the municipal corporation may retain its powers of control and as to which it is desired to vote. As to each of such classes of public utilities, and in addition to the

other matters required by law to be printed thereon, a proposition shall be printed on the ballot to be used at the election in substantially the following form: "Shall _____ (name of municipal corporation) surrender its powers of control over _____ (here insert class of public utility) to the Public Utilities Commission?" ~~Opposite each such~~ To the right of or below each proposition to be voted upon, ~~and to the right thereof, the~~ the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting ~~squares. Any~~ elector desiring to vote to surrender ~~targets. If a voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "Yes," the voter's vote shall be counted in favor of surrendering of~~ the powers of control of the municipal ~~corporation over any class of public utility specified on the ballot, shall stamp a cross (*) in the voting square opposite~~ corporation. If the voter marks the voting target next to the printed word "Yes," ~~after the proposition as to such class and any elector desiring to vote not to surrender the powers of control of such municipal corporation over such class of public utility, shall stamp a cross (*) in the voting square opposite the printed word "No" after the proposition as to such class.~~ "No," the voter's vote shall be counted against the surrendering of those powers.

SEC. 29. Section 22740 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

22740. The ballot shall contain the following:

(a) "Official ballot provided by the board of directors of the '____ airport district' to be used in the bond election of said district in the county of _____, State of California, on the ____ day of ____ 19____." 20____."

(b) Other matters required by law.

(c) ~~"Bonds—Yes" and "Bonds—No."~~ To the right of or below the bond proposition on the ballot, the words "Yes" and "No" on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 30. Section 22743 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

22743. Each voter shall ~~put a cross (*) upon his ballot with pencil or ink after the words "Bonds—Yes" or "Bonds—No"~~ completely select the voting target next to either "Yes" or "No" respectively to indicate whether ~~he~~ the voter has voted for or against the issuance of the bonds.

SEC. 31. Section 1176 of the Streets and Highways Code is amended to read:

1176. For the purposes of this election, the board shall establish, by order, one or more precincts and appoint three judges for each precinct to conduct the election. The election shall be conducted as nearly as practicable in conformity with the general election laws, but no particular form of ballot need be used. ~~The ballots shall contain the words "Tax—Yes" and "Tax—No".~~ No To the right of or below the question on the ballot, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets. An informality in conducting the election shall not invalidate the election if it was otherwise fairly conducted.

SEC. 32. Section 1182 of the Streets and Highways Code is amended to read:

1182. The election shall be conducted as nearly as practicable in accordance with the general election laws, but no particular form of ballot need be used. ~~No~~ An informality in conducting the election shall *not* invalidate the election if it was otherwise fairly conducted. ~~At such elections the ballots shall contain the words "Bond—Yes" and "Bond—No. To the right of or below each bond proposition on the ballot, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.~~

SEC. 33. Section 26064 of the Streets and Highways Code is amended to read:

26064. The ballot shall contain the words ~~"Boulevard District—Yes," and "Boulevard District—No," and shall~~ "Shall the boulevard district be formed?" To the right of or below these words, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets. The ballot shall also make provision for voting for one member of the commission.

SEC. 34. Section 26163 of the Streets and Highways Code is amended to read:

26163. At any time prior to the day fixed for the election the commission shall select one or more polling places within the district, and appoint from among the qualified electors within the district, one inspector, and two judges for each polling place who shall constitute the officers of the election and the election board, and shall make all other necessary and proper arrangements for holding the election. ~~The ballots shall contain the words "Bonds, Yes" and "Bonds, No." To the right of or below each bond proposition on the ballot, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.~~

SEC. 35. Section 12057 of the Water Code is amended to read:

12057. (a) Before a public agency may enter into a contract with the department for a water supply from the Washoe Project, or from any division or unit thereof, the public agency shall hold an election on the proposition of whether or not the public agency shall enter into the proposed contract and more than 50 percent of the votes cast at ~~such the~~ election must be in favor of ~~such proposition; provided, that if the proposition. If~~ a higher percentage of favorable votes is required by the California Constitution before the public agency may incur ~~an~~ indebtedness, ~~such the~~ higher percentage shall apply in lieu of the percentage set forth in this subdivision. ~~Such The~~ election shall be held in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) The procedure for holding an election on the incurring of bonded indebtedness by ~~such a~~ public agency shall be utilized for an election on the proposed contract as nearly as the same may be applicable. Where the law applicable to ~~such the public~~ agency does not contain ~~such a~~ bond election procedure, the procedure set forth in the Revenue Bond Law of 1941 (Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 54300) of Part ~~4, Division 2, 1 of Division 2 of~~ Title 5 of the Government Code), as it may now or

hereafter be amended, shall be utilized as nearly as the same may be applicable.

(2) No particular form of ballot is required.

(3) The notice of the election shall include a statement of the time and place of the election, the purpose of the election, the general purpose of the contract, and the maximum amount of money to be borrowed from the state under the contract.

(4) The ballots for the election shall contain a brief statement of the general purpose of the contract substantially as stated in the notice of the ~~election and shall contain the words "Execution of contract—Yes" and "Execution of contract—No."~~ election. To the right of or below the statement of the proposition to be voted on, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

(5) The election shall be held in the entire public agency except where the public agency proposes to contract with the department on behalf of a specified portion, or of specified portions, of the public agency, in which case the election shall be held in ~~such~~ the applicable portion or portions of the public agency only.

(b) Every public agency is hereby granted the power to bring an action in the superior court of the county in which the office of ~~such~~ the public agency is situated to determine the validity of any contract made with the department under this part, and the authority of the public agency to enter into the contract. The action shall be had as in the case of the judicial determination of the validity of the public agency's bonds, as nearly as the same may be applicable, and with like effect. Where the law applicable to ~~such~~ the public agency does not set forth a procedure for the judicial determination of the validity of the public agency's bonds, the action shall be had as in the case of the judicial determination of the general obligation bonds of irrigation districts under the Irrigation District Law (Division 11 (commencing with Section ~~20500~~ of this code); 20500)). as it may now or hereafter be amended, as nearly as the same may be applicable, and with like effect.

SEC. 36. Section 12889.2 of the Water Code is amended to read:

12889.2. The election shall be held in accordance with the following provisions:

(a) The procedure for holding an election on the incurring of bonded indebtedness by ~~such~~ the public agency shall be utilized for an election on the proposed contract as nearly as the same may be applicable. Where the law applicable to ~~such~~ the public agency does not contain ~~such a~~ bond election procedure, the procedure set forth in the Revenue Bond Law of 1941 (Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 54300) of Part 4, Division 2, 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code), as it may now or hereafter be amended, shall be utilized as nearly as the same may be applicable.

(b) No particular form of ballot is required.

(c) The notice of the election shall include a statement of the time and place of the election, the purpose of the election, the general purpose of the contract, and the

maximum amount of money to be borrowed from the state under the contract.

(d) The ballots for the election shall contain a brief statement of the general purpose of the contract substantially as stated in the notice of the ~~election~~, election and shall state the maximum amount of money to be borrowed from the state under the ~~contract, and shall contain the words "Execution of contract—Yes" and "Execution of contract—No."~~ contract. To the right of or below the statement of the proposition to be voted on, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

(e) The election shall be held in the entire public agency except where the public agency proposes to contract with the department on behalf of a specified portion, or of specified portions, of the public agency, in which case the election shall be held in ~~such~~ the applicable portion or portions of the public agency only.

SEC. 37. Section 13417 of the Water Code is amended to read:

13417. The election shall be held in accordance with the following provisions:

(a) The procedure for holding an election on the incurring of bonded indebtedness by ~~such~~ the public agency shall be utilized for an election of the proposed contract as nearly as the same may be applicable. Where the law applicable to ~~such~~ the public agency does not contain ~~such a~~ bond election procedure, the procedure set forth in the Revenue Bond Law of 1941 (Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 54300) ~~of~~ Part ~~1, Division 2, 1 of Division 2 of~~ Title 5 of the Government Code), as it may now or hereafter be amended, shall be utilized as nearly as the same may be applicable.

(b) No particular form of ballot is required.

(c) The notice of the election shall include a statement of the time and place of the election, the purpose of the election, the general purpose of the contract, and the maximum amount of money to be borrowed from the state under the contract.

(d) The ballots for the election shall contain a brief statement of the general purpose of the contract substantially as stated in the notice of the ~~election~~, election and shall state the maximum amount of money to be borrowed from the state under the ~~contract, and shall contain the words "Execution of contract—Yes" and "Execution of contract—No."~~ contract. To the right of or below the statement of the proposition to be voted on, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

(e) The election shall be held in the entire public agency except where the public agency proposes to contract with the state board on behalf of a specified portion, or of specified portions of the public agency, in which case the election shall be held in ~~such~~ the applicable portion or portions of the public agency only.

SEC. 38. Section 21929 of the Water Code is amended to read:

21929. The ballots shall contain a general statement of the proposals to be voted on, including the amount of bonds proposed to be issued for each purpose, but ~~no~~

an informality in the statement shall not vitiate the election. ~~Each proposal shall be followed by the~~ To the right of or below each proposal, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate ~~lines with a small inclosed space after each of the two words:~~ lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 39. Section 21930 of the Water Code is repealed.

~~21930. On bond election ballots there shall be printed under the heading “Instructions to voters”: “To vote for a proposal, stamp a cross (+) in the voting space after the word “yes” following the proposal. To vote against a proposal, stamp a cross (+) in the voting space after the word “No” following the proposal.”~~

SEC. 40. Section 21930 is added to the Water Code, to read:

21930. Bond election ballots shall include instructions to voters that are consistent with the requirements of Section 13204 of the Elections Code.

SEC. 41. Section 21931 of the Water Code is amended to read:

21931. The voters shall vote for or against any proposal at a bond election by ~~stamping a cross (+) in the voting space after the word “Yes” or “No”~~ completely selecting the voting target next to either “Yes” or “No.” respectively.

SEC. 42. Section 22171 of the Water Code is amended to read:

22171. The board may in its discretion by resolution call an election to be held in the entire district or only in that portion of the district proposed to be served to determine whether ~~or not~~ the district should provide for sewage disposal service. The ballots shall contain the following statement of the proposal:

“Shall the ____ Irrigation District provide for sewage disposal, or acquire existing sewage disposal facilities, within that portion of its boundaries as hereinafter described not now provided with adequate sewage collection and disposal works.”

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the ballots of any district which is required to obtain the approval of the local agency formation commission before it may provide sewage disposal shall contain the following statement of the proposal:

“Shall the ____ Irrigation District provide for sewage disposal, or acquire existing sewage disposal facilities, within that portion of the district, and in the manner, set forth in the proposed application to the ____ Local Agency Formation Commission, dated ____, a copy of which application is on file in the office of the district.”

~~Such proposal shall be followed by the~~ To the right of or below the proposal, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate ~~lines with a small enclosed space after each of the two words:~~ lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 43. Section 22172 of the Water Code is repealed.

~~22172. The ballots shall have printed on them under the heading "Instructions to Voters": "To vote for a proposal stamp a cross (+) in the voting space after the word "Yes" following the proposal. To vote against a proposal, stamp a cross (+) in the voting space after the word "No" following the proposal."~~

SEC. 44. Section 22172 is added to the Water Code, to read:

22172. The ballots shall include instructions to voters that are consistent with the requirements of Section 13204 of the Elections Code.

SEC. 45. Section 22173 of the Water Code is amended to read:

~~22173. The voters shall vote for or against the proposal by stamping a cross (+) in the voting space after the word "Yes" or "No"~~ completely selecting the voting target next to either "Yes" or "No," respectively.

SEC. 46. Section 23224 of the Water Code is amended to read:

~~23224. The ballots at the election shall contain a brief statement of the general purpose of the contract substantially as stated in the notice of election and the extent of the obligation to be assumed with the words "Contract—Yes" and "Contract—No" or "Contract and bonds—Yes" and "Contract and bonds—No" whichever may be applicable:~~ assumed. To the right of or below the statement on the ballot, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 47. Section 25675 of the Water Code is repealed.

~~25675. At the election the ballots shall contain the words "Assessment—Yes" and "Assessment—No" or equivalent words:~~

SEC. 48. Section 25675 is added to the Water Code, to read:

25675. To the right of or below each question on the ballot, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 49. Section 25703 of the Water Code is repealed.

~~25703. At the election the ballots shall contain the words “Assessment—Yes” and “Assessment—No,” or equivalent words:~~

SEC. 50. Section 25703 is added to the Water Code, to read:

25703. To the right of or below each question on the ballot, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 51. Section 35520.15 of the Water Code is amended to read:

35520.15. When the secretary files the certificate as provided in Section 35520.11 or, if objections are raised, when the board approves the assessment as finally fixed as provided in Section 35520.14, the board shall call a special district election at which there shall be submitted to the electors of the district the question of whether ~~or not~~ the board shall be authorized to issue bonds secured by the benefit assessment ~~roll, which roll.~~ The election shall be held and conducted in the manner set forth in Section 35520.16. At the election, the ballots shall contain the words “Benefit Assessment Bonds—Yes” and “Benefit Assessment Bonds—No” or words equivalent thereto. To the right of or below each bond proposition on the ballot, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 52. Section 35520.19 of the Water Code is amended to read:

35520.19. If two-thirds or more of the votes are cast ~~for “Benefit Assessment Bonds—Yes,” the~~ in favor of the bonds, the board shall transmit a certified copy of the roll to the district tax collector. The charges assessed by the roll as certified as provided for by Section 35520.11, or as finally fixed as provided for by Section 35520.14, shall, upon recordation of a notice in each affected county in the manner specified in Section 3114 of the Streets and Highways Code, constitute a lien upon the land in each county which is prior to all other liens except city, county, and special district assessments or ad valorem taxes levied or assessed by or under statutory authority. The notice recorded pursuant to this section shall expressly provide that the lien is prior to all other liens except city, county, and special district assessments or ad valorem taxes.

SEC. 53. Section 35884 of the Water Code is amended to read:

35884. The ballots at the election shall contain a brief statement of the general purpose of the contract substantially as stated in the notice of election and the amount of money to be paid to the United States under the ~~contract with the words “Contract—Yes” and “Contract—No.”~~ contract. To the right of or below the statement on the ballot, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 54. Section 39931 of the Water Code is amended to read:

39931. On the ballots provided for the formation election shall be printed:

(a) ~~The words “Water storage district—Yes” and “Water storage district—No,” or words equivalent thereto.~~ To the right of or below the question on the ballot, the words “Yes” and “No” on separate lines, with voting targets.

(b) The names of persons to be voted for at the election.

SEC. 55. Section 42327 of the Water Code is repealed.

~~42327.~~ ~~The notice shall require ballots to be cast containing the words “Completion of project—Yes” and “Completion of project—No.”~~

SEC. 56. Section 45271 of the Water Code is repealed.

~~45271.~~ ~~The ballots cast at the election shall contain the words “Bonds—Yes” and the words “Bonds—No.”~~

SEC. 57. Section 45271 is added to the Water Code, to read:

45271. To the right of or below the question on the ballot, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 58. Section 45276 of the Water Code is amended to read:

45276. The county elections officials of the respective counties shall immediately upon receipt of the ballots, papers, and documents from the board of election certify to the board of directors at its office a statement of the result of the election held in each of the counties with a statement of the number of votes for the proposition ~~of “Bonds—Yes”~~ and opposed ~~“Bonds—No.”~~ to the proposition.

SEC. 59. Section 48255 of the Water Code is repealed.

~~48255.~~ ~~The ballots cast at the election shall contain the words “For change of boundary—Yes” and “For change of boundary—No.”~~

SEC. 60. Section 48255 is added to the Water Code, to read:

48255. To the right of or below the question on the ballot, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 61. Section 50976 of the Water Code is amended to read:

50976. The ballots at the election shall contain a brief statement of the general purpose

of the contract substantially as stated in the notice of election and the amount of money to be paid to the United States under the ~~contract with the words “Contract—Yes” and “Contract—No.”~~ contract. To the right of or below the statement, the words “yes” and “no” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 62. Section 60385 of the Water Code is amended to read:

60385. The measure so submitted at such election shall be stated on the ballot substantially as follows: “Shall ____ (giving the name or other designation of the territory proposed to be annexed, as stated in the notice of election) be annexed to ____ (name of water replenishment district) subject to the terms and conditions fixed by the board of directors of said district?” ~~At To~~ the right of ~~such proposition there shall be printed the~~ or below the proposition, the words “yes” and “no” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting ~~squares:~~ targets.

SEC. 63. Section 60414 of the Water Code is amended to read:

60414. Notice of ~~such~~ the election shall be published in the district pursuant to Section 6063 of the Government Code. Publication shall be complete at least ~~seven;~~ 7, but not more than 28, days prior to the date fixed for ~~such~~ the election. ~~Such The~~ notice shall describe the boundaries of the area so proposed to be excluded and shall ~~designate such~~ designate the area by some appropriate name, or other words of identification, by which ~~such~~ the area may be referred to and indicated upon the ballot to be used at any election at which the question of ~~such~~ the exclusion is submitted, as in this act provided. The measure so submitted at ~~such~~ the election shall be stated on the ballot substantially as follows:

“Shall ____ (giving the name or other designation of the area proposed to be excluded, as stated in the notice of election) be excluded from ____ (name of water replenishment district)?” ~~At To~~ the right of ~~such proposition there shall be printed the~~ or below the proposition, the words “yes” and “no” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting ~~squares:~~ targets.

SEC. 64. Section 74099 of the Water Code is amended to read:

74099. The board of supervisors shall require the clerk of the board to provide and furnish ballots for the formation election. No particular form of ballot shall be ~~required except that the ballot shall contain the words “Water conservation district—Yes” or “Water conservation district—No,” or words equivalent thereto, and shall~~ required. To the right of or below the question on the ballot, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets. The ballot shall also contain the names of candidates for the position of director of the district who shall have been endorsed by petitions to the board of supervisors in the manner prescribed in Section 74100.

SEC. 65. Section 74101 of the Water Code is amended to read:

74101. The ballots shall contain instructions that the voters shall ~~write, print, or stamp a cross after~~ completely select the voting target next to the words that indicate ~~his~~ the voter's choice.

SEC. 66. Section 74467 of the Water Code is amended to read:

74467. The election on the proposed redivision of the district shall be held in the same manner as elections for the formation of a district so far as applicable. No particular form of ballot shall be required except that the ballot shall contain the words "Water ~~Water~~—Shall Water Conservation District representation ~~to~~ be based on (population) (area) rather than on (area) (population) (and ~~Water~~ shall the number of Water Conservation District directors ~~to~~ be (increased (decreased) from to Yes No," or words equivalent thereto. ~~(increased) (decreased) from to~~)?" To the right of or below those words, the words "yes" and "no" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets. Any proposed redivision or change in number of directors shall become effective if a majority of the electors voting in the election vote "yes" ~~thereon~~: on the question.

SEC. 67. Section 74833 of the Water Code is amended to read:

74833. The ballots at the bond election shall contain ~~the words "Bonds—Yes," and "Bonds—No," or words of similar import, together with~~ a general statement of the amount and purpose of the bonds to be issued. To the right of or below the statement of the proposition to be voted on, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 68. Section 74850 of the Water Code is amended to read:

74850. If two-thirds of the votes cast upon the proposition at the bond election ~~are marked and counted "Bonds—Yes" or appear to~~ favor the proposition submitted, the proposition shall be deemed to have been accepted by the voters and to authorize the incurring of a bonded debt and the issuance of bonds in the amount of and for the purpose stated in the proposition.

SEC. 69. Section 75063 of the Water Code is amended to read:

75063. The ballots at the bond election shall contain ~~the words "Improvement District Bonds—Yes," and "Improvement District Bonds—No," or words of similar import, together with a general statement of the amount and purpose of the bonds to be issued.~~ a general statement of the amount and purpose of the bonds to be issued. To the right of or below the statement of the proposition to be voted on, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 70. Section 75065 of the Water Code is amended to read:

75065. If two-thirds of the votes cast upon the proposition ~~are marked and counted “Improvement District Bonds—Yes” or appear to~~ favor the proposition submitted, the proposition shall be deemed to have been accepted by the voters and to authorize the incurring of a bonded indebtedness and the issuance of bonds in the amount and for the purpose stated in the proposition.

SEC. 71. Section 75168.3 of the Water Code is repealed.

~~**75168.3.** At the election the ballot shall contain the words, “Transfer—Yes,” or “Transfer—No,” or words equivalent thereto:~~

SEC. 72. Section 75168.3 is added to the Water Code, to read:

75168.3. to the right of or below the question on the ballot, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 73. Section 75393 of the Water Code is repealed.

~~**75393.** At the election the ballots shall contain the words “Assessment—Yes” or “Assessment—No,” or words equivalent thereto:~~

SEC. 74. Section 75393 is added to the Water Code, to read:

75393. To the right of or below the question on the ballot, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 75. Section 75444 of the Water Code is amended to read:

75444. The ballots at the election shall contain ~~the words: “Project assessment—Yes,” and “Project assessment—No,” or words of similar import, together with~~ a general statement of the amount and purpose of the assessment to be levied. To the right of or below the statement of the proposition to be voted on, the words “Yes” and “No” shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

SEC. 76. Section 75936 of the Water Code is amended to read:

75936. the measure so submitted at such election shall be stated on the ballot substantially as follows: “Shall ____ (giving the name or other designation of the territory proposed to be annexed, as stated in the notice of election) be annexed to ____ (name of water conservation district) subject to the terms and conditions fixed

by the board of directors of said district?" ~~At To~~ the right of ~~such proposition there shall be printed the~~ or below the proposition, the words "yes" and "no" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting ~~squares~~ targets.

SEC. 77. Section 76042 of the Water Code is amended to read:

76042. The election shall be ~~noticed~~ noticed and conducted, and the returns ~~thereof of the election~~ made and canvassed, in the same manner as is provided for the formation ~~election except that the ballots to be used at the election shall contain the words, "Dissolution of district—Yes," or "Dissolution of district—No," or words equivalent thereto.~~ election. To the right of or below the question on the ballot, the words "Yes" and "No" shall be printed on separate lines, with voting targets.

POST ELECTION PERIOD

Elections: official canvass

Assembly Bill No. 5, Berman. (Chapter 250)

Existing law requires elections officials to commence the canvass for an election no later than the Thursday following the election and to make the canvass open to the public. Existing law requires the canvass to be continued daily, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excepted, for not less than six hours each day until completed. Existing law requires elections officials to prepare a certified statement of the results of the election within 30 days of the election and to send the Secretary of State a complete copy of all election results within 31 days of the election. Existing law requires the Secretary of State to prepare, certify, and file a statement of the vote no later than the 38th day after the election.

This bill would require elections officials, on or before the 13th day following an election, to finish counting all ballots, with certain exceptions, including provisional ballots and ballots for which the voter must either verify or provide a signature, and release a vote count for those ballots. If an elections official will not meet that deadline, they would be required to file a notice of extension, including the reason for the extension, with the Secretary of State. By increasing the duties of county elections officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the

bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

SECTION 1. Section 15307 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

15307. (a) On or before the 13th day following the election, an elections official shall finish counting all ballots, except those described in subdivision (b), and shall release the vote count for those ballots.

(b) The requirement to finish counting all ballots and release the vote count for those ballots on or before the 13th day following the election does not apply to any of the following:

(1) A duplicate ballot prepared pursuant to Section 15210 or subdivision (c) of Section 3106.

(2) A vote by mail ballot that is forwarded to the county elections official who issued the ballot pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 3017.

(3) A vote by mail ballot for which a voter has the opportunity either to verify a signature pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 3019 or to provide a signature pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 3019.

(4) A provisional ballot.

(5) A ballot cast by a person who completes a conditional voter registration pursuant to Article 4.5 (commencing with Section 2170) of Chapter 2 of Division 2.

(6) A ballot received by an elections official after the fourth day following the election.

(c) If an elections official will not meet the deadline set forth in subdivision (a), the elections official shall file a notice of extension with the Secretary of State and include the reason for the extension. Both the Secretary of State and the elections official shall post the extension filing on their respective websites.

(d) Nothing in this section alters the statutory obligations imposed by Sections 3019, 15320, 15321, and 15342 regarding counties completing their respective vote canvasses.

SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

Voting: signature verification**Assembly Bill No. 827, Berman. (Chapter 827)**

(1) Existing law requires an elections official who receives a vote by mail ballot to compare the signature on the identification envelope with the signature in the voter's registration record. If the signature does not compare, or if the identification envelope is missing the signature, the elections official must provide notice to the voter no later than 8 days before certification of the election of the voter's opportunity to verify their signature. The voter may verify their signature no later than 5 p.m. 2 days before certification of the election, including, if applicable, by providing their signature on an unsigned identification statement.

This bill would reduce those deadlines for a regularly scheduled statewide election to no later than 14 calendar days after the election for the elections official to provide notice, and no later than 5 p.m. 22 calendar days after the election for the voter to verify their signature. For an election that is not a regularly scheduled statewide election, the bill would reduce those deadlines to 8 calendar days before certification of the election for the elections official to provide notice, and no later than 5 p.m. 2 calendar days before certification of the election for the voter to verify their signature. The bill would permit an elections official to use a vote by mail ballot drop box to receive the form used by the voter to verify their signature pursuant to these provisions. The bill would require an elections official who receives a completed unsigned identification statement that is not timely submitted to compare the signatures and, if the signatures compare, add the signature to the voter's registration record for use in future elections.

(2) Existing law requires the official canvass of an election to commence no later than the Thursday following the election, as specified, and to continue daily, with the exception of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, for not less than 6 hours each day until completed.

This bill would specify that if the only ballots left to count are those for which a voter has been provided, or will be provided, the opportunity to verify or to provide their signature, and the elections official does not need to conduct the official canvas for at least 6 hours per day in order to meet the deadline for certification of the results, then the canvass may be conducted for fewer than 6 hours per day until completed.

(3) This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 2194 of the Elections Code proposed by AB 1392 to be operative only if this bill and AB 1392 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

The bill would also incorporate additional changes to Section 3019 of the Elections Code proposed by SB 3 to be operative only if this bill and SB 3 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

(4) By imposing new duties on local elections officials, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

SECTION 1. Section 2194 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

2194. (a) Except as provided in Section 2194.1, the affidavit of voter registration information identified in Section 7924.000 of the Government Code:

(1) Shall be confidential and shall not appear on any computer terminal, list, affidavit, duplicate affidavit, or other medium routinely available to the public at the county elections official's office.

(2) Shall not be used for any personal, private, or commercial purpose, including, but not limited to:

(A) The harassment of any voter or voter's household.

(B) The advertising, solicitation, sale, or marketing of products or services to any voter or voter's household.

(C) Reproduction in print, broadcast visual or audio, or display on the internet or any computer terminal unless pursuant to paragraph (3).

(3) Shall be provided with respect to any voter, subject to the provisions of Sections 2166, 2166.5, 2166.7, 2166.8, and 2188, to any candidate for federal, state, or local office, to any committee for or against any initiative or referendum measure for which legal publication is made, and to any person for election, scholarly, journalistic, or political purposes, or for governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State.

(4) May be used by the Secretary of State for the purpose of educating voters pursuant to Section 12173 of the Government Code.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, the California driver's license number, the California identification card number, the social security number, and any other unique identifier used by the State of California for purposes of voter identification shown on the affidavit of voter registration of a registered voter, or added to voter registration records to comply with the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.), are confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person.

(2) Notwithstanding any other law, the signature of the voter shown on the affidavit of

voter registration or an image thereof is confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person, except as provided in subdivision (c).

(c) (1) The home address or signature of any voter shall be released whenever the person's vote is challenged pursuant to Sections 15105 to 15108, inclusive, or Article 3 (commencing with Section 14240) of Chapter 3 of Division 14. The address or signature shall be released only to the challenger, to elections officials, and to other persons as necessary to make, defend against, or adjudicate the challenge.

(2) An elections official shall permit a person to view the signature of a voter for the purpose of determining whether the signature compares with a signature on an affidavit of registration or an image thereof or a petition but shall not permit a signature to be copied.

(d) A governmental entity, or officer or employee thereof, shall not be held civilly liable as a result of disclosure of the information referred to in this section, unless by a showing of gross negligence or willfulness.

(e) For the purposes of this section, "voter's household" is defined as the voter's place of residence or mailing address or any persons who reside at the place of residence or use the mailing address as supplied on the affidavit of registration pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 2150.

(f) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, information regarding voters who did not sign a vote by mail ballot identification envelope or whose signature on the vote by mail ballot identification envelope did not compare with the voter's signature on file shall be treated as confidential voter registration information pursuant to this section and Section 7924.000 of the Government Code. This information shall be provided with respect to any voter, subject to the provisions of Sections 2166, 2166.5, 2166.7, 2166.8, and 2188, to any candidate for federal, state, or local office, to any committee for or against any initiative or referendum measure for which legal publication is made, and to any person for election, scholarly, journalistic, or political purposes, or for governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State, but otherwise shall not be disclosed to any person. Any disclosure of this information shall be accompanied by a notice to the recipient regarding Sections 18109 and 18540. ~~Voter information provided pursuant to this subdivision shall be updated daily, include the name of the voter, and be provided in a searchable electronic format.~~

(2) Voter information provided pursuant to this subdivision shall be updated daily, include the name of the voter, and be provided in a searchable electronic format. The daily update shall also include, as applicable, information regarding whether a form has been received from the voter to verify their signature pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 3019, whether a form has been received or the voter has otherwise provided a signature pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 3019, and whether the signature provided pursuant to subdivision (d) or (e) of Section 3019 did or did not compare.

SEC. 1.5. Section 2194 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

2194. (a) Except as provided in Section 2194.1, the affidavit of voter registration information identified in Section 7924.000 of the Government Code:

(1) Shall be confidential and shall not appear on any computer terminal, list, affidavit, duplicate affidavit, or other medium routinely available to the public at the county elections official's office.

(2) Shall not be used for any personal, private, or commercial purpose, including, but not limited to:

(A) The harassment of any voter or voter's household.

(B) The advertising, solicitation, sale, or marketing of products or services to any voter or voter's household.

(C) Reproduction in print, broadcast visual or audio, or display on the internet or any computer terminal unless pursuant to paragraph (3).

(3) Shall be provided with respect to any voter, subject to the provisions of Sections 2166, 2166.5, 2166.7, 2166.8, [2166.9](#), and 2188, to any candidate for federal, state, or local office, to any committee for or against any initiative or referendum measure for which legal publication is made, and to any person for election, scholarly, journalistic, or political purposes, or for governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State.

(4) May be used by the Secretary of State for the purpose of educating voters pursuant to Section 12173 of the Government Code.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, the California driver's license number, the California identification card number, the social security number, and any other unique identifier used by the State of California for purposes of voter identification shown on the affidavit of voter registration of a registered voter, or added to voter registration records to comply with the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.), are confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person.

(2) Notwithstanding any other law, the signature of the voter shown on the affidavit of voter registration or an image thereof is confidential and shall not be disclosed to any person, except as provided in subdivision (c).

(c) (1) The home address or signature of any voter shall be released whenever the person's vote is challenged pursuant to Sections 15105 to 15108, inclusive, or Article 3 (commencing with Section 14240) of Chapter 3 of Division 14. The address or signature shall be released only to the challenger, to elections officials, and to other persons as necessary to make, defend against, or adjudicate the challenge.

(2) An elections official shall permit a person to view the signature of a voter for the purpose of determining whether the signature compares with a signature on an affidavit of registration or an image thereof or a petition, but shall not permit a signature to be copied.

(d) A governmental entity, or officer or employee thereof, shall not be held civilly liable as a result of disclosure of the information referred to in this section, unless by a showing of gross negligence or willfulness.

(e) For the purposes of this section, “voter’s household” is defined as the voter’s place of residence or mailing address or any persons who reside at the place of residence or use the mailing address as supplied on the affidavit of registration pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 2150.

(f) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, information regarding voters who did not sign a vote by mail ballot identification envelope or whose signature on the vote by mail ballot identification envelope did not compare with the voter’s signature on file shall be treated as confidential voter registration information pursuant to this section and Section 7924.000 of the Government Code. This information shall be provided with respect to any voter, subject to the provisions of Sections 2166, 2166.5, 2166.7, 2166.8, 2166.9, and 2188, to any candidate for federal, state, or local office, to any committee for or against any initiative or referendum measure for which legal publication is made, and to any person for election, scholarly, journalistic, or political purposes, or for governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State, but otherwise shall not be disclosed to any person. Any disclosure of this information shall be accompanied by a notice to the recipient regarding Sections 18109 and 18540. ~~Voter information provided pursuant to this subdivision shall be updated daily, include the name of the voter, and be provided in a searchable electronic format.~~

(2) Voter information provided pursuant to this subdivision shall be updated daily, include the name of the voter, and be provided in a searchable electronic format. The daily update shall also include, as applicable, information regarding whether a form has been received from the voter to verify their signature pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 3019, whether a form has been received or the voter has otherwise provided a signature pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 3019, and whether the signature provided pursuant to subdivision (d) or (e) of Section 3019 did or did not compare.

SEC. 2. Section 3019 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

3019. (a) (1) Upon receiving a vote by mail ballot, the elections official shall compare the signature on the identification envelope with either of the following to determine if the signatures compare:

(A) The signature appearing on the voter’s affidavit of registration or any previous affidavit of registration of the voter.

(B) The signature appearing on a form issued by an elections official that contains the voter’s signature and that is part of the voter’s registration record.

(2) All of the following apply to the comparison of signatures pursuant to this section, including the comparison of a voter’s signature on a signature verification statement, an unsigned identification envelope statement, or a combined vote by mail ballot signature verification statement and unsigned identification envelope statement, with

the signature that is part of the voter's registration record:

(A) A presumption exists that the signature on the identification envelope, signature verification statement, unsigned identification envelope statement, or provisional ballot envelope is the voter's signature.

(B) An exact match is not required for an elections official to determine that a voter's signature is valid. The fact that signatures share similar characteristics is sufficient to determine that a signature is valid.

(C) Except as provided in subparagraph (D), the elections official shall consider explanations for discrepancies between signatures that are specified in regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State. For purposes of this subparagraph, explanations include a variation in signature style over time and the haste with which a signature is written.

(D) When comparing signatures, an elections official shall not review or consider a voter's party preference, race, or ethnicity.

(E) The elections official may consider characteristics of the written signature that are specified in regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State. For purposes of this subparagraph, characteristics include the slant of the signature, letter formation, and whether the signature is printed or written in cursive.

(F) The elections official may use facsimiles of voters' signatures, provided that the method of preparing and displaying the facsimiles complies with the law.

(G) In comparing signatures pursuant to this section, an elections official may use signature verification technology. If signature verification technology determines that the signatures do not compare, the signature is subject to the additional procedures described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c).

(H) The variation of a signature caused by the substitution of initials for the first or middle name, or both, is not grounds for the elections official to determine that the signatures do not compare.

(I) A signature made using a mark such as an "X," or made by a signature stamp, shall be presumed valid and shall be accepted if the signature meets the requirements of Section 354.5.

(b) If upon conducting the comparison of signatures pursuant to subdivision (a) the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the elections official shall deposit the ballot, still in the identification envelope, in a ballot container in the elections official's office.

(c) (1) If upon conducting the comparison of signatures pursuant to subdivision (a) the elections official determines that the signature possesses multiple, significant, and obvious differing characteristics when compared to all signatures in the voter's registration record, the signature is subject to the additional procedures described in paragraph (2).

(2) If the elections official makes the determination described in paragraph (1), the signature shall be rejected only if two additional elections officials each find beyond a reasonable doubt that the signature differs in multiple, significant, and obvious respects from all signatures in the voter's registration record. If the officials determine that the signatures do not compare, the identification envelope shall not be opened and the ballot shall not be counted. The elections official shall write the cause of the rejection on the face of the identification envelope only after completing the procedures described in subdivision (d).

(d) (1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (E), on or before the next business day after a determination that a voter's signature does not compare pursuant to subdivision (c), but not later than ~~eight days prior to the certification of~~ the applicable notification deadline after the election, the elections official shall send by first-class mail notice to the voter of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of the~~ on the day of the applicable receipt deadline after the election. The notice shall include a return envelope, with postage paid, for the voter to return a signature verification statement.

(B) If an elections official has a telephone number or email address on file for a voter whose signature does not compare pursuant to subdivision (c), the elections official shall notify the voter by telephone, a text message, or email of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature. If an elections official calls the voter and the voter does not answer, the elections official shall attempt to leave a voicemail message.

(C) Unless required pursuant to Section 3026, the elections official may send additional written notices to a voter identified pursuant to subdivision (c), and may also notify the voter in person or by other means of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature.

(D) Unless required pursuant to Section 3026, the elections official may use any information in a county's election management system, or otherwise in the elections official's possession, for the purpose of notifying the voter of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature.

(E) If it is impracticable under the circumstances for the elections official to send the notice described in subparagraph (A) on or before the next business day, including in the event of technological failure, the elections official shall send the notice as soon as practicable, but not later than ~~eight days prior to the certification of~~ the applicable notification deadline after the election.

(2) The notice and instructions shall be in substantially the following ~~form:~~ form. The elections official shall insert the date of the applicable receipt deadline after the election where indicated on the form.

“READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE YOUR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.

1. We have determined that the signature you provided on your vote by mail ballot does not compare with the signature(s) on file in your voter record. In order to ensure that your vote by mail ballot will be counted, the signature verification statement must be completed and returned as soon as possible.
2. The signature verification statement must be received by the elections official of the county where you are registered to vote no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to certification of the election.~~ on [elections official to insert date of the applicable receipt deadline after the election].
3. You must sign your name where specified on the signature verification statement (Voter’s Signature).
4. Place the signature verification statement into the postage-paid return envelope if it is included with these instructions. If a return envelope is not included with these instructions, use your own mailing envelope addressed to your local elections official. Mail, deliver, or have the completed statement delivered to the elections official. If you mail your completed statement using your own envelope, be sure there is sufficient postage and that the address of the elections official is correct.
5. If you do not wish to send the signature verification statement by mail or have it delivered, you may submit your completed statement by email or facsimile transmission to your local elections official, or by other electronic means made available by your local elections official, or submit your completed statement to a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box before the close of the polls on election day.”

(3) The notice and instructions shall be translated in all languages required in that county by Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10503).

(4) The elections official shall not reject a vote by mail ballot identified pursuant to subdivision (c) if each of the following conditions ~~is~~ are satisfied:

(A) The voter delivers, in person, by mail, by fax, by email, or by other means, a signature verification statement signed by the voter and the elections official receives the statement no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of the~~ on the day of the applicable receipt deadline after the election, or the voter, before the close of the polls on election day, completes and submits a signature verification statement to a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box.

(B) Upon receipt of the signature verification statement, the elections official shall compare the signature on the statement with the signature on file in the voter's record. The elections official shall not delay the comparison until later in the canvass.

(i) If upon conducting the comparison of signatures the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the elections official shall deposit the ballot, still in the identification envelope, in a ballot container in the elections official's office.

(ii) If, under the standards and procedures of subdivision (c), a determination is made that the signatures do not compare, the identification envelope shall not be opened and the ballot shall not be counted. The elections official shall write the cause of the rejection on the face of the identification envelope.

(5) The signature verification statement shall be in substantially the following form and may be included on the same page as the notice and instructions specified in paragraph (2):

"SIGNATURE VERIFICATION STATEMENT
I, am a registered voter of _____ County,
State of California. I declare under penalty of perjury that I received and returned a vote by mail ballot. I am a resident of the precinct in which I have voted, and I am the person whose name appears on the vote by mail ballot envelope. I understand that if I commit or attempt any fraud in connection with voting, or if I aid or abet fraud or attempt to aid or abet fraud in connection with voting, I may be convicted of a felony punishable by imprisonment for 16 months or two or three years. I understand that my failure to sign this statement means that my vote by mail ballot will be invalidated.
Voter's Signature
Address"

(6) If the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the official shall use the signature in the signature verification statement, even if returned untimely, to update the voter's signature for future ~~elections~~: elections, including updating the signature database.

(e) (1) (A) Notwithstanding any other law, if an elections official determines that a voter has failed to sign the identification envelope, the elections official shall not reject the vote by mail ballot if the voter does any of the following:

(i) Signs the identification envelope at the office of the elections official during regular

business hours no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of~~ the on the day of the applicable receipt deadline after the election.

(ii) No later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of the~~ on the day of the applicable receipt deadline after the election, completes and submits an unsigned identification envelope statement in substantially the following form:

“UNSIGNED IDENTIFICATION ENVELOPE STATEMENT
I,, am a registered voter of _____ County,
State of California. I declare under penalty of perjury that I received and returned a vote by mail ballot and that I have not and will not vote more than one ballot in this election. I am a resident of the precinct in which I have voted, and I am the person whose name appears on the vote by mail ballot envelope. I understand that if I commit or attempt any fraud in connection with voting, or if I aid or abet fraud or attempt to aid or abet fraud in connection with voting, I may be convicted of a felony punishable by imprisonment for 16 months or two or three years. I understand that my failure to sign this statement means that my vote by mail ballot will be invalidated.
Voter’s Signature
Address”

(iii) Before the close of the polls on election day, completes and submits an unsigned identification envelope statement, in the form described in clause (ii), to a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box.

(B) (i) Except as provided in clause (v), or before the next business day after discovering that a voter has failed to sign the identification envelope, but not later than ~~eight days prior to the certification of~~ the applicable notification deadline after the election, the elections official shall send by first-class mail notice and instructions to the voter of the opportunity to provide a signature no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of the~~ on the day of the applicable receipt deadline after the election. The notice shall include a return envelope, with postage paid, for the voter to return the unsigned identification envelope statement.

(ii) If an elections official has a telephone number or email address on file for a voter who has failed to sign the identification envelope, the elections official shall notify the voter by telephone, a text message, or email of the opportunity to provide a signature. If an elections official calls the voter and the voter does not answer, the elections official shall attempt to leave a voicemail message.

(iii) Unless required pursuant to Section 3026, the elections official may send additional

written notices to a voter identified pursuant to this subdivision, and may also notify the voter in person or by other means of the opportunity to provide a signature.

(iv) Unless required pursuant to Section 3026, the elections official may use any information in the county's election management system, or otherwise in the elections official's possession, for the purpose of notifying the voter of the opportunity to provide a signature.

(v) If it is impracticable under the circumstances for the elections official to send the notice described in clause (i) on or before the next business day, including in the event of technological failure, the elections official shall send the notice as soon as practicable, but not later than ~~eight days prior to the certification of~~ the applicable notification deadline after the election.

(C) If timely submitted, the elections official shall accept any completed unsigned identification envelope statement. Upon receipt of the unsigned identification envelope statement, the elections official shall compare the voter's signature on the statement in the manner provided by this section. The elections official shall not delay the comparison until later in the canvass.

(i) If the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the elections official shall attach the unsigned identification envelope statement to the identification envelope and deposit the ballot, still in the identification envelope, in a ballot container in the elections official's office.

(ii) If, under the standards and procedures of subdivision (c), a determination is made that the signatures do not compare, the identification envelope shall not be opened and the elections official shall provide notice to the voter pursuant to subdivisions (c) and (d).

(D) An elections official may use methods other than those described in subparagraph (A) to obtain a voter's signature on an unsigned identification envelope statement.

(E) If the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the official shall use the signature in the unsigned identification envelope statement, even if returned untimely, to update the voter's signature for future elections, including updating the signature database.

(2) Instructions shall accompany the unsigned identification envelope statement in substantially the following ~~form:~~ form. The elections official shall insert the date of the applicable receipt deadline after the election where indicated on the form.

“READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THE STATEMENT. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE YOUR BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.

1. In order to ensure that your vote by mail ballot will be counted, your statement should be completed and returned as soon as possible, but no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of the election;~~ on [elections official to insert date of the applicable receipt deadline after the election].
2. You must sign your name on the line above (Voter’s Signature).
3. Place the statement into the postage-paid return envelope if it is included with these instructions. If a return envelope is not included with these instructions, use your own mailing envelope addressed to your local elections official. Mail, deliver, or have delivered the completed statement to the elections official. If you mail your completed statement using your own envelope, be sure there is sufficient postage and that the address of the elections official is correct.
4. If you do not wish to send the statement by mail or have it delivered, you may submit your completed statement by facsimile or email transmission to your local elections official, or by other electronic means made available by your local elections official, or submit your completed statement to a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box before the close of the polls on election day.”

(3) The notice and instructions shall be translated in all languages required in that county by Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10503).

(f) An elections official shall include a single, combined vote by mail ballot signature verification statement and unsigned ballot identification envelope statement, along with the instructions provided in this section for the completion of the statement, on the elections official’s internet website and shall provide the elections official’s mailing address, email address, and facsimile transmission number on the internet ~~web-page~~ webpage containing the statement and instructions. The elections official shall accept the combined statement from a voter for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) or subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e). An elections official may mail the combined statement to a voter pursuant to subdivision (d) or (e) in lieu of the signature verification statement or unsigned ballot identification envelope statement.

(g) A local elections official offering other electronic means for submission of a statement described in this section shall establish appropriate privacy and security protocols that ensure that the information transmitted is received directly and securely by the elections official and is only used for the stated purposes of verifying the signature on the voter’s ballot.

(h) A ballot shall not be removed from its identification envelope until the time for processing ballots. A ballot shall not be rejected for cause after the identification envelope has been opened.

(i) For purposes of this section, “certification of the election” means the date the particular elections official submits a certified statement of the results of the election to the governing body pursuant to Section 15372, even if that occurs before the deadline to submit the certified statement of the election results set forth in Section 15372.

(j) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) For a regularly scheduled statewide election, “applicable notification deadline” means 14 calendar days after the election and “applicable receipt deadline” means 22 calendar days after the election.

(2) For an election that is not a regularly scheduled statewide election, “applicable notification deadline” means eight calendar days before certification of the election and “applicable receipt deadline” means two calendar days before certification of the election.

~~(j)~~ *(k)* In comparing signatures pursuant to this section, including when using signature verification software or other technology, an elections official shall adhere to all applicable regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State.

~~(k)~~ *(l)* An elections official is authorized to use contact information provided on a voter’s affidavit of registration to contact a voter for purposes consistent with this section.

(m) An elections official that places a vote by mail ballot drop box, as defined in Section 3025, at their office location to receive ballots, shall also use that drop box after the election in order to receive the form by which the voter provides a signature pursuant to subdivision (d) or (e), as applicable, provided that the drop box used after the election contains a clear and conspicuous label that it is to be used for this limited purpose and not for acceptance of late ballots.

(n) Notwithstanding Section 15 or any other law, if the last day for the performance of any act provided for or required by this section is a holiday, as defined in Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, the deadline to perform the act shall not be continued to the next business day.

SEC. 2.5. Section 3019 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

3019. (a) (1) Upon receiving a vote by mail ballot, the elections official shall compare the signature on the identification envelope with either of the following to determine if the signatures compare:

(A) The signature appearing on the voter’s affidavit of registration or any previous affidavit of registration of the voter.

(B) The signature appearing on a form issued by an elections official that contains the

voter's signature and that is part of the voter's registration record.

(2) All of the following apply to the comparison of signatures pursuant to this section, including the comparison of a voter's signature on a signature verification statement, an unsigned identification envelope statement, or a combined vote by mail ballot signature verification statement and unsigned identification envelope statement, with the signature that is part of the voter's registration record:

(A) A presumption exists that the signature on the identification envelope, signature verification statement, unsigned identification envelope statement, or provisional ballot envelope is the voter's ~~signature~~: signature and that the vote will be counted.

(B) An exact match is not required for an elections official to determine that a voter's signature is valid. The fact that signatures share similar characteristics is sufficient to determine that a signature is valid.

(C) Except as provided in subparagraph (D), the elections official shall consider explanations for discrepancies between signatures that are specified in regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State. For purposes of this subparagraph, explanations include a variation in signature style over time and the haste with which a signature is written.

(D) When comparing signatures, an elections official shall not review or consider a ~~voter's party preference, race, or ethnicity~~: any of the following:

(i) A voter's party preference, race, or ethnicity.

(ii) A voter's identifying information including gender, name, or address, except to confirm the identity of the voter.

(iii) The amount of time spent reviewing a signature.

(E) The elections official may consider characteristics of the written signature that are specified in regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State. For purposes of this subparagraph, characteristics include the slant of the signature, letter formation, and whether the signature is printed or written in cursive.

(F) The elections official may use facsimiles of voters' signatures, provided that the method of preparing and displaying the facsimiles complies with the law.

(G) In comparing signatures pursuant to this section, an elections official may use signature verification technology. If signature verification technology determines that the signatures do not compare, the signature is subject to the additional procedures described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c).

(H) The variation of a signature caused by the substitution of initials for the first or middle name, or both, is not grounds for the elections official to determine that the signatures do not compare.

(I) A signature made using a mark such as an "X," or made by a signature stamp, shall

be presumed valid and shall be accepted if the signature meets the requirements of Section 354.5.

(b) If upon conducting the comparison of signatures pursuant to subdivision (a) the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the elections official shall deposit the ballot, still in the identification envelope, in a ballot container in the elections official's office.

(c) (1) If upon conducting the comparison of signatures pursuant to subdivision (a) the elections official determines that the signature possesses multiple, significant, and obvious differing characteristics when compared to all signatures in the voter's registration record, the signature is subject to the additional procedures described in paragraph (2).

(2) If the elections official makes the determination described in paragraph (1), the signature shall be rejected only if two additional elections officials each find beyond a reasonable doubt that the signature differs in multiple, significant, and obvious respects from all signatures in the voter's registration record. If the officials determine that the signatures do not compare, the identification envelope shall not be opened and the ballot shall not be counted. The elections official shall write the cause of the rejection on the face of the identification envelope only after completing the procedures described in subdivision (d).

(d) (1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (E), on or before the next business day after a determination pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) that a voter's signature does not compare pursuant to subdivision (c), but not later than ~~eight days prior to the certification of~~ the applicable notification deadline after the election, the elections official shall send by first-class mail notice to the voter of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of the~~ on the day of the applicable receipt deadline after the election. The notice shall include a return envelope, with postage paid, for the voter to return a signature verification statement.

(B) If an elections official has a telephone number or email address on file for a voter whose signature does not compare pursuant to subdivision (c), the elections official shall notify the voter by telephone, a text message, or email of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature. If an elections official calls the voter and the voter does not answer, the elections official shall attempt to leave a voicemail message.

(C) Unless required pursuant to Section 3026, the elections official may send additional written notices to a voter identified pursuant to subdivision (c), and may also notify the voter in person or by other means of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature.

(D) Unless required pursuant to Section 3026, the elections official may use any information in a county's election management system, or otherwise in the elections official's possession, for the purpose of notifying the voter of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature.

(E) If it is impracticable under the circumstances for the elections official to send the

notice described in subparagraph (A) on or before the next business day, including in the event of technological failure, the elections official shall send the notice as soon as practicable, but not later than ~~eight days prior to the certification of~~ the applicable notification deadline after the election.

(2) The notice and instructions shall be in substantially the following ~~form:~~ form. The elections official shall insert the date of the applicable receipt deadline after the election where indicated on the form.

“READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE YOUR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.

1. We have determined that the signature you provided on your vote by mail ballot does not compare with the signature(s) on file in your voter record. In order to ensure that your vote by mail ballot will be counted, the signature verification statement must be completed and returned as soon as possible.

2. The signature verification statement must be received by the elections official of the county where you are registered to vote no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to certification of the election.~~ on [elections official to insert date of the applicable receipt deadline after the election].

3. You must sign your name where specified on the signature verification statement (Voter’s Signature).

4. Place the signature verification statement into the postage-paid return envelope if it is included with these instructions. If a return envelope is not included with these instructions, use your own mailing envelope addressed to your local elections official. Mail, deliver, or have the completed statement delivered to the elections official. If you mail your completed statement using your own envelope, be sure there is sufficient postage and that the address of the elections official is correct.

5. If you do not wish to send the signature verification statement by mail or have it delivered, you may submit your completed statement by email or facsimile transmission to your local elections official, or by other electronic means made available by your local elections official, or submit your completed statement to a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box before the close of the polls on election day.”

(3) The notice and instructions shall be translated in all languages required in that county by Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10503).

(4) The elections official shall not reject a vote by mail ballot identified pursuant to subdivision (c) if each of the following conditions ~~is~~ are satisfied:

(A) The voter delivers, in person, by mail, by fax, by email, or by other means, a signature verification statement signed by the voter and the elections official receives the statement no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of the~~ on the day of the applicable receipt deadline after the election, or the voter, before the close of the polls on election day, completes and submits a signature verification statement to a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box.

(B) Upon receipt of the signature verification statement, the elections official shall compare the signature on the statement with the signature on file in the voter's record. The elections official shall not delay the comparison until later in the canvass.

(i) If upon conducting the comparison of signatures the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the elections official shall deposit the ballot, still in the identification envelope, in a ballot container in the elections official's office.

(ii) If, under the standards and procedures of subdivision (c), a determination is made that the signatures do not compare, the identification envelope shall not be opened and the ballot shall not be counted. The elections official shall write the cause of the rejection on the face of the identification envelope.

(5) The signature verification statement shall be in substantially the following form and may be included on the same page as the notice and instructions specified in paragraph (2):

"SIGNATURE VERIFICATION STATEMENT"
I,, am a registered voter of _____ County,
State of California. I declare under penalty of perjury that I received and returned a vote by mail ballot. I am a resident of the precinct in which I have voted, and I am the person whose name appears on the vote by mail ballot envelope. I understand that if I commit or attempt any fraud in connection with voting, or if I aid or abet fraud or attempt to aid or abet fraud in connection with voting, I may be convicted of a felony punishable by imprisonment for 16 months or two or three years. I understand that my failure to sign this statement means that my vote by mail ballot will be invalidated.
Voter's Signature
Address"

(6) If the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the official shall

use the signature in the signature verification statement, even if returned untimely, to update the voter's signature for future ~~elections~~. elections, including updating the signature database.

(7) A voter may work with a nongovernmental entity to complete the requirements of this subdivision.

(8) The signature verification statement shall contain, where the voter signs, a statement that the county elections official is required to compare the voter's signature appearing on the signature verification statement with the signatures appearing in the voter's registration record, which may include the signature appearing on the voter's driver's license or state identification card.

(e) (1) (A) Notwithstanding any other law, if an elections official determines that a voter has failed to sign the identification envelope, the elections official shall not reject the vote by mail ballot if the voter does any of the following:

(i) Signs the identification envelope at the office of the elections official during regular business hours no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of the~~ on the day of the applicable receipt deadline after the election.

(ii) No later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of the~~ on the day of the applicable receipt deadline after the election, completes and submits an unsigned identification envelope statement in substantially the following form:

"UNSIGNED IDENTIFICATION ENVELOPE STATEMENT"
I,, am a registered voter of _____ County,
State of California. I declare under penalty of perjury that I received and returned a vote by mail ballot and that I have not and will not vote more than one ballot in this election. I am a resident of the precinct in which I have voted, and I am the person whose name appears on the vote by mail ballot envelope. I understand that if I commit or attempt any fraud in connection with voting, or if I aid or abet fraud or attempt to aid or abet fraud in connection with voting, I may be convicted of a felony punishable by imprisonment for 16 months or two or three years. I understand that my failure to sign this statement means that my vote by mail ballot will be invalidated.
Voter's Signature
Address"

(iii) Before the close of the polls on election day, completes and submits an unsigned identification envelope statement, in the form described in clause (ii), to a polling place

within the county or a ballot dropoff box.

(B) (i) Except as provided in clause (v), or before the next business day after discovering that a voter has failed to sign the identification envelope, but not later than ~~eight days prior to the certification of~~ the applicable notification deadline after the election, the elections official shall send by first-class mail notice and instructions to the voter of the opportunity to provide a signature no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of the~~ on the day of the applicable receipt deadline after the election. The notice shall include a return envelope, with postage paid, for the voter to return the unsigned identification envelope statement.

(ii) If an elections official has a telephone number or email address on file for a voter who has failed to sign the identification envelope, the elections official shall notify the voter by telephone, a text message, or email of the opportunity to provide a signature. If an elections official calls the voter and the voter does not answer, the elections official shall attempt to leave a voicemail message.

(iii) Unless required pursuant to Section 3026, the elections official may send additional written notices to a voter identified pursuant to this subdivision, and may also notify the voter in person or by other means of the opportunity to provide a signature.

(iv) Unless required pursuant to Section 3026, the elections official may use any information in the county's election management system, or otherwise in the elections official's possession, for the purpose of notifying the voter of the opportunity to provide a signature.

(v) If it is impracticable under the circumstances for the elections official to send the notice described in clause (i) on or before the next business day, including in the event of technological failure, the elections official shall send the notice as soon as practicable, but not later than ~~eight days prior to the certification of~~ the applicable notification deadline after the election.

(C) If timely submitted, the elections official shall accept any completed unsigned identification envelope statement. Upon receipt of the unsigned identification envelope statement, the elections official shall compare the voter's signature on the statement in the manner provided by this section. The elections official shall not delay the comparison until later in the canvass.

(i) If the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the elections official shall attach the unsigned identification envelope statement to the identification envelope and deposit the ballot, still in the identification envelope, in a ballot container in the elections official's office.

(ii) If, under the standards and procedures of subdivision (c), a determination is made that the signatures do not compare, the identification envelope shall not be opened and the elections official shall provide notice to the voter pursuant to subdivisions (c) and (d).

(D) An elections official may use methods other than those described in subparagraph

(A) to obtain a voter's signature on an unsigned identification envelope statement.

(E) If the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the official shall use the signature in the unsigned identification envelope statement, even if returned untimely, to update the voter's signature for future elections, including updating the signature database.

(2) Instructions shall accompany the unsigned identification envelope statement in substantially the following ~~form~~: form. The elections official shall insert the date of the applicable receipt deadline after the election where indicated on the form.

“READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THE STATEMENT. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE YOUR BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.

1. In order to ensure that your vote by mail ballot will be counted, your statement should be completed and returned as soon as possible, but no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of the election:~~ on [elections official to insert date of the applicable receipt deadline after the election].

2. You must sign your name on the line above (Voter's Signature).

3. Place the statement into the postage-paid return envelope if it is included with these instructions. If a return envelope is not included with these instructions, use your own mailing envelope addressed to your local elections official. Mail, deliver, or have delivered the completed statement to the elections official. If you mail your completed statement using your own envelope, be sure there is sufficient postage and that the address of the elections official is correct.

4. If you do not wish to send the statement by mail or have it delivered, you may submit your completed statement by facsimile or email transmission to your local elections official, or by other electronic means made available by your local elections official, or submit your completed statement to a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box before the close of the polls on election day.”

(3) The notice and instructions shall be translated in all languages required in that county by Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10503).

(4) A voter may work with a nongovernmental entity to complete the requirements of this subdivision.

(5) The identification envelope statement shall contain, where the voter signs, a statement that the county elections official is required to compare the voter's signature appearing on the identification envelope statement with the signatures appearing in the voter's registration record, which may include the signature appearing on the voter's driver's license or state identification card.

(f) ~~An elections official shall include~~ *The Secretary of State shall publish on their internet website* a single, combined vote by mail ballot signature verification statement and unsigned ballot identification envelope statement, *statement. An elections official shall include the combined statement developed by the Secretary of State, or a combined statement developed by the elections official that meets the requirements of this section.* along with the instructions provided in this section for the completion of the statement, on the elections official's internet website and shall provide the elections official's mailing address, email address, and facsimile transmission number on the internet ~~web page~~ *webpage* containing the statement and instructions. The elections official shall accept the combined statement from a voter for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) or subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e). An elections official may mail the combined statement to a voter pursuant to subdivision (d) or (e) in lieu of the signature verification statement or unsigned ballot identification envelope statement.

(g) A local elections official offering other electronic means for submission of a statement described in this section shall establish appropriate privacy and security protocols that ensure that the information transmitted is received directly and securely by the elections official and is only used for the stated purposes of verifying the signature on the voter's ballot.

(h) A ballot shall not be removed from its identification envelope until the time for processing ballots. A ballot shall not be rejected for cause after the identification envelope has been opened.

(i) For purposes of this section, "certification of the election" means the date the particular elections official submits a certified statement of the results of the election to the governing body pursuant to Section 15372, even if that occurs before the deadline to submit the certified statement of the election results set forth in Section 15372.

(j) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) For a regularly scheduled statewide election, "applicable notification deadline" means 14 calendar days after the election and "applicable receipt deadline" means 22 calendar days after the election.

(2) For an election that is not a regularly scheduled statewide election, "applicable notification deadline" means eight calendar days before certification of the election and "applicable receipt deadline" means two calendar days before certification of the election.

~~(j)~~ *(k)* In comparing signatures pursuant to this section, including when using signature verification software or other technology, an elections official shall adhere to all applicable regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State.

~~(k)~~ *(l)* An elections official is authorized to use contact information provided on a voter's affidavit of registration to contact a voter for purposes consistent with this section.

(m) If an elections official establishes procedures that the official uses when comparing

signatures pursuant to this section, the elections official shall post the procedures used on their internet website or provide them upon request at their office. In accordance with subdivision (k), any such procedures shall adhere to regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State.

(n) An elections official shall accept a form in satisfaction of the requirements of subdivision (d) or (e) if the form was developed by the Secretary of State or by an elections official pursuant to subdivision (d), (e), or (f). An elections official shall not accept a form created by any individual, organization, or entity other than the Secretary of State or an elections official.

(o) An elections official that places a vote by mail ballot drop box, as defined in Section 3025, at their office location to receive ballots, shall also use that drop box after the election in order to receive the form by which the voter provides a signature pursuant to subdivision (d) or (e), as applicable, provided that the drop box used after the election contains a clear and conspicuous label that it is to be used for this limited purpose and not for acceptance of late ballots.

(p) Notwithstanding Section 15 or any other law, if the last day for the performance of any act provided for or required by this section is a holiday, as defined in Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, the deadline to perform the act shall not be continued to the next business day.

SEC. 3. Section 3019.7 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

3019.7. (a) The Secretary of State shall maintain a system to allow a vote by mail voter to track the voter's vote by mail ballot through the mail system and as the vote by mail ballot is processed by the county elections official. A county elections official shall use this system unless the county makes available to voters a different vote by mail ballot tracking system that meets or exceeds the level of service provided by the Secretary of State's system. The system shall, at a minimum, be accessible to voters with disabilities and allow a voter to register to receive information via email or text message from the county elections official about the status of the voter's vote by mail ballot, including all of the following information:

- (1) A notification when the ballot has been delivered by the county elections official to the United States Postal Service.
- (2) A notification of the date, based on information from the United States Postal Service, that the voter's ballot is expected to be delivered to the voter.
- (3) A notification if the voter's ballot is returned as undeliverable to the county elections official by the United States Postal Service.
- (4) A notification when the voter's completed ballot has been received by the county elections official.
- (5) A notification that the voter's completed ballot has been counted, or, if the ballot

cannot be counted, a notification of the reason why the ballot could not be counted and instructions of any steps that the voter can take in order to have the ballot counted. If the ballot cannot be counted because the voter's signature did not compare or the identification envelope is missing a signature, as described in subdivisions (c) and (e) of Section 3019, and the voter has opted in to receive notifications by text or email, the notification shall include an internet website link to the required form for verifying or providing a signature, as applicable, and instructions for completion.

(6) A reminder of the deadline for the voter to return the voter's ballot if the county elections official has not received a voter's completed ballot by specified dates as determined by the county elections official.

(b) The Secretary of State shall make the system maintained pursuant to subdivision (a) available for use by each county. A county elections official may use the system for the purpose of complying with Section 3019.5.

SEC. 4. Section 15301 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15301. (a) The canvass shall commence no later than the Thursday following the election, shall be open to the public, and, for state or statewide elections, shall result in a report of results to the Secretary of State. The canvass shall be continued daily, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excepted, for not less than six hours each day until completed.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the canvass shall be continued daily, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excepted, for not less than six hours each day until completed.

(2) If the only ballots that the elections official has left to count as part of the official canvass are vote by mail ballots for which a voter has been provided, or will be provided, the opportunity to verify or to provide their signature pursuant to subdivision (d) or (e) of Section 3019, as applicable, and the elections official does not need to conduct the official canvass for at least six hours per day in order to meet the deadline for certification of results pursuant to this section and Section 15372, the official canvass may be conducted for fewer than six hours per day until completed.

SEC. 5. Section 1.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 2194 of the Elections Code proposed by both this bill and Assembly Bill 1392. That section of this bill shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2026, (2) each bill amends Section 2194 of the Elections Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after Assembly Bill 1392, in which case Section 1 of this bill shall not become operative.

SEC. 6. Section 2.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 3019 of the Elections Code proposed by both this bill and Senate Bill 3. That section of this bill shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2026, (2) each bill amends Section 3019 of the Elections Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after Senate Bill 3, in which case Section 2 of this bill shall not become operative.

SEC. 7. *If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*

Elections and voting procedures

Assembly Bill No. 930, Ward. (Chapter 282)

(1) Existing law provides that ballots cast in all-mailed ballot elections, as specified, are considered timely cast if they are received by the voter's official elections by mail no later than 3 days after election day and additional, specified conditions are satisfied.

This bill would extend the above deadline for mailed ballots to be timely cast to 7 days after election day.

(2) Existing law establishes requirements for the conduct of recount elections, including with respect to the order in which precincts must be recounted, procedures for special recount boards, and notices issued by elections officials with respect to the commencement and results of a recount. If the votes subject to recount were cast or tabulated by a voting system, existing law requires that the voter requesting the recount, for each set of ballots cast or tabulated by a type of voting system, select whether the recount will be conducted manually or by means of the voting system used originally. Existing law allows only one method of recount to be used for all ballots cast or tabulated by the same type of voting system.

This bill would allow a voter requesting a recount to specify the order in which votes are recounted by the batch in which ballots were scanned or, in the case of a recount that involves more than one county, the order in which counties will conduct the recount within the jurisdiction. The bill would prohibit unauthorized access to the voting system in use by the elections office and impose other protections on access to a voter's personal identifying information. The bill would require the requester to reimburse the county for the cost of each member of a recount board. The bill would require that a member of a special recount board be eligible to register to vote in California if they are required to tally any ballots as part of their role on the board. The bill would set qualifications for an official appointed to supervise a special recount board. The bill would impose specified requirements for notices issued by elections officials. The bill would, if the recount is to be conducted manually and the voting system has the capability to display ballot images, require the voter requesting the recount to select whether the recount will be conducted by use of paper ballots or the official ballot images. If more than one voter requests a recount for the same office or measure and at least one request is for the recount to be conducted by use of paper ballots, the bill would require the county elections official to conduct only a manual recount of the paper ballots, the result of which would be controlling.

(3) This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 15621 of the Elections Code proposed by Assembly Bill 1513 to be operative only if this bill and Assembly Bill

1513 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

(4) By increasing the duties of local elections officials, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

SECTION 1. Section 4103 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

4103. (a) Notwithstanding Section 3020, ballots cast under this chapter shall be returned to the elections official from whom they were obtained no later than 8 p.m. on election day.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), any vote by mail ballot cast under this chapter shall be timely cast if it is received by the voter's elections official via the United States Postal Service or a bona fide private mail delivery company no later than ~~three~~ seven days after election day and either of the following is satisfied:

(1) The ballot is postmarked on or before election day or is time stamped or date stamped by a bona fide private mail delivery company on or before election day, or it is otherwise indicated by the United States Postal Service or a bona fide private mail delivery company that the ballot was mailed on or before election day.

(2) If the ballot has no postmark, a postmark with no date, or an illegible postmark, ~~the and no other information is available from the United States Postal Service or the bona fide private mail delivery company to indicate the date on which the ballot was mailed,~~ the vote by mail ballot identification envelope is date stamped by the elections official upon receipt of the vote by mail ballot from the United States Postal Service or a bona fide private mail delivery company, and is signed and dated pursuant to Section 3011 on or before election day.

(c) For purposes of this section, "bona fide private mail delivery company" means a courier service that is in the regular business of accepting a mail item, package, or parcel for the purpose of delivery to a person or entity whose address is specified on the item.

SEC. 2. Section 15620 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15620. (a) Following completion of the official canvass, any voter may, within five calendar days thereafter but not later than 5 p.m. on the fifth day, file with the elections official responsible for conducting an election in the county wherein the recount is

sought a written request for a recount of the votes cast for candidates for any office, for slates of presidential electors, or for or against any measure, if the office, slate, or measure is not voted on statewide. The request shall specify on behalf of which candidate, slate of electors, or position on a measure (affirmative or negative) it is filed.

(b) If an election is conducted in more than one county, the request for the recount may be filed by any voter within five [calendar](#) days but not later than 5 p.m. on the fifth day, beginning on the 31st day after the election, with the elections official of, and the recount may be conducted within, any or all of the affected counties.

(c) For the purposes of this section, “completion of the official canvass” shall be presumed to be that time when the elections official signs the certified statement of the results of the election except that, in the case of a city election, if a city council canvasses the returns itself and does not order the elections official to conduct the canvass, “completion of the official canvass” shall be presumed to be that time when the governing body declares the persons elected or the measures approved or defeated.

SEC. 3. Section 15621 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15621. (a) Following completion of the official canvass any voter may, within five [calendar](#) days beginning on the 31st day after a statewide election, file with the Secretary of State a written request for a recount of the votes cast for candidates for any statewide office or for or against any measure voted on statewide. The request filed pursuant to this section shall specify in which county or counties the recount is sought and shall specify on behalf of which candidate, slate of electors, or position on a measure (affirmative or negative) it is filed.

(b) The Secretary of State shall forthwith send by registered mail one copy of the request to the elections official of each county in which a recount of the votes is sought.

(c) All the other provisions of this article apply to recounts conducted under this section.

SEC. 3.5. Section 15621 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15621. (a) Following completion of the official canvass any voter may, within five [calendar](#) days beginning on the 31st day after a statewide election, file with the Secretary of State a written request for a recount of the votes cast for candidates for any statewide office or for or against any measure voted on statewide. The request filed pursuant to this section shall specify in which county or counties the recount is sought and shall specify on behalf of which candidate, slate of electors, or position on a measure (affirmative or negative) it is filed.

(b) The Secretary of State shall forthwith send by ~~registered mail~~ [electronic delivery](#) one copy of the request to the elections official of each county in which a recount of the votes is ~~sought~~. [sought, and the elections official shall confirm receipt of the copy in writing by electronic delivery to the Secretary of State.](#)

(c) All the other provisions of this article apply to recounts conducted under this section.

SEC. 4. Section 15622 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15622. The request may specify the order in which ~~the precincts shall be recounted; votes are recounted by precinct or by the batch in which the ballots were scanned. In the case of a recount that includes more than one county, the request may specify the order that counties will conduct the recount within the jurisdiction.~~

SEC. 5. Section 15624 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15624. The voter or the campaign committee, as defined in Section 82013 of the Government Code, represented by the voter filing the ~~request seeking the recount~~ recount request, or the voter's designee, shall, before the recount is commenced and at the beginning of each day following, deposit with the elections official a sum as required by the elections official to cover the cost of the recount for that day. The money deposited shall be returned to the depositor if, upon completion of the recount, the candidate, slate of presidential electors, or the position on the measure (affirmative or negative) for which the declaration is filed is found to have received the plurality of votes cast which it had not received according to the official canvass or, in an election where there are two or more candidates, the recount results in the candidate for whom the recount was requested appearing on the ballot in a subsequent runoff election or general election who would not have so appeared in the absence of the recount. The depositor shall be entitled to the return of any money deposited in excess of the cost of the recount if the candidate, slate, or position on the measure has not received the plurality of the votes cast or, in an election where there are two or more candidates, the recount does not result in the candidate for whom the recount was requested appearing on the ballot in a subsequent runoff or general election as a result of the recount. Money not required to be refunded shall be deposited in the appropriate public treasury.

SEC. 6. Section 15625 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15625. (a) The recount shall be conducted under the supervision of the elections official by official. The elections official shall convene special recount boards consisting of four voters of the county appointed by the elections official. Each member of a recount board shall receive the same compensation per day as is paid in the jurisdiction within which the recount is being conducted to members of precinct boards, other than inspectors; to be paid out of the appropriate public treasury. individuals appointed by and at the discretion of the elections official. The requester shall reimburse the county for the cost of each member of a recount board.
(b) If an individual appointed to a special recount board is required to tally any ballots as part of their role on the special recount board, that individual shall be eligible to register to vote in this state pursuant to Section 2101.

(c) If the office of the elections official is the subject of the recount, the governing body shall appoint an officer, other than the elections official, to appoint and supervise the special recount boards. ~~The appointee shall possess demonstrable experience necessary to conduct a machine or manual recount, including, but not limited to, years of experience as an elections official in the state, experience with current voting systems, and knowledge of the voting system's key functions. This section does not prevent the office of the elections official that is subject to the recount from taking necessary steps to prepare for the recount during the period in which an alternative qualified officer is sought.~~

SEC. 7. Section 15626 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15626. (a) The recount shall be commenced not more than seven *business* days following the receipt by the elections official of the request or order for the recount under Section 15620, 15621, or 15645 and shall be continued daily, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excepted, for not less than six hours each day until completed. ~~The recount shall not be commenced until the first day following notification of the individuals specified in Section 15628.~~

(b) If the office of the elections official is the subject of the recount, the recount shall commence not more than seven business days following the appointment of an officer in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 15625.

(c) The recount shall not be commenced until the first day following notification of the individuals specified in Section 15628.

SEC. 8. Section 15627 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15627. (a) If the votes subject to recount were cast or tabulated by a voting system, the voter requesting the recount shall, for each set of ballots cast or tabulated by a type of voting system, select whether the recount shall be conducted manually, or by means of the voting system used originally. Only one method of recount may be used for all ballots cast or tabulated by the same type of voting system.

(b) (1) If the recount is to be conducted manually and the voting system has the capability to display ballot images, the voter requesting the recount shall select whether the recount shall be conducted by use of paper ballots or the official ballot images.

(b) (2) ~~For purposes of direct recording electronic voting systems, "conducted manually" means that the voter-verified paper-audit trail of the electronically recorded vote is counted manually, as selected by the voter who requests the recount. If more than one voter requests that a recount be conducted manually for the same office or measure, and at least one request is for the recount to be conducted by use of paper ballots, the county elections official of a county subject to multiple requests as described in this subdivision shall conduct only a manual recount of the paper ballots, the result of which shall be controlling.~~

SEC. 9. Section 15628 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15628. Not less than one day prior to commencement of the recount, the elections official shall post a notice as to the date and place of the recount and shall notify the following persons of it in ~~person-~~ person, by email, or by any federally regulated overnight mail service:

(a) All candidates for any office the votes for which are to be recounted.

(b) Authorized representatives of presidential candidates to whom electors are ~~pledged~~ pledged, if the votes to be recounted were cast for presidential electors.

(c) Proponents of any initiative or referendum or persons filing ballot arguments for or against any initiative, referendum, or measure placed on the ballot by the governing body the votes for which are to be recounted.

(d) The Secretary of State in the case of a recount of the votes cast for candidates for any state office, presidential electors, the House of Representatives of the United States, the Senate of the United States, or delegates to a national ~~convention~~ convention, or on any state measure.

SEC. 10. Section 15630 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15630. (a) All ballots, whether voted or not, and any other relevant ~~material;~~ materials, as specified in regulations adopted by the Secretary of State, may be examined as part of any recount if the voter filing the declaration requesting the recount so ~~requests-~~ requests in writing, specifying the relevant materials before the commencement of the recount.

~~No (b) The~~ examination of any ballot shall not include touching or handling the ballot without the express consent of the elections official or the ~~election~~ elections officer supervising the special recount board. ~~No A ballot may-~~ shall not be touched or handled during the examination unless the elections official or the elections officer supervising the special recount is present to observe the examination.

(c) Except as provided in this ~~section-no~~ section, a ballot shall not be touched or handled by any person during the recount unless that person is the elections official, a person acting at the direction of the elections official, a member of the special recount board, or by order of the superior court.

(d) No part of the voting system in use by the elections office shall be accessed, touched, or handled by any person during the recount unless that person is the elections official or authorized by order of the superior court.

(e) A person shall not photograph or distribute a digital image of any material with personal identifying information of the voter.

SEC. 11. Section 15631 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15631. On recount, ballots may be challenged for incompleteness, ambiguity, or other defects, in accordance with the following procedure:

- (a) The person challenging the ballot shall state the reason for the challenge.
- (b) The official counting the ballot shall count it as ~~he or she~~ the official believes proper and then set it aside with a notation as to how it was counted.
- (c) The elections official or appointee pursuant to Section 15625 shall, before the recount is completed, determine whether the challenge is to be allowed. The decision of the elections official is final.

SEC. 12. Section 15632 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15632. In lieu of the returns as reported in the official canvass, upon completion of the recount showing that a different candidate was nominated or elected, that a different presidential slate of electors received a plurality of the votes, or that a measure was defeated instead of approved or approved instead of defeated, ~~there shall be entered~~ the result of the recount in each precinct ~~affected, which result~~ affected shall, for all purposes thereafter, be the official returns of those precincts for the office, slates of presidential electors, or measure involved in the recount. If the office, slates of presidential electors, or measure are not voted on statewide, the results of any recount which is not completed by counting the votes in each and every precinct in the jurisdiction within which votes were cast on the candidates for the office, on the slates of electors, or on the measure in question shall be declared null and void. If the office, slates of presidential electors, or measure are voted on statewide, the results of any recount will be declared null and void where there is not recounted each vote cast statewide for the office, slates, or measure.

SEC. 13. Section 15633 of the Elections Code is repealed.

~~**15633.** A copy of the results of any recount conducted pursuant to this chapter shall be posted conspicuously in the office of the elections official.~~

SEC. 14. Section 15633 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

15633. Not more than one day after the conclusion of the recount, the elections official shall post a copy of the results of any recount conducted pursuant to this chapter conspicuously in the office of the elections official or on the elections official's internet website for a period of 30 days following the final day of recount activities. The elections official shall notify the following persons of it in person, by email, or by any federally regulated overnight mail service:

(a) All candidates for any office the votes for which were recounted.

(b) Authorized representatives of presidential candidates to whom electors were pledged, if the votes recounted were cast for presidential electors.

(c) Proponents of any initiative or referendum or persons filing ballot arguments for or against any initiative, referendum, or measure placed on the ballot by the governing

body the votes for which were recounted.

(d) The Secretary of State in the case of a recount of the votes cast for candidates for any state office, presidential electors, the House of Representatives of the United States, the Senate of the United States, or delegates to a national convention, or on any state measure.

SEC. 15. Section 3.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 15621 of the Elections Code proposed by both this bill and Assembly Bill 1513. That section of this bill shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2026, (2) each bill amends Section 15621 of the Elections Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after Assembly Bill 1513, in which case Section 3 of this bill shall not become operative.

SEC. 16. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

Elections: Signature verification and results

Senate Bill No. 3, Cervantes. (Chapter 307)

Existing law requires an elections official, upon receiving a vote by mail ballot, to compare the signature on the identification envelope with either the signature appearing on the voter's affidavit or other signature appearing on a form that is part of the voter's registration record. Existing law prohibits an elections official from reviewing or considering a voter's party preference, race, or ethnicity when comparing signatures. Existing law requires an elections official, if it is determined that the signatures do not compare, to notify the voter of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature, as specified. Existing law prohibits an elections official from rejecting a vote by mail ballot with signatures that do not compare if the voter delivers a signature verification statement and the signature on the verification statement compares with the signature on file in the voter's record. Existing law prohibits an elections official from rejecting a vote by mail ballot with an unsigned identification envelope if, no later than 5 p.m. two days prior to the election, the voter signs the envelope at the office of the elections official or completes and submits an unsigned identification envelope statement, as specified.

This bill would additionally prohibit an elections official, when comparing signatures, from considering a voter's identifying information, including gender, name, and address, and the amount of time spent reviewing a signature. The bill would require an elections official to notify the voter when the signatures do not compare after a specified determination is made that the signatures differ. The bill would authorize a voter to work with a nongovernmental entity to complete a signature verification statement and unsigned envelope statement. The bill would require a signature verification statement and unsigned envelope statement to contain a statement that the county elections

official is required to compare the voter's signature with the signatures appearing in the voter's registration record, which may include the signature appearing on the voter's driver's license or state identification card. The bill would require the Secretary of State to publish on their internet website a single, combined vote by mail ballot signature verification statement and unsigned ballot identification envelope statement. The bill would require an elections official to accept a form for a signature verification statement or unsigned ballot identification envelope statement if the form was developed by the Secretary of State or an elections official, but would prohibit an elections official from accepting a form created by any other individual, organization, or entity.

Existing law permits a member of the county grand jury, and at least one member each of the Republican county central committee, the Democratic county central committee, and of any other party with a candidate on the ballot, and any other interested organization, to observe and challenge the manner in which vote by mail ballots are handled. Existing law requires these individuals be allowed sufficiently close access to enable them to observe the vote by mail ballot return envelopes and the signatures thereon and challenge whether established procedures are being followed for, among other things, verifying signatures on the vote by mail return envelopes.

This bill would additionally allow vote by mail observers to observe and challenge the manner in which those individuals handling vote by mail ballots are following procedures for verifying signatures on signature verification statements and unsigned envelope statements.

Existing law requires elections officials, beginning no later than the Thursday following an election, to post updated information regarding an election on their internet website at least once per week until publication of the certified statement of results or until the only ballots left to count are vote by mail ballots for which a voter has the opportunity either to verify or provide their signature. Existing law requires the information at a minimum include updated results for any candidate for office or measure appearing on the ballot, the number of ballots processed and an estimated number of outstanding unprocessed ballots, according to specified categories, and the date and time when it is expected that the next results will be posted.

This bill would instead require an elections official, beginning no later than the Thursday following an election, to post updated information regarding the election on their internet website at least two times by the following Thursday and at least twice a week thereafter until publication of the certified statement of results or until the only ballots left to count are vote by mail ballots for which a voter has the opportunity either to verify or provide their signature. The bill would revise the categories for reporting the number of ballots processed and estimated number of outstanding ballots remaining unprocessed. The bill would require the date and time when it is expected that the next results will be posted to be on the homepage of an elections official's internet website or on the stand-alone webpage for the specific election on an elections official's internet website. The bill would specify that posting a hyperlink to a separate file does not satisfy the requirements of these provisions.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 3019 of the Elections Code

proposed by AB 827 to be operative only if this bill and AB 827 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 15104 of the Elections Code proposed by AB 16 to be operative only if this bill and AB 16 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

By imposing new duties on local elections officials, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

SECTIONS AFFECTED:

SECTION 1. Section 3011 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

3011. (a) The identification envelope shall contain all of the following:

(1) A declaration, under penalty of perjury, stating that the voter resides within the precinct in which the voter is voting and is the person whose name appears on the envelope.

(2) The signature of the voter.

(3) The residence address of the voter as shown on the affidavit of registration.

(4) The date of signing.

(5) A notice that the envelope contains an official ballot and is to be opened only by the canvassing board.

(6) A warning plainly stamped or printed on it that voting twice constitutes a crime.

(7) A warning plainly stamped or printed on it that the voter must sign the envelope in the voter's own handwriting in order for the ballot to be counted.

(8) A statement that the voter has neither voted nor intends to vote a ballot from any other jurisdiction for the same election.

(9) The name and signature of the person authorized by the voter to return the vote by mail ballot pursuant to Section 3017.

(10) A statement next to where the voter signs that the county elections official is required to compare the voter's signature appearing on the identification envelope

with the signatures appearing in the voter's registration record, which may include the signature appearing on the voter's driver's license or state identification card.

(b) Except at a primary election for partisan office, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the voter's party preference may not be stamped or printed on the identification envelope.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (9) of subdivision (a), a ballot shall not be disqualified solely because the person authorized to return it did not provide on the identification envelope their name or signature.

(d) County elections officials may continue to use existing supplies prior to printing new identification envelopes that reflect the changes made to this section by the act adding this subdivision.

SEC. 2. Section 3019 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

3019. (a) (1) Upon receiving a vote by mail ballot, the elections official shall compare the signature on the identification envelope with either of the following to determine if the signatures compare:

(A) The signature appearing on the voter's affidavit of registration or any previous affidavit of registration of the voter.

(B) The signature appearing on a form issued by an elections official that contains the voter's signature and that is part of the voter's registration record.

(2) All of the following apply to the comparison of signatures pursuant to this section, including the comparison of a voter's signature on a signature verification statement, an unsigned identification envelope statement, or a combined vote by mail ballot signature verification statement and unsigned identification envelope statement, with the signature that is part of the voter's registration record:

(A) A presumption exists that the signature on the identification envelope, signature verification statement, unsigned identification envelope statement, or provisional ballot envelope is the voter's ~~signature~~: signature and that the vote will be counted.

(B) An exact match is not required for an elections official to determine that a voter's signature is valid. The fact that signatures share similar characteristics is sufficient to determine that a signature is valid.

(C) Except as provided in subparagraph (D), the elections official shall consider explanations for discrepancies between signatures that are specified in regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State. For purposes of this subparagraph, explanations include a variation in signature style over time and the haste with which a signature is written.

(D) When comparing signatures, an elections official shall not review or consider ~~a voter's party preference, race, or ethnicity~~: any of the following:

(i) A voter's party preference, race, or ethnicity.

(ii) A voter's identifying information including gender, name, or address, except to confirm the identity of the voter.

(iii) The amount of time spent reviewing a signature.

(E) The elections official may consider characteristics of the written signature that are specified in regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State. For purposes of this subparagraph, characteristics include the slant of the signature, letter formation, and whether the signature is printed or written in cursive.

(F) The elections official may use facsimiles of voters' signatures, provided that the method of preparing and displaying the facsimiles complies with the law.

(G) In comparing signatures pursuant to this section, an elections official may use signature verification technology. If signature verification technology determines that the signatures do not compare, the signature is subject to the additional procedures described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c).

(H) The variation of a signature caused by the substitution of initials for the first or middle name, or both, is not grounds for the elections official to determine that the signatures do not compare.

(I) A signature made using a mark such as an "X," or made by a signature stamp, shall be presumed valid and shall be accepted if the signature meets the requirements of Section 354.5.

(b) If upon conducting the comparison of signatures pursuant to subdivision (a) the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the elections official shall deposit the ballot, still in the identification envelope, in a ballot container in the elections official's office.

(c) (1) If upon conducting the comparison of signatures pursuant to subdivision (a) the elections official determines that the signature possesses multiple, significant, and obvious differing characteristics when compared to all signatures in the voter's registration record, the signature is subject to the additional procedures described in paragraph (2).

(2) If the elections official makes the determination described in paragraph (1), the signature shall be rejected only if two additional elections officials each find beyond a reasonable doubt that the signature differs in multiple, significant, and obvious respects from all signatures in the voter's registration record. If the officials determine that the signatures do not compare, the identification envelope shall not be opened and the ballot shall not be counted. The elections official shall write the cause of the rejection on the face of the identification envelope only after completing the procedures described in subdivision (d).

(d) (1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (E), on or before the next business

day after a determination pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) that a voter's signature does not compare pursuant to subdivision (c), but not later than eight days prior to the certification of the election, the elections official shall send by first-class mail notice to the voter of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature no later than 5 p.m. two days prior to the certification of the election. The notice shall include a return envelope, with postage paid, for the voter to return a signature verification statement.

(B) If an elections official has a telephone number or email address on file for a voter whose signature does not compare pursuant to subdivision (c), the elections official shall notify the voter by telephone, a text message, or email of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature. If an elections official calls the voter and the voter does not answer, the elections official shall attempt to leave a voicemail message.

(C) Unless required pursuant to Section 3026, the elections official may send additional written notices to a voter identified pursuant to subdivision (c), and may also notify the voter in person or by other means of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature.

(D) Unless required pursuant to Section 3026, the elections official may use any information in a county's election management system, or otherwise in the elections official's possession, for the purpose of notifying the voter of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature.

(E) If it is impracticable under the circumstances for the elections official to send the notice described in subparagraph (A) on or before the next business day, including in the event of technological failure, the elections official shall send the notice as soon as practicable, but not later than eight days prior to the certification of the election.

(2) The notice and instructions shall be in substantially the following form:

<p>“READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE YOUR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.</p>
<p>1. We have determined that the signature you provided on your vote by mail ballot does not compare with the signature(s) on file in your voter record. In order to ensure that your vote by mail ballot will be counted, the signature verification statement must be completed and returned as soon as possible.</p>
<p>2. The signature verification statement must be received by the elections official of the county where you are registered to vote no later than 5 p.m. two days prior to certification of the election.</p>
<p>3. You must sign your name where specified on the signature verification statement (Voter's Signature).</p>

4. Place the signature verification statement into the postage-paid return envelope if it is included with these instructions. If a return envelope is not included with these instructions, use your own mailing envelope addressed to your local elections official. Mail, deliver, or have the completed statement delivered to the elections official. If you mail your completed statement using your own envelope, be sure there is sufficient postage and that the address of the elections official is correct.

5. If you do not wish to send the signature verification statement by mail or have it delivered, you may submit your completed statement by email or facsimile transmission to your local elections official, or by other electronic means made available by your local elections official, or submit your completed statement to a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box before the close of the polls on election day.”

(3) The notice and instructions shall be translated in all languages required in that county by Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10503).

(4) The elections official shall not reject a vote by mail ballot identified pursuant to subdivision (c) if each of the following conditions is satisfied:

(A) The voter delivers, in person, by mail, by fax, by email, or by other means, a signature verification statement signed by the voter and the elections official receives the statement no later than 5 p.m. two days prior to the certification of the election, or the voter, before the close of the polls on election day, completes and submits a signature verification statement to a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box.

(B) Upon receipt of the signature verification statement, the elections official shall compare the signature on the statement with the signature on file in the voter’s record.

(i) If upon conducting the comparison of signatures the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the elections official shall deposit the ballot, still in the identification envelope, in a ballot container in the elections official’s office.

(ii) If, under the standards and procedures of subdivision (c), a determination is made that the signatures do not compare, the identification envelope shall not be opened and the ballot shall not be counted. The elections official shall write the cause of the rejection on the face of the identification envelope.

(5) The signature verification statement shall be in substantially the following form and may be included on the same page as the notice and instructions specified in paragraph (2):

"SIGNATURE VERIFICATION STATEMENT
I,, am a registered voter of _____ County,
State of California. I declare under penalty of perjury that I received and returned a vote by mail ballot. I am a resident of the precinct in which I have voted, and I am the person whose name appears on the vote by mail ballot envelope. I understand that if I commit or attempt any fraud in connection with voting, or if I aid or abet fraud or attempt to aid or abet fraud in connection with voting, I may be convicted of a felony punishable by imprisonment for 16 months or two or three years. I understand that my failure to sign this statement means that my vote by mail ballot will be invalidated.
Voter's Signature
Address"

(6) If the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the official shall use the signature in the signature verification statement, even if returned untimely, to update the voter's signature for future ~~elections~~: elections, including updating the signature database.

(7) A voter may work with a nongovernmental entity to complete the requirements of this subdivision.

(8) The signature verification statement shall contain, where the voter signs, a statement that the county elections official is required to compare the voter's signature appearing on the signature verification statement with the signatures appearing in the voter's registration record, which may include the signature appearing on the voter's driver's license or state identification card.

(e) (1) (A) Notwithstanding any other law, if an elections official determines that a voter has failed to sign the identification envelope, the elections official shall not reject the vote by mail ballot if the voter does any of the following:

- (i) Signs the identification envelope at the office of the elections official during regular business hours no later than 5 p.m. two days prior to the certification of the election.
- (ii) No later than 5 p.m. two days prior to the certification of the election, completes and submits an unsigned identification envelope statement in substantially the following form:

“UNSIGNED IDENTIFICATION ENVELOPE STATEMENT
I,, am a registered voter of _____ County,
State of California. I declare under penalty of perjury that I received and returned a vote by mail ballot and that I have not and will not vote more than one ballot in this election. I am a resident of the precinct in which I have voted, and I am the person whose name appears on the vote by mail ballot envelope. I understand that if I commit or attempt any fraud in connection with voting, or if I aid or abet fraud or attempt to aid or abet fraud in connection with voting, I may be convicted of a felony punishable by imprisonment for 16 months or two or three years. I understand that my failure to sign this statement means that my vote by mail ballot will be invalidated.
Voter’s Signature
Address”

- (iii) Before the close of the polls on election day, completes and submits an unsigned identification envelope statement, in the form described in clause (ii), to a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box.
- (B) (i) Except as provided in clause (v), or before the next business day after discovering that a voter has failed to sign the identification envelope, but not later than eight days prior to the certification of the election, the elections official shall send by first-class mail notice and instructions to the voter of the opportunity to provide a signature no later than 5 p.m. two days prior to the certification of the election. The notice shall include a return envelope, with postage paid, for the voter to return the unsigned identification envelope statement.
- (ii) If an elections official has a telephone number or email address on file for a voter who has failed to sign the identification envelope, the elections official shall notify the voter by telephone, a text message, or email of the opportunity to provide a signature. If an elections official calls the voter and the voter does not answer, the elections official shall attempt to leave a voicemail message.
- (iii) Unless required pursuant to Section 3026, the elections official may send additional written notices to a voter identified pursuant to this subdivision, and may also notify the voter in person or by other means of the opportunity to provide a signature.
- (iv) Unless required pursuant to Section 3026, the elections official may use any information in the county’s election management system, or otherwise in the elections official’s possession, for the purpose of notifying the voter of the opportunity to provide a signature.

(v) If it is impracticable under the circumstances for the elections official to send the notice described in clause (i) on or before the next business day, including in the event of technological failure, the elections official shall send the notice as soon as practicable, but not later than eight days prior to the certification of the election.

(C) If timely submitted, the elections official shall accept any completed unsigned identification envelope statement. Upon receipt of the unsigned identification envelope statement, the elections official shall compare the voter's signature on the statement in the manner provided by this section.

(i) If the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the elections official shall attach the unsigned identification envelope statement to the identification envelope and deposit the ballot, still in the identification envelope, in a ballot container in the elections official's office.

(ii) If, under the standards and procedures of subdivision (c), a determination is made that the signatures do not compare, the identification envelope shall not be opened and the elections official shall provide notice to the voter pursuant to subdivisions (c) and (d).

(D) An elections official may use methods other than those described in subparagraph (A) to obtain a voter's signature on an unsigned identification envelope statement.

(E) If the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the official shall use the signature in the unsigned identification envelope statement, even if returned untimely, to update the voter's signature for future elections, including updating the signature database.

(2) Instructions shall accompany the unsigned identification envelope statement in substantially the following form:

<p>“READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THE STATEMENT. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE YOUR BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.</p>
<p>1. In order to ensure that your vote by mail ballot will be counted, your statement should be completed and returned as soon as possible, but no later than 5 p.m. two days prior to the certification of the election.</p>
<p>2. You must sign your name on the line above (Voter's Signature).</p>
<p>3. Place the statement into the postage-paid return envelope if it is included with these instructions. If a return envelope is not included with these instructions, use your own mailing envelope addressed to your local elections official. Mail, deliver, or have delivered the completed statement to the elections official. If you mail your completed statement using your own envelope, be sure there is sufficient postage and that the address of the elections official is correct.</p>

4. If you do not wish to send the statement by mail or have it delivered, you may submit your completed statement by facsimile or email transmission to your local elections official, or by other electronic means made available by your local elections official, or submit your completed statement to a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box before the close of the polls on election day.”

(3) The notice and instructions shall be translated in all languages required in that county by Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10503).

(4) A voter may work with a nongovernmental entity to complete the requirements of this subdivision.

(5) The identification envelope statement shall contain, where the voter signs, a statement that the county elections official is required to compare the voter's signature appearing on the identification envelope statement with the signatures appearing in the voter's registration record, which may include the signature appearing on the voter's driver's license or state identification card.

(f) ~~An elections official shall include~~ The Secretary of State shall publish on their internet website a single, combined vote by mail ballot signature verification statement and unsigned ballot identification envelope statement, along with the instructions provided in this section for the completion of the ~~statement;~~ statement. An elections official shall include the combined statement developed by the Secretary of State, or a combined statement developed by the elections official that meets the requirements of this section. on the elections official's internet website and shall provide the elections official's mailing address, email address, and facsimile transmission number on the internet web page containing the statement and instructions. The elections official shall accept the combined statement from a voter for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) or subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e). An elections official may mail the combined statement to a voter pursuant to subdivision (d) or (e) in lieu of the signature verification statement or unsigned ballot identification envelope statement.

(g) A local elections official offering other electronic means for submission of a statement described in this section shall establish appropriate privacy and security protocols that ensure that the information transmitted is received directly and securely by the elections official and is only used for the stated purposes of verifying the signature on the voter's ballot.

(h) A ballot shall not be removed from its identification envelope until the time for processing ballots. A ballot shall not be rejected for cause after the identification envelope has been opened.

(i) For purposes of this section, “certification of the election” means the date the particular elections official submits a certified statement of the results of the election to the governing body pursuant to Section 15372, even if that occurs before the deadline

to submit the certified statement of the election results set forth in Section 15372.

(j) In comparing signatures pursuant to this section, including when using signature verification software or other technology, an elections official shall adhere to all applicable regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State.

(k) An elections official is authorized to use contact information provided on a voter's affidavit of registration to contact a voter for purposes consistent with this section.

(l) If an elections official establishes procedures that the official uses when comparing signatures pursuant to this section, the elections official shall post the procedures used on their internet website or provide them upon request at their office. In accordance with subdivision (j), any such procedures shall adhere to regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State.

(m) An elections official shall accept a form in satisfaction of the requirements of subdivision (d) or (e) if the form was developed by the Secretary of State or by an elections official pursuant to subdivision (d), (e), or (f). An elections official shall not accept a form created by any individual, organization, or entity other than the Secretary of State or an elections official.

SEC. 2.5. Section 3019 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

3019. (a) (1) Upon receiving a vote by mail ballot, the elections official shall compare the signature on the identification envelope with either of the following to determine if the signatures compare:

(A) The signature appearing on the voter's affidavit of registration or any previous affidavit of registration of the voter.

(B) The signature appearing on a form issued by an elections official that contains the voter's signature and that is part of the voter's registration record.

(2) All of the following apply to the comparison of signatures pursuant to this section, including the comparison of a voter's signature on a signature verification statement, an unsigned identification envelope statement, or a combined vote by mail ballot signature verification statement and unsigned identification envelope statement, with the signature that is part of the voter's registration record:

(A) A presumption exists that the signature on the identification envelope, signature verification statement, unsigned identification envelope statement, or provisional ballot envelope is the voter's ~~signature~~. signature and that the vote will be counted.

(B) An exact match is not required for an elections official to determine that a voter's signature is valid. The fact that signatures share similar characteristics is sufficient to determine that a signature is valid.

(C) Except as provided in subparagraph (D), the elections official shall consider explanations for discrepancies between signatures that are specified in regulations

promulgated by the Secretary of State. For purposes of this subparagraph, explanations include a variation in signature style over time and the haste with which a signature is written.

(D) When comparing signatures, an elections official shall not review or consider ~~a voter's party preference, race, or ethnicity~~: any of the following:

(i) A voter's party preference, race, or ethnicity.

(ii) A voter's identifying information including gender, name, or address, except to confirm the identity of the voter.

(iii) The amount of time spent reviewing a signature.

(E) The elections official may consider characteristics of the written signature that are specified in regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State. For purposes of this subparagraph, characteristics include the slant of the signature, letter formation, and whether the signature is printed or written in cursive.

(F) The elections official may use facsimiles of voters' signatures, provided that the method of preparing and displaying the facsimiles complies with the law.

(G) In comparing signatures pursuant to this section, an elections official may use signature verification technology. If signature verification technology determines that the signatures do not compare, the signature is subject to the additional procedures described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c).

(H) The variation of a signature caused by the substitution of initials for the first or middle name, or both, is not grounds for the elections official to determine that the signatures do not compare.

(I) A signature made using a mark such as an "X," or made by a signature stamp, shall be presumed valid and shall be accepted if the signature meets the requirements of Section 354.5.

(b) If upon conducting the comparison of signatures pursuant to subdivision (a) the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the elections official shall deposit the ballot, still in the identification envelope, in a ballot container in the elections official's office.

(c) (1) If upon conducting the comparison of signatures pursuant to subdivision (a) the elections official determines that the signature possesses multiple, significant, and obvious differing characteristics when compared to all signatures in the voter's registration record, the signature is subject to the additional procedures described in paragraph (2).

(2) If the elections official makes the determination described in paragraph (1), the signature shall be rejected only if two additional elections officials each find beyond a reasonable doubt that the signature differs in multiple, significant, and obvious respects

from all signatures in the voter's registration record. If the officials determine that the signatures do not compare, the identification envelope shall not be opened and the ballot shall not be counted. The elections official shall write the cause of the rejection on the face of the identification envelope only after completing the procedures described in subdivision (d).

(d) (1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (E), on or before the next business day after a determination pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) that a voter's signature does not compare pursuant to subdivision (c), but not later than ~~eight days prior to the certification of~~ the applicable notification deadline after the election, the elections official shall send by first-class mail notice to the voter of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of the~~ on the day of the applicable receipt deadline after the election. The notice shall include a return envelope, with postage paid, for the voter to return a signature verification statement.

(B) If an elections official has a telephone number or email address on file for a voter whose signature does not compare pursuant to subdivision (c), the elections official shall notify the voter by telephone, a text message, or email of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature. If an elections official calls the voter and the voter does not answer, the elections official shall attempt to leave a voicemail message.

(C) Unless required pursuant to Section 3026, the elections official may send additional written notices to a voter identified pursuant to subdivision (c), and may also notify the voter in person or by other means of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature.

(D) Unless required pursuant to Section 3026, the elections official may use any information in a county's election management system, or otherwise in the elections official's possession, for the purpose of notifying the voter of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature.

(E) If it is impracticable under the circumstances for the elections official to send the notice described in subparagraph (A) on or before the next business day, including in the event of technological failure, the elections official shall send the notice as soon as practicable, but not later than ~~eight days prior to the certification of~~ the applicable notification deadline after the election.

(2) The notice and instructions shall be in substantially the following ~~form:~~ form. The elections official shall insert the date of the applicable receipt deadline after the election where indicated on the form.

“READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE YOUR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.

1. We have determined that the signature you provided on your vote by mail ballot does not compare with the signature(s) on file in your voter record. In order to ensure that your vote by mail ballot will be counted, the signature verification statement must be completed and returned as soon as possible.
2. The signature verification statement must be received by the elections official of the county where you are registered to vote no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to certification of the election.~~ on [elections official to insert date of the applicable receipt deadline after the election].
3. You must sign your name where specified on the signature verification statement (Voter’s Signature).
4. Place the signature verification statement into the postage-paid return envelope if it is included with these instructions. If a return envelope is not included with these instructions, use your own mailing envelope addressed to your local elections official. Mail, deliver, or have the completed statement delivered to the elections official. If you mail your completed statement using your own envelope, be sure there is sufficient postage and that the address of the elections official is correct.
5. If you do not wish to send the signature verification statement by mail or have it delivered, you may submit your completed statement by email or facsimile transmission to your local elections official, or by other electronic means made available by your local elections official, or submit your completed statement to a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box before the close of the polls on election day.”

(3) The notice and instructions shall be translated in all languages required in that county by Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10503).

(4) The elections official shall not reject a vote by mail ballot identified pursuant to subdivision (c) if each of the following conditions ~~is~~ are satisfied:

(A) The voter delivers, in person, by mail, by fax, by email, or by other means, a signature verification statement signed by the voter and the elections official receives the statement no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of the~~ on the day of the applicable receipt deadline after the election, or the voter, before the close of the polls on election day, completes and submits a signature verification statement to a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box.

(B) Upon receipt of the signature verification statement, the elections official shall compare the signature on the statement with the signature on file in the voter's record. The elections official shall not delay the comparison until later in the canvass.

(i) If upon conducting the comparison of signatures the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the elections official shall deposit the ballot, still in the identification envelope, in a ballot container in the elections official's office.

(ii) If, under the standards and procedures of subdivision (c), a determination is made that the signatures do not compare, the identification envelope shall not be opened and the ballot shall not be counted. The elections official shall write the cause of the rejection on the face of the identification envelope.

(5) The signature verification statement shall be in substantially the following form and may be included on the same page as the notice and instructions specified in paragraph (2):

"SIGNATURE VERIFICATION STATEMENT
I,, am a registered voter of _____ County,
State of California. I declare under penalty of perjury that I received and returned a vote by mail ballot. I am a resident of the precinct in which I have voted, and I am the person whose name appears on the vote by mail ballot envelope. I understand that if I commit or attempt any fraud in connection with voting, or if I aid or abet fraud or attempt to aid or abet fraud in connection with voting, I may be convicted of a felony punishable by imprisonment for 16 months or two or three years. I understand that my failure to sign this statement means that my vote by mail ballot will be invalidated.
Voter's Signature
Address"

(6) If the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the official shall use the signature in the signature verification statement, even if returned untimely, to update the voter's signature for future ~~elections:~~ elections, including updating the signature database.

(7) A voter may work with a nongovernmental entity to complete the requirements of this subdivision.

(8) The signature verification statement shall contain, where the voter signs, a statement that the county elections official is required to compare the voter's signature appearing

on the signature verification statement with the signatures appearing in the voter's registration record, which may include the signature appearing on the voter's driver's license or state identification card.

(e) (1) (A) Notwithstanding any other law, if an elections official determines that a voter has failed to sign the identification envelope, the elections official shall not reject the vote by mail ballot if the voter does any of the following:

(i) Signs the identification envelope at the office of the elections official during regular business hours no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of the~~ on the day of the applicable receipt deadline after the election.

(ii) No later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of the~~ on the day of the applicable receipt deadline after the election, completes and submits an unsigned identification envelope statement in substantially the following form:

“UNSIGNED IDENTIFICATION ENVELOPE STATEMENT
I,, am a registered voter of _____ County,
State of California. I declare under penalty of perjury that I received and returned a vote by mail ballot and that I have not and will not vote more than one ballot in this election. I am a resident of the precinct in which I have voted, and I am the person whose name appears on the vote by mail ballot envelope. I understand that if I commit or attempt any fraud in connection with voting, or if I aid or abet fraud or attempt to aid or abet fraud in connection with voting, I may be convicted of a felony punishable by imprisonment for 16 months or two or three years. I understand that my failure to sign this statement means that my vote by mail ballot will be invalidated.
Voter's Signature
Address”

(iii) Before the close of the polls on election day, completes and submits an unsigned identification envelope statement, in the form described in clause (ii), to a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box.

(B) (i) Except as provided in clause (v), or before the next business day after discovering that a voter has failed to sign the identification envelope, but not later than ~~eight days prior to the certification of~~ the applicable notification deadline after the election, the elections official shall send by first-class mail notice and instructions to the voter of the opportunity to provide a signature no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification~~

~~of the~~ on the day of the applicable receipt deadline after the election. The notice shall include a return envelope, with postage paid, for the voter to return the unsigned identification envelope statement.

(ii) If an elections official has a telephone number or email address on file for a voter who has failed to sign the identification envelope, the elections official shall notify the voter by telephone, a text message, or email of the opportunity to provide a signature. If an elections official calls the voter and the voter does not answer, the elections official shall attempt to leave a voicemail message.

(iii) Unless required pursuant to Section 3026, the elections official may send additional written notices to a voter identified pursuant to this subdivision, and may also notify the voter in person or by other means of the opportunity to provide a signature.

(iv) Unless required pursuant to Section 3026, the elections official may use any information in the county's election management system, or otherwise in the elections official's possession, for the purpose of notifying the voter of the opportunity to provide a signature.

(v) If it is impracticable under the circumstances for the elections official to send the notice described in clause (i) on or before the next business day, including in the event of technological failure, the elections official shall send the notice as soon as practicable, but not later than ~~eight days prior to the certification of~~ the applicable notification deadline after the election.

(C) If timely submitted, the elections official shall accept any completed unsigned identification envelope statement. Upon receipt of the unsigned identification envelope statement, the elections official shall compare the voter's signature on the statement in the manner provided by this section. The elections official shall not delay the comparison until later in the canvass.

(i) If the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the elections official shall attach the unsigned identification envelope statement to the identification envelope and deposit the ballot, still in the identification envelope, in a ballot container in the elections official's office.

(ii) If, under the standards and procedures of subdivision (c), a determination is made that the signatures do not compare, the identification envelope shall not be opened and the elections official shall provide notice to the voter pursuant to subdivisions (c) and (d).

(D) An elections official may use methods other than those described in subparagraph (A) to obtain a voter's signature on an unsigned identification envelope statement.

(E) If the elections official determines that the signatures compare, the official shall use the signature in the unsigned identification envelope statement, even if returned untimely, to update the voter's signature for future elections, including updating the signature database.

(2) Instructions shall accompany the unsigned identification envelope statement in substantially the following ~~form: form.~~ *The elections official shall insert the date of the applicable receipt deadline after the election where indicated on the form.*

“READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THE STATEMENT. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE YOUR BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.

1. In order to ensure that your vote by mail ballot will be counted, your statement should be completed and returned as soon as possible, but no later than 5 p.m. ~~two days prior to the certification of the election;~~ *on [elections official to insert date of the applicable receipt deadline after the election].*

2. You must sign your name on the line above (Voter’s Signature).

3. Place the statement into the postage-paid return envelope if it is included with these instructions. If a return envelope is not included with these instructions, use your own mailing envelope addressed to your local elections official. Mail, deliver, or have delivered the completed statement to the elections official. If you mail your completed statement using your own envelope, be sure there is sufficient postage and that the address of the elections official is correct.

4. If you do not wish to send the statement by mail or have it delivered, you may submit your completed statement by facsimile or email transmission to your local elections official, or by other electronic means made available by your local elections official, or submit your completed statement to a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box before the close of the polls on election day.”

(3) The notice and instructions shall be translated in all languages required in that county by Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10503).

(4) A voter may work with a nongovernmental entity to complete the requirements of this subdivision.

(5) The identification envelope statement shall contain, where the voter signs, a statement that the county elections official is required to compare the voter’s signature appearing on the identification envelope statement with the signatures appearing in the voter’s registration record, which may include the signature appearing on the voter’s driver’s license or state identification card.

(f) ~~An elections official shall include~~ The Secretary of State shall publish on their internet website a single, combined vote by mail ballot signature verification statement and unsigned ballot identification envelope statement; statement. An elections official shall include the combined statement developed by the Secretary of State, or a combined statement developed by the elections official that meets the requirements of this

section. along with the instructions provided in this section for the completion of the statement, on the elections official's internet website and shall provide the elections official's mailing address, email address, and facsimile transmission number on the internet ~~web page~~ webpage containing the statement and instructions. The elections official shall accept the combined statement from a voter for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) or subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e). An elections official may mail the combined statement to a voter pursuant to subdivision (d) or (e) in lieu of the signature verification statement or unsigned ballot identification envelope statement.

(g) A local elections official offering other electronic means for submission of a statement described in this section shall establish appropriate privacy and security protocols that ensure that the information transmitted is received directly and securely by the elections official and is only used for the stated purposes of verifying the signature on the voter's ballot.

(h) A ballot shall not be removed from its identification envelope until the time for processing ballots. A ballot shall not be rejected for cause after the identification envelope has been opened.

(i) For purposes of this section, "certification of the election" means the date the particular elections official submits a certified statement of the results of the election to the governing body pursuant to Section 15372, even if that occurs before the deadline to submit the certified statement of the election results set forth in Section 15372.

(j) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) For a regularly scheduled statewide election, "applicable notification deadline" means 14 calendar days after the election and "applicable receipt deadline" means 22 calendar days after the election.

(2) For an election that is not a regularly scheduled statewide election, "applicable notification deadline" means eight calendar days before certification of the election and "applicable receipt deadline" means two calendar days before certification of the election.

~~(k)~~ (k) In comparing signatures pursuant to this section, including when using signature verification software or other technology, an elections official shall adhere to all applicable regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State.

~~(l)~~ (l) An elections official is authorized to use contact information provided on a voter's affidavit of registration to contact a voter for purposes consistent with this section.

(m) If an elections official establishes procedures that the official uses when comparing signatures pursuant to this section, the elections official shall post the procedures used on their internet website or provide them upon request at their office. In accordance with subdivision (k), any such procedures shall adhere to regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State.

(n) An elections official shall accept a form in satisfaction of the requirements of subdivision (d) or (e) if the form was developed by the Secretary of State or by an elections official pursuant to subdivision (d), (e), or (f). An elections official shall not accept a form created by any individual, organization, or entity other than the Secretary of State or an elections official.

(o) An elections official that places a vote by mail ballot drop box, as defined in Section 3025, at their office location to receive ballots, shall also use that drop box after the election in order to receive the form by which the voter provides a signature pursuant to subdivision (d) or (e), as applicable, provided that the drop box used after the election contains a clear and conspicuous label that it is to be used for this limited purpose and not for acceptance of late ballots.

(p) Notwithstanding Section 15 or any other law, if the last day for the performance of any act provided for or required by this section is a holiday, as defined in Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 6700) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, the deadline to perform the act shall not be continued to the next business day.

SEC. 3. Section 15104 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15104. (a) The processing of vote by mail ballot return envelopes, and the processing and counting of vote by mail ballots, shall be open to the public, both prior to and after the election.

(b) A member of the county grand jury, and at least one member each of the Republican county central committee, the Democratic county central committee, and of any other party with a candidate on the ballot, and any other interested organization, shall be permitted to observe and challenge the manner in which the vote by mail ballots are handled, from the processing of vote by mail ballot return envelopes through the counting and disposition of the ballots.

(c) The elections official shall notify vote by mail voter observers and the public at least 48 hours in advance of the dates, times, and places where vote by mail ballots will be processed and counted.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 2194, vote by mail voter observers shall be allowed sufficiently close access to enable them to observe the vote by mail ballot return envelopes and the signatures thereon and challenge whether those individuals handling vote by mail ballots are following established procedures, including all of the following:

(1) Verifying signatures on the vote by mail ballot return envelopes by comparing them to voter registration information.

(2) Duplicating accurately damaged or defective ballots.

(3) Securing vote by mail ballots to prevent tampering with them before they are counted on election day.

(4) Verifying signatures on statements completed pursuant to subdivisions (d) and (e) of Section 3019.

(e) A vote by mail voter observer shall not interfere with the orderly processing of vote by mail ballot return envelopes or the processing and counting of vote by mail ballots, including the touching or handling of the ballots.

SEC. 3.5. Section 15104 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15104. (a) The processing of vote by mail ballot return envelopes, and the processing and counting of vote by mail ballots, shall be open to the public, both prior to and after the election.

(b) A member of the county grand jury, and at least one member each of the Republican county central committee, the Democratic county central committee, and of any other party with a candidate on the ballot, and any other interested organization, shall be permitted to observe and challenge the manner in which the vote by mail ballots are handled, from the processing of vote by mail ballot return envelopes through the counting and disposition of the ballots.

(c) The elections official shall notify vote by mail voter observers and the public at least 48 hours in advance of the dates, times, and places where vote by mail ballots will be processed and counted.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 2194, vote by mail voter observers shall be allowed sufficiently close access to enable them to observe the vote by mail ballot return envelopes and the signatures thereon and challenge whether those individuals handling vote by mail ballots are following established procedures, including all of the following:

(1) Verifying signatures on the vote by mail ballot return envelopes by comparing them to voter registration information.

(2) Duplicating accurately damaged or defective ballots.

(3) Securing vote by mail ballots to prevent tampering with them before they are ~~counted-on-election-day:~~ counted.

(4) Verifying signatures on statements completed pursuant to subdivisions (d) and (e) of Section 3019.

(e) A vote by mail voter observer shall not interfere with the orderly processing of vote by mail ballot return envelopes or the processing and counting of vote by mail ballots, including the touching or handling of the ballots.

SEC. 4. Section 15306 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15306. (a) Beginning no later than the Thursday following an election, and until the time specified in subdivision (b), an elections official shall post updated information

regarding the election on their internet website at least ~~once per week. The update~~ two times by the following Thursday and at least twice a week thereafter. The updates shall include at least the following information:

(1) Updated results for any candidate or measure appearing on the ballot.

(2) The number of ballots processed and an estimated number of outstanding ballots remaining unprocessed ~~for each of the following categories: ballots voted at a polling place, vote by mail ballots received on or before election day, vote by mail ballots received after election day, provisional ballots, and conditional registration ballots: using the unprocessed ballot categories prescribed by the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 15305. This information shall be posted on either the homepage of an election official's internet website or on the stand-alone webpage for the specific election on an elections official's internet website. Posting a hyperlink to a separate file containing this information does not satisfy the requirements of this subdivision.~~

(3) The date and time when it is expected that the next results will be posted. This information shall be posted on the homepage of an elections official's internet website, on the stand-alone webpage for the specific election on an elections official's internet website, or on the stand-alone website that contains updated election results for the specific election pursuant to paragraph (1). Posting a hyperlink to a separate file containing this information does not satisfy the requirements of this subdivision.

(b) The elections official may stop posting the results described in subdivision (a) when either of the following occurs:

(1) A certified statement of results is published pursuant to Section 15372.

(2) The only ballots left to count are vote by mail ballots for which a voter has the opportunity either to verify their signature pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 3019 or to provide their signature pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 3019. If the elections official stops posting results for this reason, they shall post a notice stating this reason on their internet website.

(c) The requirements of this section are in addition to any other duty to report or publish information required of the elections official pursuant to ~~Division 15 (commencing with Section 15000)~~ this division or any other law.

SEC. 5. Section 2.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 3019 of the Elections Code proposed by both this bill and Assembly Bill 827. That section of this bill shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2026, (2) each bill amends Section 3019 of the Elections Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after Assembly Bill 827, in which case Section 2 of this bill shall not become operative.

SEC. 6. Section 3.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 15104 of the Elections Code proposed by both this bill and Assembly Bill 16. That section of this bill shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or

before January 1, 2026. (2) each bill amends Section 15104 of the Elections Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after Assembly Bill 16, in which case Section 3 of this bill shall not become operative.

SEC. 7. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

SECTION TWO

ADDITIONAL TRACKED CHAPTERED LEGISLATION

The following is a list of other bills tracked by CACEO, in addition to the bills printed in Section One.

FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION / POLITICAL REFORM ACT

BILL	AUTHOR	SUBJECT
AB 359	Harabedian	Fair Political Practices Commission
AB 808	Addis	Campaign statements and other reports: submission by fax
AB 953	Pacheco	Political Reform Act of 1974: contributions and expenditures by foreign nationals
AB 1286	Boemer	Political Reform Act of 1974: prospective employment
AB 1511	Committee	Political Reform Act of 1974: refunding and transferring contributions: voter information guide
AB 1512	Committee	Elections: ballot language
SB 42	Umberg	Political Reform Act of 1974: public campaign financing; California Fair Elections Act of 2026
SB 760	Allen	Behested payments: public appeal for payment

REDISTRICTING

BILL	AUTHOR	SUBJECT
AB 1079	Ávila Fariás	Civil appeals: stay of enforcement
AB 1441	Soria	County of Merced Citizens Redistricting Commission
SB 852	Senate Committee	Political Reform Act of 1974: Citizens Redistricting Commission

OTHER

BILL	AUTHOR	SUBJECT
AB 91	Harabedian	State and local agencies: demographic data
AB 94	Bennett	Campaign statements and other reports: submission by fax
AB 1029	Valencia	Political Reform Act of 1974: contributions and expenditures by foreign nationals
AB 1141	Lee	Political Reform Act of 1974: prospective employment
AB 1170	Dixon	Political Reform Act of 1974: refunding and transferring contributions: voter information guide
AB 1370	Patterson	Elections: ballot language
SB 63	Wiener	Political Reform Act of 1974: public campaign financing; California Fair Elections Act of 2026
SB 482	Weber Pierson	Behested payments: public appeal for payment
SB 858	Committee	Local Government Omnibus Act of 2025

NOVEMBER 2025 STATEWIDE SPECIAL ELECTION**California Assembly Constitutional Amendment 8**

Author: Pellerin

Chapter: 156

Date Chaptered: August 21, 2025

Requires the state to temporarily use the congressional districts reflected in AB 604 of the 2025-26 Regular Session for every congressional election until the new congressional boundary lines are drawn by the commission in 2031. Makes the congressional districts reflected in AB 604 operative only if Texas, Florida, or another state adopts a new congressional district map that takes effect after August 1, 2025, and before January 1, 2031, and such redistricting is not required by a federal court order.

Assembly Bill 604

Author: Aguiar-Curry

Chapter: 96

Date Chaptered: August 21, 2025

Requires the Citizens Redistricting Commission to adjust the boundary lines of the congressional, State Senate, Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts in the

year following the year in which the national decennial census is taken and requires the districts be redrawn in conformance with specified standards. Specifies the elements that define the congressional districts if ACA 8 of the 2025-26 Regular Session is adopted by the voters.

Senate Bill 162

Author: Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee

Chapter: 115

Date Chaptered: September 17, 2025

Prohibits a county elections official from certifying the results of a local election called by a district, city, or other political subdivision on or before August 8, 2025, and scheduled to be held on November 4, 2025, before the 28th calendar day following the election.

Senate Bill 280

Author: Cervantes

Chapter: 97

Date Chaptered: August 21, 2025

Requires the Secretary of State to make those forms available beginning December 19, 2025. Requires the Secretary of State to prepare a calendar of key election dates and deadlines and requirements for the nomination of candidates by the date that the in-lieu-filing-fee petition forms are made available.

SECTION THREE VETOED BILLS

Elections: local tax measures

[Assembly Bill No. 699, Stefani.](#)

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 699 without my signature.

This bill would allow a local elections official to include on the ballot label, for certain local tax or bond measures, a statement directing voters to the county voter information guide for required tax rate information in lieu of providing the information directly on the ballot label.

While I appreciate the author's intent to provide local agencies with the flexibility to select an alternative tax rate disclosure option, I am concerned that this bill, as drafted, will reduce transparency for local tax and bond measures.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,
Gavin Newsom

District elections: initiatives

[Senate Bill No. 512, Pérez.](#)

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 512 without my signature.

This bill reaffirms that jurisdictions may use the initiative process to impose transactions and use taxes for transportation purposes.

The courts have consistently and repeatedly affirmed this existing authority; therefore, this bill is unnecessary.

Sincerely,
Gavin Newsom

SECTION FOUR AFFECTED CODES

BILL	CODE SECTION	SUMMARY
AB 5	Elections 15307	Count ballots on or before 13 th day following elections, with some exceptions
AB 16	Elections 15101,15104	Processing VBM ballots
AB 17	Elections 12263	Make available precinct map
AB 287	Elections 12283	School districts or other public buildings for polling places
AB 827	Elections 2194, 3019,3019.7,15301	Voting: Signature verification
AB 930	Elections 4103,15620-22,15624-28,15630-33	Elections and voting procedures
AB 1072	Elections 13600	Uniform standards for ballot mistakes
AB 1249	Elections 319.5,3016.3,3016.5,3018,18370,18502,18540,18541	Early voting
AB 1392	Elections 2166.9,2194,2227,8040,8600,10226.3	Voter registration information disclosure exemptions
AB 1411	Elections 2105	Voter education and outreach plan for non all-mailed ballot counties
AB 1513	Elections 12,5200,11000-11004,11221,13113,15621,16442,16462,16464,15621	Election procedures; certified and superior courts
SB 3	Elections 3011,3019,15104,15306	Signature verification
SB 162	Elections	Prohibits a county elections official from certifying the results of a local election called by a district, city, or other political subdivision on or before August 8, 2025, and scheduled to be held on November 4, 2025, before the 28 th calendar day following the election.

SECTION FOUR
AFFECTED CODES

BILL	CODE SECTION	SUMMARY
SB 621	Elections 3108	Military and overseas voter registration
SB 851	Elections 21,15371-15372, 15375, 15400, 18545, 18568, 19006, 19101, 19212, 19215, 19284, 19290	Elections

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