



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

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Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

United States House of Representatives  
Committee on House Administration

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

### **SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY: “Make Elections Great Again” Hearing**

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Good morning, Chair Steil and Members of the Committee. I am Dean Logan, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (“RR/CC”) for Los Angeles County (“County”) in the State of California (“State”). In this capacity, I am responsible for the County’s voter registration process, voter file maintenance, federal, state, local and special election administration, and other related programs. The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk is one of 58 county election officials in California responsible for administering elections and certifying election results.

Los Angeles County has nearly 5.8 million registered voters, with 5,000 voting precincts established for countywide elections. As the largest and most complex electoral jurisdiction in the country, with 88 cities, over 100 school and community college districts, 55 general and special districts, and approximately 140 unincorporated areas, we submit this testimony to provide important background and context as the committee deliberates these important matters.

During the April 20, 2025, House Administration Committee hearing, the Chair focused on the fact that over 16 million of the votes cast in 2024, were from the state of California. Framed another way, over 1 in 10 votes cast in the entire nation come from California. The sheer number of votes cast in California, and in particular in Los Angeles, the largest jurisdiction, requires particular attention be paid to ensure that we have laws that protect voter intent, ensure ballot access, enhance voter trust in the outcomes, and avoid voter confusion.

In Los Angeles County, we counted over 3.7 million ballots in the 2024 General Election. To put that into perspective, Los Angeles County counted more ballots than 38 other states, including the great states of Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin. This volume, reflective of our population, geography, and diversity, necessitates that we need to offer multiple voting options to give voters the opportunity to vote on or before Election Day, and to allow for prudent contingency in response to conditions or activities that would otherwise disrupt the electoral process. The simple truth is that a lot of Americans live in California, a lot of Americans vote in California, and it takes time to count millions of votes accurately and transparently while maintaining chain of custody and complying with local, state, and federal voting laws.

**1. H.R. 7300’s abolition of “universal vote by mail” would prohibit Los Angeles County from mailing every voter a printed paper ballot that can be marked manually. H.R. 7300 would take away voting options used by voters in rural areas, who are home-bound, or do not have means of transportation to vote in-person while significantly increasing wait times at vote centers.**

As a state, California has led the nation in adopting standards for voter verifiable paper ballots to be used in all elections. This standard gives voters confidence that their vote cannot be tampered with by cyber criminals or political operatives. Each voter can trust the paper ballot they marked to reflect their choices. In Los Angeles County, each voter has the choice to return their ballot in person, by mail, or in secure drop boxes with chain of custody protections that ensure ballots are received, transported and counted as the voter intended. The paper ballot also enables each county to be able to conduct audits, and recounts, if necessary, after the election.

H.R. 7300 requires that a voter verifiable paper ballot be provided. Los Angeles County currently offers every voter the option of marking a paper ballot manually through a ballot delivered to each voter’s mailing address. A voter may alternatively choose to vote in person at a vote center, independently marking and verifying a paper, human-readable ballot using a non-tabulating ballot marking device.

H.R. 7300’s abolition of what is labeled “universal vote by mail” contradicts the bill’s provisions requiring that each voter have the option to vote by manually marking a printed ballot that includes all relevant contests and candidates. Given the number of people, the long distances, and the complexity of ballots, California ensures every registered voter receives a paper ballot by requiring county election officials to mail ballots to all registered voters. H.R. 7300 would ban election officials from automatically delivering a paper ballot to every voter by mail.

Further, H.R. 7300 would require the voter to have the option at every in-person voting location to manually mark a pre-printed ballot that includes all relevant contests and candidates. Currently, every vote center in Los Angeles County is equipped to allow any eligible voter, regardless of where they live in the county, to be able to view and mark their own ballot with the contests and measures specific to where they live. In any particular election, there will be several hundred ballot styles, reflecting different combinations of local contests and measures based on a person’s residence. To provide voters who choose to vote in person with a voter-verifiable paper ballot, voters use the ballot marking device to display the correct ballot style in the language they wish to see the ballot. After the voter marks their voting choices, the ballot marking device prints out the official paper ballot with the voter’s choices for verification prior to submission. H.R. 7300 would require the printing, distribution, and storage of millions of blank copies of hundreds of ballot styles, in each of the languages mandated by federal law, at every one of over 650 vote centers in Los Angeles County. Alternatively, it would require the purchase and/or re-design of our entire voting system, costing hundreds of millions of dollars.

**2. Banning states from accepting ballots that have been cast by Election Day, but arrive later, would have disenfranchised 75,000 Los Angeles County voters in November 2024.**

H.R. 7300 would cut off receipt of ballots on Election Day, affecting not only California voters, but also voters in 17 states, including Alaska, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia. In many places, voting by mail is the only way to get ballots out to and back from voters who live in remote or rural locations.

Based on our experience in the 2024 General Election, most of the 75,000 ballots postmarked on or before Election Day and received within seven days of the election as currently permitted under state law would be disqualified. It is important to note that the 75,000 ballots reflect voters of all ages,

geographic location, and party registration. The cutting of mail services by the United States Postal Service (USPS) has resulted in some ballots that were postmarked and mailed back to our office well in advance of Election Day arriving after Election Day, particularly voters in more remote or rural parts of the county. This represents another contingency provision that ensures voters their ballot will be counted despite changes or disruption in USPS services or delayed mail delivery. Its elimination would introduce additional risk of disenfranchisement and loss of voter participation.

While some members of Congress have raised questions about the state's laws governing how ballots can be received, alleging that it is prone to delays in tabulation, and ultimately the calling of races. The truth is that providing a ballot to voters through the mail is not a source of delay. Most voters receive their ballots a month before election day, which gives them time to learn about and make decisions on which candidates and measures they want to support.

The challenge is how they return the ballots. The ongoing cuts in USPS operations have led to increased delivery delays and new concerns about delays in the affixation of postmarks. Eighteen states, including California, allow ballots that have been postmarked by Election Day to be received within a specified time period to ensure that we are not denying Americans their right to vote simply because of the quality of their mail service or their access to transportation. H.R. 7300 would forbid states from protecting voters' ability to ensure their timely ballot is counted.

**3. H.R. 7300's prohibition of voter registration without presentation of documentary proof of citizenship, the last four digits of an applicant's Social Security number, and documentary proof of state residency would disenfranchise tens of thousands of U.S. Citizens and require the creation of a massive new bureaucracy at the local level without any identified funding.**

H.R. 7300 would require eligible voters to provide documentary proof of citizenship (DPOC) at the time of registration. Voter registration under this bill must be completed, in most instances, at least 30 days before a federal election with no provision for same-day or conditional election-day registration. This could disenfranchise first-time voters, students, young voters, voters experiencing homelessness, and new citizens. Many naturalized U.S. citizens do not possess physical documents that explicitly show citizenship status, and college students typically register to vote and vote on election day, making this requirement yet another barrier to full civic participation.

In states like Kansas which have tried to implement requirements for documentary proof of citizenship, federal courts found a constitutionally violative level of voter disenfranchisement. In Kansas, over 30,000 U.S. citizens, otherwise eligible to vote, were blocked from registering to vote because of Kansas' documentation requirements, resulting in a court order that suspended the law as unconstitutional. Applying Kansas' rate of denial - 12% of new registrants unconstitutionally disenfranchised, H.R. 7300 could result in over 40,000 U.S. citizens being blocked from registering to vote in Los Angeles County in any given year.

H.R. 7300 further seeks to amend Section 202(b) of the REAL ID Act of 2005 to require U.S. citizenship be clearly shown on any state driver's license or identification card issued. According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), as of May 2025, REAL ID cardholders are about 58% (19,000,000+) of the eligible population. Hiring and training DMV staff to verify DPOC and replacing over nineteen million REAL ID cards would result in significant disruptions and steep costs.

To integrate requirements for DPOC into the County's election management system, Los Angeles County would have to determine what document or combination of documents are acceptable and responsive to multiple user scenarios (naturalized citizens; U.S.-born citizens; people who have to

change their names, have moved, want to change their party preference, or register their language need). This would involve the need to design and change workflows, database schema and user interfaces to build a new process that can receive and retain new data including potentially the type of DPOC provided, the identifying number, the date of document(s) issuance and expiration, and an image of the document(s). Los Angeles County also anticipates the need to engage county resources and contractors to write or re-write code, test, and deploy new fields to record the DPOC information in the election management system. In addition to designing, testing and purchasing new equipment (scanners or other image capture devices) to collect images of DPOC, Los Angeles County would need to create public-facing forms, instructions, and educational materials, each translated into each of the languages mandated by federal and state laws.

A massive bureaucracy would need to be created to manage the increased document requirements of registrants, the employment of legal experts to research immigration and citizenship laws to create standards for acceptable documentation and apply the exceptions created by H.R. 7300, the training of staff to understand what documents or combination of documents are permitted to establish DPOC, the review and scanning of DPOC documents accompanying each voter's registration. To be able to handle the additional paperwork and ameliorate the inevitable explosion of wait times for the thousands of new applicants that seek to register to vote each year, Los Angeles County estimates needing to hire and train hundreds of new permanent and temporary workers and expand physical capacity.

H.R. 7300, section 303A, subsection (d)(2), is vague and unclear on what process should be used for voters registering online, potentially requiring the state or county to create a supplementary process to receive DPOC for these registrants, which would entail additionally establishing a system for matching the information collected from online registrations with subsequently submitted documents. Whether supplemental DPOC could be submitted as copies online or by mail, or would need to be submitted in-person, these new processes would require building new infrastructure and hiring and training new staff to receive and match the documents with registration.

In total, RR/CC preliminarily estimates associated costs in the tens of millions of dollars and no funding is allocated in the legislation.

#### **4. H.R. 7300's requirement of government issued photo identification to vote effectively limits voter's access to the ballot.**

H.R. 7300 requires voters to present an approved government-issued photo ID to vote a regular ballot. While the bill lists several valid forms of photo identification, identification cards provided by an educational institution are explicitly prohibited. This creates barriers for participation and disenfranchises student voters, for many of whom the only form of ID they have is the ID issued by their school.

Additionally, this bill requires eligible voters who are unable to provide a valid photo ID to vote provisionally and provide the approved documentation within 3 days for their vote to count. Many voters may not have immediate access to the required documents as some forms of approved ID's (e.g., passports) are difficult to obtain due to financial barriers or other limitations.

H.R. 7300 requires vote by mail ballots to be accompanied by either a copy of a valid photo ID, or the last four digits of the voter's social security number (SSN) plus a state affidavit stating the voter could not get a copy of a photo ID despite reasonable effort. The bill also requires state agencies or local government officials to provide digital photo imaging devices for free to any individual - equipment and services that appear to be an unfunded federal mandate. (Sec. 303A, subsection (b)).

## Conclusion

California has established a strong foundation to support free and fair elections, to encourage and facilitate voter registration and participation, and to support a voter centered approach to when, where, and how elections are administered. The mechanics of when, where, and how elections are conducted should never be driven by political directive. These critical processes must be guided by deliberate, thoughtful legislation focused on ensuring eligible voters clearly understand their voting options and can exercise those options without unnecessary barriers.

Change of the magnitude proposed by H.R. 7300 requires multiple years of planning and careful execution. Attempting to implement multiple processes integral to the voter experience – from the documents required for registration and voting, to how and when ballots can be delivered and returned, to how voter files should be maintained – on an accelerated timeframe would create significant risk of administrative error and under-resourcing other critical elements of election administration and security.

More importantly, there is a significant likelihood of a drop in eligible voter participation, higher registration data error rates, and additional costs to taxpayers.

We urge Congress to engage in bi-partisan deliberation with the full input of election administrators, voting rights groups, and experts to craft election changes that achieve the ultimate goals of voter trust and participation.

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