



# **Preparedness of Placer County for the November 2020 General Election**

**September 30, 2020**

# Preparedness of Placer County for the November 2020 General Election

## Summary

In these unprecedented times of COVID-19, the State of California took steps to ensure every citizen could safely vote in the November 2020 general election. The passing of Assembly Bill 860 and Senate Bill 423 made California a vote-by-mail state for the upcoming election. The grand jury investigated the Placer County Elections Office and their readiness to conduct a vote-by-mail election and report the changes being made to ensure a successful election.

## Glossary

**Assembly Bill 860 (AB 860):** Bill passed in June 2020, outlining changes for the November 2020 election. (Reference 7)

**California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials (CACEO):** The Association was created to foster uniformity of practices and procedures in the elections community while maintaining a high standard of professionalism. CACEO is committed to promote public confidence in the administration of elections and to support and facilitate in a nonpartisan manner, legislation to further these objectives.

**HAVA:** Help America Vote Act passed in 2002.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Equipment such as masks, gloves, and face shields.

**Placer County Elections Office:** Responsible for conducting all federal, state, judicial, county, city, special district and school district elections in Placer County.

**Senate Bill 423 (SB 423):** Bill passed in August 2020 authorizing California to be a vote-by-mail state for the November 2020 general election. (Reference 6)

**Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA):** Citizens who are members of the Uniformed Services, Merchant Marine, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the family members of the above, and overseas citizens to register and vote in elections for federal offices. Uniformed Services are defined as the U.S. Armed Forces (Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard), Merchant Marine, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and family members of all of the above. Overseas citizens are defined as citizens who reside outside of the United States.

**Vote-by-Mail:** Each registered voter is mailed a ballot that they return either by mail or drop it off at a drop box or voter service center.

**Voter Service Center (VSC)/Voter Service Centers (VSCs):** In Placer County, large voting centers being used for the November 2020 general election instead of local neighborhood precincts. Referred to as Vote Center in SB 423.

**Optical Character Recognition:** The electronic or mechanical conversion of images of typed, handwritten, or printed text into machine-encoded text, whether from a scanned document, a photo of a document, a scene-photo, or from subtitle text superimposed on an image.

## **Background**

The Placer Grand Jury investigated different aspects of the Placer County Elections Office in 2011 and 2017. The impact of the current pandemic on the November 2020 general election is unknown. Therefore, the current grand jury investigated the Placer County Elections Office and its readiness to conduct the election and report on the changes being made to ensure a successful election.

## **Methodology**

For this investigation the grand jury interviewed staff within the Placer County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters Office. Included in the interviews were the county's Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters, the Assistant Recorder/Registrar, and the Elections Manager. The grand jury toured the Elections Office, watched master ballots being verified, reviewed county organizational charts, and budgets. A variety of news articles were read and websites visited to gather information for this report. The postmaster from the Auburn Post Office was interviewed.

Budget information was verified by the Placer County Controller and the Administrative & Fiscal Officer for the Clerk-Recorder-Elections department.

Two members of the grand jury recused themselves to avoid any conflict of interest and the appearance of bias.

## **Discussion**

The nation, state, and county are in uncharted territory with COVID-19. Senate Bill 423 was passed in August to ensure all citizens in the state will be able to vote safely in November. SB 423 authorizes that vote-by-mail is used statewide and provides updated election guidelines to counties. The law does have an impact on the county budget and staffing for the election.

### **Senate Bill 423**

On May 8, 2020, the governor signed Executive Order N-64-20 declaring California to be a vote-by-mail state. The state legislature passed Senate Bill 423 and it was signed into law on August 6, 2020. This law lists the requirements a county must follow for an all-mail ballot election. The Placer County Registrar of Voters is the co-chair of the California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials Legislative Committee. This participation provided the county with advanced notice of impending legislative changes and enabled them to make plans. The bill requires counties to establish Voting Service Centers (VSCs) to replace small neighborhood polling precincts. Senate Bill 423 also requires ballot drop-off locations throughout the county. Voting centers must be open at least three days prior to election day.

The law changed aspects of previous election processes and presented a challenge for Placer County, and the other fifty-seven counties in the state. First, every registered voter must receive their ballot by mail. Placer County will be mailing registered voters their ballots on October 5, 2020. Voters can fill out their ballot within the comfort of their home and then mail or drop off their ballot. Ballots can be dropped off at any Voting Service Center (VSC) location or drop box located throughout the state. Citizens may also vote in person if they prefer by going to any VSC location within the state.

Senate Bill 423 requires the county to have drop boxes available for voters to drop off their ballots. The number of drop boxes required is determined by population. Counties must provide at least one drop box for every 15,000 registered voters. In previous years the county had only two drop box locations. For the upcoming election, there will be twenty-seven drop boxes scattered throughout the county plus drop boxes at all twenty-eight VSCs, exceeding the requirements of the law.

### **Technology and the Election**

The March 2020 primaries were a foreshadowing of what is to come for the November general election. Placer County did not experience problems with their equipment. Just prior to March 2020 they had purchased state-of-the-art equipment. While they did not encounter any equipment problems, staffing shortages presented significant challenges for the county. As a result of the pandemic, the county lost poll workers who were worried about their health and did not want to risk infection.

Newly purchased voting equipment at the Elections Office will open and extract each ballot from its envelope. This task was previously performed manually. This automation speeds up the process and requires fewer people. The other equipment to be used at the VSCs will include touch screen voting machines that will print the voted ballots. Voting equipment used at the Elections Office and at the VSCs goes through a pre logic and accuracy test prior to each election.

For the upcoming election voters going into a VSC will check in at a computer centrally connected to the Elections Office's voter registration database. VSC staff will confirm that a voter has not returned their vote-by-mail ballot, void their vote-by-mail ballot if it has not been returned, and issue a new one. The voter will then vote on a touch screen and confirm their selections on the screen. After confirming their choices, they will push a button, which will instantly print out a ballot. Voters will place their ballot in a vote-by-mail envelope, sign the envelope, and drop it into the ballot box. In November, every voter in Placer County will cast a paper ballot.

Touch screen machines with printers connected were used in the March 2020 primary election and one special election in 2019. The live real-time connection between the VSC locations and the voter registration database has not been previously used.

Senate Bill 423 set the stage to shift the state to vote-by-mail. Funding was allocated to implement the law. Voter integrity will be assured by a machine capable of Optical Character Recognition, comparing the signatures on the envelope to a state maintained database of registered voters, validating the ballot.

The Placer County Elections Office has its own internal Information Technology (IT) team. The IT staff is trained on the equipment used by the county and the equipment to be used at the VSCs. If there is an issue in the field, the IT staff can be deployed to resolve the issue. This also means that the security of the equipment is held within the department and not at the county IT level.

## Validation

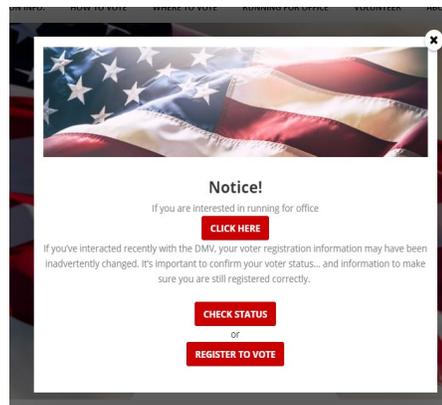
The county will be producing 108 different ballots for the November election. Each of these ballots go through extensive proof reading and verification. Each ballot is reviewed twice by staff members, in teams of two, who read the ballot out loud, letter by letter. Secondly, each ballot is then checked twice again being read by different teams, word by word. The approved order of how candidate names are listed on the ballot is also checked.

Facsimile copies of the ballot can be provided to voters in four different languages other than English (Spanish, Korean, Punjabi, or Tagalog) upon voter request. Each VSC will have a computer capable of printing the facsimile. The languages the county must provide assistance for are determined by the California Secretary of State, according to the California Elections Code § 14201.

As a result of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), passed in 2002, much of the voting process has gone through updates. California updated its system in 2010. HAVA mandates that all states and localities upgrade aspects of their election procedures, including voting machines, registration processes, and poll worker training. Because of this act, states now maintain a statewide voter database. HAVA requires states to develop a single uniform statewide voter registration list. The list is maintained and administered at the state level. HAVA also requires the statewide list be matched with other agency databases within the state. It additionally requires regular maintenance of the statewide list in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

In conjunction with these state actions, in March 2020, Placer County Elections Office conducted a validation check of its registered voter database. This took the form of a postcard sent to each registered voter on their rolls requesting updates to the following voter data elements: Name, California Driver License number, Social Security Number, and Date of Birth.

The Placer County database is also updated daily. The Elections Office receives information from the California Department of Motor Vehicles, county and state Departments of Vital Statistics notices, and the United States Postal Service. The seven special elections conducted within the county in 2019 also helped clean up the county's database. Individuals can also check their voter status from the Placer County Elections Office's website.



<https://www.placerelections.com/>

By December 1, 2020, twenty-eight days following the general election, the registrar of voters must send to the Secretary of State a complete copy of the returns for presidential electors. By December 3, 2020, thirty days following the election, the department must complete the count, certify the results, and submit them to the Placer County Board of Supervisors.

### **Voter Fraud**

The Placer County Elections Office staff takes every possible precaution to avoid voter fraud. In the past twenty years there have been no identified cases of voter fraud within Placer County. If a case had occurred, the information would have been forwarded to the district attorney. The signature validation process is primarily responsible for this success.

Below is the process that will be followed in the upcoming election for ballot verification.

1. The system will scan an image of the signature on the incoming envelope.
2. The scanned image will be compared to the signature on file.
3. Ballots with valid signatures will be counted.
4. Ballots with questionable signatures will be sorted and reviewed by staff.
  - a. First level of review will be done by an election staff worker.
  - b. The second level of review will be done by one of the three department managers.
  - c. Final review will be done by the county's registrar of voters.
  - d. If a signature is still in doubt, the department will reach out to the voter for validation by phone, email, or letter.

There have been about 10,000 letters sent out in the past few years. Common reasons for signatures not matching include predominant arm broken or injured or other medical reasons, such as a stroke.

In the 2020 primary election there were 114,434 envelopes returned. (Reference 1) Of those, 97% (111,003) were classified as "Good" and the ballot was counted. Three percent were challenged for a number of reasons. There were 2,139 (two percent) envelopes that were "cured," meaning the issue with the envelope was resolved and the ballot was counted. Of the 1,292 envelopes (one percent) not counted in the final tally, 89% were due to the fact there was no ballot in the envelope or there was no signature. (Reference 2)

This year there will be touch screen voting machines at all VSC locations. When a voter has completed their ballot a paper copy of the ballot will be printed. At that time, the voter will be able to review their ballot and verify that the machine recorded their vote accurately. If incorrect, a poll worker will be able to assist them in getting a new ballot filled out. If correct, the ballot will be inserted into an envelope, the envelope signed, and deposited into the voting box. This is new, in the past there was no way to validate signatures at the polls. This year ballots filled out at the VSC will have the voter's signature verified once received at the Auburn Elections Office.

An additional service available to voters is the ballot tracking system. This system allows a voter to request tracking of their ballot throughout the election process. Accessing the Placer County Elections Office website, voters can sign up and request either an email or text message be sent to them. Once set up in the system an email confirmation is sent to the voter. (Exhibit 2) The voter can opt-out of the system at any time. Tracking is another way a voter can be assured their ballot has been received and counted or notified if someone else is trying to use their ballot.

The voter tracking information will be updated every weekday morning. Citizens can go to the Placer County Elections website to check the status of their ballot at any time. There are five different categories under which a voter's ballot could fall.

GOOD	Your ballot has been received, accepted and will be processed for counting.
CHALLENGED	Your ballot has been received but requires additional research. If you have not been contacted by our office, please telephone us to help us clear the challenged status of your ballot.
VOID	This ballot cannot be counted for the current election. If you believe that we have come to this decision in error, please contact our office. Please note if you have had a replacement ballot issued to you, the void is reflecting the first ballot issued.
BALLOT NOT RETURNED	Based on the search information you submitted, we did not find a returned ballot for you. Please try again later or telephone our office.
NO RECORD FOUND	The information you entered did not match our records. Please try again. Be sure to enter your birth date in the first box and your driver's license or the last four digits of your social security number in the second box. Please note that your ballot may not have been issued as of this date.

### United States Postal Service

Placer County Elections Office staff works with the Auburn United States Post Office and the postmasters throughout the county. The bulk mail supervisor, located in West Sacramento, has been in place for years and knows the election process. This is beneficial to the county as mail-in ballots are sent to West Sacramento for processing before being returned to Auburn.

Ballots for Lake Tahoe area residents go to the Reno Post Office before being sent to West Sacramento for processing. This routing could result in a delay in the delivery of ballots to the Elections Office coming from the Lake Tahoe area of up to seven days. The West Sacramento facility processes mail-in ballots, and the county is charged accordingly. The county pays a first-class bulk postage rate for ballots returned by mail. Voters who place a stamp on the envelope could have their ballot slightly delayed getting to the Elections Office. If a ballot envelope has a stamp, the county's prepaid postage has to be voided, the number of envelopes counted, and a credit given back to the county.

Even before the governor's Executive Order N-64-20 in May 2020, declaring California a vote-by-mail state, 78% of Placer County registered voters had signed up for permanent vote-by-mail. The department estimates that 85% of the county will vote by mail in November, while the other 15% will vote at one of the VSCs. If the estimation is correct, the post office will see an increase of about 10% more ballots processed through their system for Placer County.

The county deals with approximately 1,000 military or overseas voters scattered across the globe. These individuals can vote based on the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. Ballots are sent to these individuals between forty-five and sixty days prior to election day to give them enough time to return their ballots. The department is notified weekly

of any countries not accepting mail from the United States. If a registered voter is in one of those countries, or the voter has requested email delivery of their materials, an email is sent to that voter. Within the email is a secure link to an online ballot that the voter can use to complete their vote. For these individuals, Placer County contact information can also be found at the nonpartisan Overseas Vote Foundation website. This website features a complete election official directory for all fifty states and US territories. More information can be found on their website: [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). The Elections Office also has a military and overseas voting program page on their website, <https://www.placerelections.com/military-and-overseas-voting-program>, as well as a portal for these voters to download their voting materials at <https://sites.omniballot.us/06061/app/home>.

Postmarks are vital to the elections process. Ballots will remain uncounted if the Elections Office receives a ballot postmarked after the election day. Assembly Bill 860 requires ballots be postmarked by election day and must be received by the Elections Office within seventeen days of the election. Ballots not meeting these criteria will not be counted.

In past years, Placer County Elections Office sent staff out on election day to the mail processing centers in West Sacramento and Reno plus every post office in Placer County to collect ballots. This year collection has been extended by seventeen days allowing the election staff to collect ballots until November 20, 2020. The staff will visit the Auburn Post Office daily starting October 5 through November 20. In addition, on November 20, they will visit every post office in the Placer County, and the mail processing centers in Reno and West Sacramento to collect ballots. Ballots can be counted until the last day that the election is certified, as long as the ballot is postmarked by November 3. Before this year, receipt of ballots was required within three days following election day.

## **Election Costs**

The Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters department has an annual budget of approximately \$11 million. The annual budget cost allocated for elections varies and is based on the number of elections there are in the fiscal year, the types of election, postage costs, and projected voter participation.

In the past, the cost of a general election was approximately \$1 million. Placer County Elections Office staff has estimated this election may cost taxpayers between one and two million additional dollars to handle the COVID-19 concerns, purchase of additional equipment and supplies, and changes in employment law. The Placer County Elections Office is estimating an increase of 20% in postage costs alone. Since the 2016 election approximately 30,000 additional voters have registered. Due to the upcoming election, those numbers are growing by about 1,200 each week.

(Chart 2)

The state has earmarked over \$900,000 for the county for the upcoming election to offset some of the additional expenses. Of this money, \$120,000 must be spent on communication. That amount has already been spent, even though the state has not released the money to the county as of the writing of this report.

## Staffing

The Placer County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar department has fifty-two permanent fulltime employees as of August 2020. Of those individuals, fifteen are assigned to the elections side of the department. Most employees are cross trained and can assist elections staff as necessary. Typically, from two months prior to one month after the election, the department increases its headcount to seventy employees to handle the additional work related to the election.

The department hired approximately 2,000 poll workers for a general election in the past. By the time the VSCs open on October 31, there will be as few as 500 individuals working at the VSC locations.

In the past, poll workers were required to attend four hours of training, work one day, and received a tax-free stipend. To comply with some of SB 423 requirements, the way the county compensates poll workers will change with the November election. The county has depended on community volunteers and service organizations to provide staffing for local precincts in the past. The county then paid a stipend to the service organization or individual poll workers. With the new law, and the VSCs required to be open for three days prior to election day, stipends are no longer feasible. Poll workers will now be paid an hourly wage.

Moving away from a stipend to hourly pay, more training days, and longer workdays is a significant change resulting in a budget increase to the department. Since SB 423 requires that that VSC locations be open for four days, this change would have required the county to increase the stipend paid considerably. According to IRS regulations as the county understands them, they must consider the paid volunteers “independent contractors” when the following four conditions apply:

1. The county makes the payment to someone who is not a county employee;
2. The county makes the payment for services in the course of doing business;
3. The county makes the payment to an individual, partnership, estate, or in some cases, a corporation; and
4. The county makes payments to the payee of at least \$600 during the year.

When paid volunteers fall into the status of independent contractors, their wages are considered taxable income. Since many of the county’s regular poll workers had already received between \$100 to \$250 for their service in March, there was not much margin there for keeping wages under \$600. Therefore, the county decided to switch to paying everyone hourly. The county is using a temporary employment agency to assist in obtaining qualified workers for election day. The Elections Office is working with the League of Women Voters during this election to figure out how service organizations can assist again in the future.

Under the current rules, there will be two types of workers hired for each VSC location. The first will be supervisors. The elections team needs to place a minimum of two supervisors at each

VSC to cover for breaks, lunches, sickness, and other possible coverage issues. The mandatory training, which is still in development, will range between forty to sixty hours.

The second group to be hired are VSC workers, who will support the supervisor in running the VSC. They will assist voters as they arrive, clean booths and screens, register new voters, etc. They will also be paid hourly and work all four days. The mandatory training, which is also in development, will range from one half day to a week.

When planning for the upcoming elections, the department will have additional staff in the call center to assist VSC supervisors. . Department staff will be trained so they can assist the VSCs if necessary.

### **Voting Options**

Voters will be able to vote as soon as they receive their ballot in the mail. They will be able to mail it, drop it into a drop box, drop it off at either the Auburn or Rocklin Elections Offices, or drop it off at a VSC when the VSCs open on October 31.

Those individuals wanting to vote in person can do so starting October 5 at either the Auburn or Rocklin Elections Offices. These offices will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The last two weekends prior to election day, (October 24/25 and October 31/November 1), the facilities will also be open for voters from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Starting October 31 through election day, voters can vote in person at any of the VSC locations.

### **Post Office**

Individuals can drop their ballots at any US Post Office.

### **Drop Boxes**

In previous years, the county had two drop boxes for voters to use. To comply with both SB 423 and AB 860, the county has added more drop boxes this year. There will now be twenty-seven drop boxes scattered throughout the county. (Reference 3) Elections staff will collect ballots daily from all drop box locations and will either retrieve or close and seal all of the drop boxes at 8:00 p.m. on November 3. The Auburn Elections Office will also retrieve sealed ballots from each of the twenty-eight VSCs during the four days they are open.

Ballots deposited into a drop box will not have a postmark. However, the drop boxes will be sealed closed at 8:00 p.m. on election day.

### **Voting Service Centers**

Some California voters will still need access to in-person voting opportunities. This includes individuals with disabilities, those who speak languages other than English, individuals experiencing homelessness, a voter who never received their vote-by-mail ballot, may have lost or damaged their ballot, or an individual who needs to register to vote.

Placer County, in the past, has had between 215-230 polling locations depending on the type of election. With the new requirements, there will now be twenty-eight VSCs. This November, VSC locations will be open three days before and on election day. The location of these VSCs is determined by population, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, minimum of

1,000 square feet, easily accessible to the public, adequate traffic flow, parking, and building availability. This is a challenge with the VSC locations this year because the facility must be available from October 31 through November 3, versus only one day in past elections. There is some concern that October 31 could be a problematic voting day because of Halloween. The second trimester for many of the school districts across the county is Monday, November 2, 2020. If students are back on campus it could result in lower voting on that day.

These VSCs will be much larger than the neighborhood polling places of the past. This enables the county to maintain the safety measures required for COVID-19 and social distancing. The Placer County Elections staff hopes that voters will take advantage of the three days of early voting at the VSC locations and not wait until November 3 to vote.

Locations of drop boxes and VSCs are provided in the reference section of this report. (Reference 3 and Reference 5). Online access to an interactive tool for drop box locations can be found at <https://www.placerelections.com/drop-box-locations/>.

### **COVID-19**

Placer County Elections staff have taken measures to ensure the health and safety of voters and poll workers during the upcoming election. The office was closed for several weeks beginning in March because of the COVID-19 mandated shutdown. When they reopened on June 8, 2020, they began acquiring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for employees and poll workers. For the ballots mailed to registered voters, the county has replaced the “lick and stick” envelopes used in prior elections with “peel and seal” envelopes.

Placer County Elections staff have procured and will provide PPE (such as masks, gloves, and shields) and hand sanitizer to all poll workers in the VSCs. Poll workers will sanitize each voting booth prior to each usage. Additionally, voters will be asked to wear masks and each VSC will have a supply of masks on hand for voters who do not bring them. Voters will not be prevented from voting if they refuse to wear masks. However, those individuals will be directed to a designated voting booth to reduce potential exposure.

Social distancing will be enforced when voters queue up to enter the VSCs as well as within the centers. The voting booths themselves will be spaced at an adequate distance apart, again, to ensure social distancing.

As of the writing of this report, there are no plans to take voter temperatures before they enter the VSCs, but this could change if the State of California provides thermometers to the counties.

Placer County Elections staff have purchased pens for use in the VSCs. Rather than attempting to sanitize and reuse pens after each usage, the county has purchased disposable pens that can either be thrown out or taken home by the voters.

## Conclusion

The grand jury found that the Placer Elections Office management and staff are doing an outstanding job planning and preparing for the upcoming general election. While there are unique challenges for the upcoming election, the department is very proactive and working hard to foresee any issues that could arise.

## Findings

The grand jury found that:

- F1: Placer County Elections staff are committed to ensuring that registered voters have the opportunity to vote and all ballots are properly collected, counted, and secured.
- F2: Placer County Elections Office is complying with the requirements of SB 423 and AB 860.
- F3: Placer County Elections Office staff works with other public agencies to support the election.
- F4: Placer County Elections staff have planned, developed processes, and invested in supplies to safeguard the health and safety of both voters and poll workers.
- F5: There has been an expansion from 3 days to seventeen days for the collection, verifying, and counting ballots.
- F6: Ballots are collected, verified, and counted beginning October 5, 2020, but are not tabulated until November 3 after 8:00 p.m.
- F7: If voting in person, individuals will have four days to vote at a Voter Service Center, instead of just one day at a precinct.
- F8: Lake Tahoe voters using the US Postal Service could have their ballots delayed getting to the Auburn Elections Office.
- F9: Voters placing a stamp on their return ballot envelope could have their ballots delayed getting to the Auburn Elections Office.
- F10: There will be additional drop box locations for the public to return their vote-by-mail ballots if they choose not to use the US Postal Service.
- F11: The live real-time connection between the VSC locations and the voter registration database has not been previously used.
- F12: The full cost for the November 2020 election is unknown.
- F13: As a result of SB 423 and AB 860, Placer County Elections Office has developed many new processes. The efficacy of these processes will not be known fully until after the November 2020 election.

## Recommendations

The grand jury recommends that:

- R1: Placer County Elections staff should develop additional processes for maintaining the accuracy of the voter rolls.
- R2: By March 1, 2021, the Placer County Registrar of Voters will provide to the 2020-2021 Placer County Grand Jury a written summary that documents all costs associated with the November 2020 general election.
- R3: By March 1, 2021, the Placer County Registrar of Voters will provide the 2020-2021 Placer County Grand Jury a written debrief of issues/problems encountered during the November 2020 general election as well as what the department did to resolve the issues/problems and what the department has learned from this experience, both positive and negative.

## Request for Response:

Pursuant to Penal Code § 933.05, the Placer County Grand Jury requests a response from the following governing body:

	<b><u>Recommendations Requiring Response</u></b>	<b><u>Response Due Date</u></b>
<b>Ryan Ronco</b> <b>Placer County Clerk-Recorder- Registrar of Voters</b> 2956 Richardson Drive Auburn, CA 95603	<b>R1-R3</b>	<b>December 29, 2020</b>

## Copies sent to:

**Bonnie Gore, Chair**  
**Placer County Board of Supervisors**  
175 Fulweiler Avenue  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Todd Leopold**  
**Placer County Executive Officer**  
175 Fulweiler Avenue  
Auburn, CA 95603

## Appendix

### Charts

- 1 Voter Statistics for Placer County
- 2 Number of Registered Voters

### Exhibits

- 1 Voter Information Sent August 2020
- 2 Sample Email Confirmation for Ballot Tracking
- 3 Signature Verification Statement
- 4 Unsigned Ballot Statement
- 5 Voter Action Request Form

### References

- 1 Ballot Data from 2020 Primary Election
- 2 Challenged Ballots from 2020 Primary Election
- 3 Drop Box Locations
- 4 Drop Box Images
- 5 Voter Service Center Locations
- 6 Senate Bill 423
- 7 Assembly Bill 860

## Chart 1: Voter Statistics for Placer County



[Placer County Elections](#) » Registration Statistics

### Registration Statistics

#### Recent Trends and Registered Voter Counts in Placer County

	April 2011	Feb 2013	May 2014	Nov 2015	June 2017	April 2018	May 2019
Democratic	57,172	58,313	55,367	54,814	63,061	63,136	67,093
Republican	95,590	97,913	93,354	91,588	97,906	96,226	98,176
American Independent	4,258	4,725	4,605	5,135	6,099	6,377	7,636
Libertarian	1,281	2,256	2,613	2,995	3,310	3,541	3,958
Green	1,791	1,117	1,063	996	896	890	894
Peace & Freedom	331	358	1,063	456	435	443	482
Other	293	417	338	817	671	1,291	1,873
No Party Preference	38,087	43,088	42,778	44,258	47,841	48,914	58,501
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198,784</b>	<b>208,187</b>	<b>205,591</b>	<b>201,059</b>	<b>220,219</b>	<b>220,818</b>	<b>238,615</b>

<https://www.placerelections.com/registration-statistics/>

## Chart 2: Number of Registered Voters

General Election Year	Number of Registered Voters
2000	145,509
2004	183,202
2008	199,087
2012	208,598
2016	226,454
As of September 15, 2020	225,860

## Exhibit 1: Voter Information Sent in August

**PLACER COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE**  
2956 Richardson Drive, Auburn, CA 95603

**IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE NOVEMBER ELECTION**



**A ballot for the November 3, 2020 General Election will be mailed to all registered voters beginning October 5, 2020. No request is necessary.**



**No postage is necessary to return your ballot. You may also return your ballot to any of our secure Ballot Drop Boxes. These locations will be included on [placerelections.com](http://placerelections.com) and in the Voter Information Guide mailed to you beginning September 24, 2020.**



**Please check your registration information at [VoterStatus.sos.ca.gov](http://VoterStatus.sos.ca.gov) to confirm that you are registered and that your ballot will arrive to your correct address.**



**Sign up at [WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov](http://WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov) to track your ballot and receive notifications on the mailing and counting of your ballot through automatic email, text, or voice call notifications.**



**Our Remote Accessible Vote by Mail (RAVBM) system provides an accessible option for voters to receive their ballots digitally at home and mark them independently and privately before sending them back to us. Visit [placerelections.com](http://placerelections.com) or call us for more information. For the November 3, 2020 Election, all registered voters may use the RAVBM option.**



**Some voters live in voting precincts designated by the Secretary of State as requiring translated facsimile ballots. Those facsimile ballots that voters can use as a reference when voting may be available in Korean, Punjabi, Spanish or Tagalog depending on where you are registered. To find out if your voting precinct will have them, or to request to have one sent to you, please contact our office.**



**While you will not have your neighborhood polling place, we will staff 28 Voter Service Centers from Saturday, October 31 to Tuesday, November 3 throughout the County. The hours and addresses of these locations will be included on [placerelections.com](http://placerelections.com), in the Voter Information Guide and with the ballot mailed to you.**

**DID YOUR ADDRESS CHANGE?** If you've interacted with the DMV since April of 2018, your voter registration information may have been inadvertently changed. It's important to confirm your voter status, political party affiliation, vote by mail status, and information to make sure you are still registered correctly. Please check your registration at [VoterStatus.sos.ca.gov](http://VoterStatus.sos.ca.gov) and if necessary update your information **at least 15 days prior to the next election** or you may be required to vote using a provisional ballot.

 1-800-824-8683 or 530-886-5650     [www.placerelections.com](http://www.placerelections.com)     [election@placer.ca.gov](mailto:election@placer.ca.gov)

## Reference 1 Ballot Data from 2020 Primary Election

	<b>Returned Ballot Statistics by Return Date/Method showing Challenges</b> <i>for 2020 Presidential Primary Election on March 3, 2020</i> <i>Ballots Returned from 2/3/2020 to 4/3/2020</i>
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Return Date	Method	Ballots Returned	Good	Subtotal Challenged	= Challenged	+	Cured
3/13/2020	Fax	1	0	1	1		0
	Mail	7	0	7	7		0
	<b>Daily Total:</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>0</b>
3/14/2020	Mail	7	0	7	7		0
	<b>Daily Total:</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>0</b>
3/16/2020	Mail	24	0	24	24		0
	<b>Daily Total:</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>0</b>
3/18/2020	Mail	2	0	2	2		0
	<b>Daily Total:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>0</b>
3/19/2020	Mail	7	0	7	7		0
	<b>Daily Total:</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>0</b>
3/23/2020	Mail	2	1	1	1		0
	<b>Daily Total:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>0</b>
3/24/2020	Mail	6	0	6	6		0
	<b>Daily Total:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>0</b>
3/30/2020	Mail	9	0	9	9		0
	<b>Daily Total:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>0</b>
4/1/2020	Mail	3	0	3	3		0
	<b>Daily Total:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Date Range Total:</b>		<b>114,434</b>	<b>111,003</b>	<b>3,431</b>	<b>1,292</b>		<b>2,139</b>

## Reference 2 Challenged Ballots



**Cumulative Challenged Returns by Return Date**  
2020 Presidential Primary Election - 3/3/2020

	Ballot missing	Ballot was not received	Multiple ballots	No voter signature	Non-matching signature	Sig Swap	Voter deceased	Total
3/3/2020	4	3	0	17	52	12	0	88
3/4/2020	0	514	0	0	0	0	0	514
3/5/2020	1	1	0	8	35	2	0	47
3/6/2020	1	0	0	18	91	3	0	113
3/9/2020	0	207	0	0	0	0	0	207
3/10/2020	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	13
3/11/2020	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	15
3/12/2020	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
3/13/2020	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	8
3/14/2020	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
3/16/2020	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	24
3/18/2020	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
3/19/2020	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
3/23/2020	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
3/24/2020	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
3/30/2020	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	9
4/1/2020	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1292</b>

AVMR131 - Cumulative Challenged Returns by Return Date  
Printed: 8/29/2020 3:01:37PM

## Exhibit 2 : Sample Email Confirmation for Ballot Tracking

**California BallotTrax** Inbox - Comcast Yesterday at 6:28 PM CB

Welcome to BallotTrax

To: \_\_\_\_\_

Reply-To: Placer County

---

**Welcome,** \_\_\_\_\_ !

Thank you for registering for BallotTrax. The BallotTrax system tracks the status of your mail ballot and sends a series of proactive alerts notifying you where your ballot is in the election process, from printed to accepted! This message is to confirm that you have selected to receive e-mail notifications. If this is incorrect or you would like to change your preferences, there are options below to unsubscribe or manage your contact preferences. If you have any additional questions regarding the system, please contact your County Election Official or Clerk & Recorder.

[Manage Contact Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

You are receiving this email because \_\_\_\_\_ was used to sign up for Placer Ballot Delivery Notifications at <https://placer.ballottrax.net> To keep our e-mails out of your spam/junk mail folder, please add us to your address book.

Delivered by BallotTrax  
9501 E Northfield Blvd  
Denver CO 80238

### Reference 3: Drop Box Locations

LOCATION	ADDRESS	CITY
Auburn City Clerk	1225 Lincoln Way, Room 9	Auburn
Elections Office	2956 Richardson Dr	Auburn
Colfax City Clerk	33 S. Main St	Colfax
Granite Bay Library	6475 Douglas Blvd	Granite Bay
Raley's	6845 Douglas Blvd.	Granite Bay
Kings Beach Library	301 Secline St	Kings Beach
Lincoln City Clerk	600 6th St	Lincoln
Sun City Lincoln Hill Comm. Assoc.	965 Orchard Creek Ln	Lincoln
Raley's	39 Lincoln Blvd	Lincoln
Loomis Town Clerk	3665 Taylor Rd	Loomis
Raley's	6119 Horseshoe Bar Rd	Loomis
Squaw Valley PUD	305 Squaw Valley Rd	Olympic Valley
Elections Warehouse	3715 Atherton Rd	Rocklin
Rocklin City Clerk	3970 Rocklin Rd	Rocklin
Rocklin Library	4890 Granite Dr	Rocklin
The Ranch House Community Center	851 Old Ranch House Rd	Rocklin
Veterans Services	1000 Sunset Blvd	Rocklin
Bel Air	2341 Sunset Blvd	Rocklin
Maidu Library	1530 Maidu Dr	Roseville
Martha Riley Library	1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd	Roseville
Roseville City Clerk	311 Vernon St	Roseville
Roseville Downtown Library	225 Taylor St	Roseville
Santucci Justice Center	10810 Justice Center Dr	Roseville
Raley's	4008 Foothills Blvd	Roseville
Raley's	1915 Douglas Blvd	Roseville
Tahoe Administrative Center	775 N Lake Blvd	Tahoe City
Raley's O-N-E Market	10001 Soaring Way	Truckee

Please visit: <https://www.placerelections.com/drop-box-locations/>  
For the latest information for locations and hours for each drop box location.

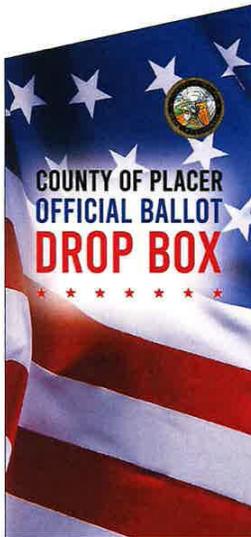
### Reference 4: Drop Box Images



Top  
15.92" x 4"



15.92" x 4"



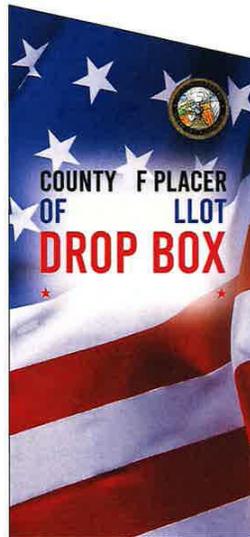
23" x 49.53"



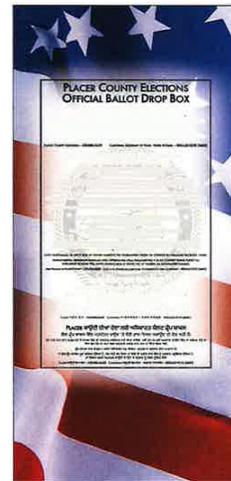
21" x 3.13"



21" x 32.8"



23" x 49.53"



21" x 44.47"

## Reference 5: Voter Service Center Locations

LOCATION	ADDRESS	CITY
Alta Community Center	33950 Alta Bonnynook Rd	Alta
Elections Office	2956 Richardson Dr	Auburn
Gold Country Fairgrounds	1273 High St	Auburn
Sierra Vista Community Center	55 School St	Colfax
Forest Hill High School	23319 Foresthill Rd	Foresthill
Granite Bay High School	1 Grizzly Way	Granite Bay
Granite Bay Library	6475 Douglas Blvd	Granite Bay
North Tahoe Event Center	8318 N Lake Blvd	Kings Beach
Lincoln Crossing Lodge	830 Groveland Ln	Lincoln
Lincoln Public Library	485 Twelve Bridges Dr	Lincoln
Lincoln Veterans Hall	541 5 <sup>th</sup> St	Lincoln
Sun City Lincoln Hills (Kilaga)	1167 Sun City Blvd	Lincoln
Loomis Veterans Hall	5945 Horseshoe Bar Rd	Loomis
Elections Warehouse	3715 Atherton Rd	Rocklin
Rocklin High School	5301 Victory Ln	Rocklin
Sierra College	5100 Sierra College Blvd	Rocklin
Spring View Middle School	5040 5 <sup>th</sup> St	Rocklin
Whitney High School	701 Wildcat Blvd	Rocklin
At The Grounds	700 Event Center Dr	Roseville
Buljan Middle School	100 Hallissy Dr	Roseville
Chilton Middle School	4501 Bob Doyle Dr	Roseville
Maidu Community Center	1550 Maidu Dr	Roseville
Mike Shellito Indoor Pool	10210 Fairway Dr	Roseville
Robert C. Cooley Middle School	9300 Prairie Woods Way	Roseville
Roseville Church of Christ	1799 Cirby Way	Roseville
Roseville Sports Center	1545 Pleasant Grove Blvd	Roseville
Roseville Veterans Hall	110 Park Dr	Roseville
The Old Fire House	300 N Lake Blvd	Tahoe City

<https://www.placerelections.com/vote-service-center-locator/>

Please visit <https://www.placerelections.com/vote-service-center-locator/> for the latest information for VSC locations. Each VSC will be open October 31, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., November 1 and 2, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; and on election day from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

## Exhibit 3: Signature Verification Statement

**RYAN RONCO**  
COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER-REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

**LISA CRAMER**  
ASSISTANT COUNTY CLERK

**STEPHEN AYE**  
ASSISTANT RECORDER-REGISTRAR



2956 RICHARDSON DRIVE  
AUBURN, CA 95603

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. BOX 7043  
AUBURN, CA 95604

### ELECTIONS OFFICE

530-886-5650 • Toll Free 800-824-8683 • Fax 530-886-5688  
www.placerelections.com • vote@placer.ca.gov

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THE STATEMENT.**

**FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE YOUR BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.**

1. We have determined that the signature you provided on your vote-by-mail ballot envelope does not match 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 the certification of the election.
3. You must sign your name below where specified on the Signature Verification Statement (Voter's Signature) and include your address.
4. Place the Signature Verification Statement into a mailing envelope addressed to your local elections official. Mail, deliver, or have the completed Signature Verification Statement delivered to the elections official. Be sure there is sufficient postage if mailed 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 Signature Verification Statement by email or facsimile transmission to your local elections official using the information provided.

---

#### SIGNATURE VERIFICATION STATEMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am a registered voter of  
Placer County, State of California.

I declare under penalty of perjury that I requested 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

Signature Verification Statement

## Exhibit 4: Unsigned Ballot Statement

**RYAN RONCO**  
COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER-REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

**LISA CRAMER**  
ASSISTANT COUNTY CLERK

**STEPHEN AYE**  
ASSISTANT RECORDER-REGISTRAR



2956 RICHARDSON DRIVE  
AUBURN, CA 95603

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
P.O. BOX 7043  
AUBURN, CA 95604

### ELECTIONS OFFICE

530-886-5650 • Toll Free 800-824-8683 • Fax 530-886-5688  
www.placerelections.com • vote@placer.ca.gov

#### READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THE STATEMENT.

#### FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE YOUR BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.

1. You did not sign your vote-by-mail ballot identification envelope. In order to ensure that your vote-by-mail ballot will be counted, your Unsigned Ballot Statement should be completed and returned as soon as possible so that it can reach the elections official of the county in which your precinct is located no later than 5 p.m. two days prior to the certification of the election.
2. You must sign your name below where specified on the Unsigned Ballot Statement (Voter's Signature) and include your address.
3. Place the Unsigned Ballot Statement into a mailing envelope addressed to your local elections official. Mail, deliver, or have the completed Unsigned Ballot Statement delivered to the elections official. Be sure there is sufficient postage if mailed and that the address of the elections official is correct.
4. If you do not wish to send the Unsigned Ballot Statement by mail or have it delivered, you may submit your completed Unsigned Ballot Statement by email or facsimile transmission to your local elections official, or submit your completed statement to a polling place within the county or a ballot drop-off box before the close of the polls on Election Day.

---

#### UNSIGNED BALLOT STATEMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am a registered voter of

Placer County, State of California.

I declare under penalty of perjury that I requested 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

Unsigned Ballot Statement

## Exhibit 5: Voter Action Request Form

<p><b>RYAN RONCO</b> COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER-REGISTRAR OF VOTERS</p> <p><b>LISA CRAMER</b> ASSISTANT COUNTY CLERK</p> <p><b>STEPHEN AYE</b> ASSISTANT COUNTY RECORDER-REGISTRAR</p>		<p>2956 RICHARDSON DRIVE AUBURN, CA 95603</p> <p><u>MAILING ADDRESS:</u> P.O. Box 5278 AUBURN, CA 95604</p>
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**PLACER COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE**  
530-886-5650 • Toll Free 800-824-8683 • Fax 530-886-5688  
www.placerelections.com • election@placer.ca.gov

**VOTER ACTION REQUEST FORM**

**Instructions to the Voter:**

1. You must be a registered voter in Placer County to use this form. Please print clearly.
2. **If requesting a name or party change, you must re-register.** To re-register, go to [register tovot e.ca.gov](http://register tovot e.ca.gov)
3. A name change, other than to correct a misspelling, requires a new registration to be completed.
4. If requesting an action for a deceased voter provide **their** information in the VOTER INFORMATION box.

VOTER INFORMATION – All information must be provided to complete your request.	
Name:	Birth Date: __/__/__
Registered Address:	
Signature:	Date:

**County Voter Information Guide Delivery Preference Request Form:**

I want to receive my County Voter Information Guide electronically. I no longer want to receive it by mail.

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I want my County Voter Information Guide by **mail**. Cancel my previous request to opt out of receiving it by mail.

**Correct or update voter registration:**

My name is misspelled. The correct spelling is in the VOTER INFORMATION box above. The incorrect spelling is: \_\_\_\_\_

I moved to a **new residence** address within Placer County (street address and/or city): \_\_\_\_\_

*My residence is the same, but my mail goes to a different address. My MAILING address is:* \_\_\_\_\_

Remove the following mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Remove any phone number on file       Remove any email address on file

**Permanent Vote by Mail:**

I want to be a Permanent Vote by Mail Voter.

I do not want to be a Permanent Vote by Mail Voter.

**Cancel voter registration:**

Please cancel **my** registration. Reason \_\_\_\_\_

Voter named above is deceased. (Information may be provided by family or caretaker.)

Name of person reporting death \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of person reporting death \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Voter \_\_\_\_\_

## Reference 6: Senate Bill 423

### Senate Bill No. 423 CHAPTER 31

An act to add and repeal Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 1600) of Division 1 of the Elections Code, relating to elections, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[ Approved by Governor August 06, 2020. Filed with Secretary of State August 06, 2020. ]

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 423, Umberg. November 3, 2020, statewide general election.

Existing law authorizes counties, on or after specified dates, to conduct any election as an all-mailed ballot election if, among other conditions, the county elections official provides for ballot drop-off locations and vote centers meeting minimum requirements. Vote centers are required to be open from the 10th day before the election until election day, as specified.

This bill would authorize a county for the November 3, 2020, statewide general election to not have its vote centers open before the 3rd day prior to the election.

In counties without all-mailed ballot procedures, existing law requires the elections official to divide the jurisdiction into precincts meeting certain requirements and to designate a polling place for each precinct.

This bill would provide an alternative procedure for the November 3, 2020, statewide general election authorizing the elections official to establish consolidated precinct boards, located within the same physical polling place, serving the voters residing in multiple adjacent precincts, as provided.

For the November 3, 2020, statewide general election, the bill would also (1) require elections officials to conduct a voter education and outreach campaign, (2) urge counties to provide drive-through ballot drop-off or voting locations, (3) authorize elections officials to establish vote centers, polling places, or consolidated polling places in locations whose primary purpose is the sale and dispensation of alcoholic beverages, (4) require the Secretary of State to establish a process to consider requests from counties to adjust or partially waive the minimally required number, location, or operational duration, of vote centers, consolidated polling places, or ballot drop-off locations, (5) require the Secretary of State to conduct a statewide voter education and outreach campaign regarding new procedures in place for the election, and (6) require the Secretary of State to establish a strike team to assist counties as needed to acquire suitable locations for vote centers, polling places, and consolidated polling places as well as other assets necessary for the safe and successful conduct of the election.

By imposing new requirements on counties, 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.

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

### DIGEST KEY

Vote: 2/3 Appropriation: NO Fiscal Committee: YES Local Program: YES

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### BILL TEXT

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

#### SECTION 1.

(a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) To maintain a healthy democracy in California, it is important to encourage eligible voters to vote and to ensure that residents of the state have the tools needed to participate in every election.

(2) When California conducts the November 3, 2020, statewide general election, it is unknown to what degree the COVID-19 pandemic will still pose a threat to public health. The state and its counties need to begin taking action now to procure supplies and equipment, secure voting locations, enlist volunteers, and draw up plans, among other steps, to ensure that the November 3, 2020, statewide general election is held in a manner that is accessible, secure, and safe.

(3) To preserve public health in the face of the threat of COVID-19, and to ensure that the November election is accessible, secure, and safe, all Californians will be empowered to vote by mail, from the safety of their own homes, pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-64-20, issued on May 8, 2020, and as proposed by Assembly Bill 860 of the 2019-20 Regular Session.

(4) However, many Californians will still need access to in-person voting opportunities, including, but not limited to, individuals with disabilities, individuals who speak languages other than English, individuals experiencing homelessness, individuals who never received their vote-by-mail ballot, lost or damaged their ballot, or need to register to vote, as well as others who may find vote-by-mail less accessible than in-person voting. We owe these Californians safe in-person voting opportunities this November.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this act to do all of the following:

(1) To ensure that the November 3, 2020, statewide general election is conducted in a manner that protects and strengthens access for low-propensity voters and voters who have no history of voting by mail, first-time voters such as young voters and newly naturalized voters, housing insecure voters, and other voters who may be disproportionately impacted by the changes to election procedures that were necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

(2) To ensure that safe, in-person voting opportunities are available this November in a manner that is consistent with public health guidance and requirements.

(3) To provide flexibility to counties in conducting the election in recognition of the challenges to election administration posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, while limiting changes to in-person voting opportunities to the minimum changes necessary to ensure that the election can be conducted in a manner consistent with public health requirements.

(4) To redirect any money that is saved from a reduction of in-person voting locations into voter education and outreach for the November 3, 2020, statewide general election.

## **SEC. 2.**

Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 1600) is added to Division 1 of the Elections Code, to read:

### **CHAPTER 7. November 3, 2020, Statewide General Election**

#### **1600.**

This chapter applies only to the November 3, 2020, statewide general election.

#### **1601.**

Notwithstanding Sections 4005 and 4007, a county that conducts the November 3, 2020, statewide general election pursuant to either of those sections is not required to have its vote centers open before the third day prior to the election.

#### **1602.**

(a) A county that does not conduct the November 3, 2020, statewide general election pursuant to either Section 4005 or 4007 may choose to follow the procedures described in this section as an alternative to procedures that would otherwise be applicable in that county.

(b) (1) While maintaining separate geographical precincts under the existing limits on number of voters provided in Section 12223, the elections official may establish consolidated precinct boards, located within the same physical polling place, serving the voters residing in multiple adjacent precincts established pursuant to Section 12223 at a maximum ratio of one consolidated precinct board location for every 10,000 registered voters. These consolidated polling locations shall be open from Saturday, October 31, 2020, through Monday, November 2, 2020, for at least eight hours each day at regular hours convenient for members of the public. On the day of the election, the consolidated polling location shall be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

(2) In establishing the consolidated polling places, the elections official shall take into consideration the boundaries of state legislative, congressional, county supervisorial, and any other affected local legislative districts.

(3) The elections official shall ensure that the consolidated polling places are equitably distributed across the county to afford maximally convenient options for all voters and are established at accessible locations as near as possible to established public transportation routes. A consolidated polling place shall be located within the boundary of one of the precincts it serves.

(4) (A) The consolidated polling places shall be equipped with voting units or systems that are accessible to individuals with disabilities and provide the same opportunity for access and participation as is provided to voters who are not disabled, including the ability to vote privately and independently, in accordance with Sections 12280 and 19240. Each consolidated polling place shall have at least three voting machines that are accessible to voters with disabilities.

(B) The consolidated polling places shall comply with the accessibility requirements described in Article 5 (commencing with Section 12280) of Chapter 3 of Division 12, 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.).

(5) The elections official shall provide each consolidated polling place with enough ballots, provisional ballots, and provisional ballot envelopes to ensure every voter can be accommodated, as necessary.

(c) (1) In a county with consolidated polling places as described in this section, the elections official shall provide at least two ballot drop-off locations within the county or at least one ballot drop-off location for every 15,000 registered voters, whichever results in more ballot drop-off locations. For purposes of this paragraph, a consolidated polling place that includes an exterior ballot drop box counts only as a single ballot drop-off location.

(2) A ballot drop-off location provided for under this subdivision consists of a secure, accessible, and locked ballot box located as near as possible to established public transportation routes and that is able to receive voted ballots. All ballot drop-off locations shall be open at least during regular business hours beginning not less than 28 days before the day of the election, and on the day of the election.

(3) At least one ballot drop-off location shall be an exterior drop box that is available for a minimum of 12 hours per day. Because health directives to prevent the spread of COVID-19 may result in reduced access to some buildings, counties are encouraged to maximize the number of ballot drop-off locations that are exterior drop boxes or that are located in buildings, such as supermarkets or drugstores, that are likely to be considered essential businesses that will remain open to the public notwithstanding any physical distancing measures that are in place during the period beginning 28 days before the date of the election and ending on election day.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "ballot drop-off location" has the same meaning as in Section 3025.

(d) (1) In a county with consolidated polling places as described in this section, the elections official shall provide at least one location, open at least during regular business hours beginning 28 days before the day of the election, at which a voter may do any of the following:

(A) Return, or vote and 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.

(2) The elections official is urged to offer voters the ability to schedule an appointment to visit a location established pursuant to this subdivision.

(e) In determining the locations of consolidated polling places and ballot drop-off locations pursuant to this section, the county shall consider vote center and ballot drop-off location proximity to communities with historically low vote by mail usage. Counties shall also consider other criteria described in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (10) of subdivision (a) of Section 4005, to the extent data is readily available.

(f) Prior to finalizing the locations of consolidated polling places and ballot drop-off locations, the county elections official shall publicly notice in all legally required languages for that county the proposed consolidated polling place locations and ballot drop-off locations, shall post a copy of those locations on the elections official's internet website, and shall accept public comments on the proposed locations for at least 10 days after publicly noticing the proposed locations. Following the 10-day public comment period, the elections official shall consider any comments the official receives from the public, and shall adjust consolidated polling place and ballot drop-off locations in response to the public comments to the extent the official deems appropriate before finalizing the locations to be used as consolidated polling places and ballot drop-off locations.

**1603.**

(a) Each county shall conduct a voter education and outreach campaign in all legally required languages for that county notifying voters about mail ballots, early voting opportunities, accessible voting options, and where and how to remedy any voting related problem.

(b) Each county is urged to provide drive-through ballot drop-off or voting locations. If a voter is waiting in a vehicle, the voter is considered "in line" for the purposes of keeping the polls open a sufficient time to enable them to vote pursuant to Section 14401.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 12288, an elections official may establish a vote center, polling place, or consolidated polling place in a location whose primary purpose is the sale and dispensation of alcoholic beverages.

**1604.**

(a) (1) The Secretary of State shall establish a process to consider requests from counties to adjust or partially waive the minimally required number, location, or operational duration, of vote centers, consolidated polling places, or ballot drop-off locations described in Section 1602 or Sections 4005 and 4007. The process shall include, but not be limited to, review and modification, denial, or granting of a county's request in a timeframe to be determined by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall not grant a county a complete waiver of the minimally required number, location, or operational duration, of vote centers, consolidated polling places, or ballot drop-off locations described in Section 1602 or Sections 4005 and 4007.

(2) (A) Prior to requesting a modification or partial waiver pursuant to paragraph (1), a county shall develop a draft plan that includes, but is not limited to, a written analysis of in-person voting needs in that county. The written analysis shall

identify how the county's proposed levels of in-person voting are designed to safely accommodate the anticipated demand for voting services at those locations, including in-person voting, ballot replacement, ballot drop-off, conditional voter registration, language assistance, and voting assistance, shall report on efforts made to secure the otherwise required number of vote centers, consolidated polling places, and election personnel, and shall include a discussion of how the elections official will ensure that there will not be a disparate impact on any protected class of voters with regard to availability of voting machines and voting locations. In determining in-person voting locations that will be made available pursuant to the plan, the county shall consider the needs of individuals who do not have a history of voting by mail and other criteria described in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (10) of subdivision (a) of Section 4005, to the extent data is readily available.

(B) The county elections official shall publicly notice in all legally required languages for that county the draft plan required by subparagraph (A), shall post a copy of the draft plan in all legally required languages for that county on the elections official's internet website, and shall accept public comments on the draft plan for at least 10 days after publicly noticing the draft plan.

(C) Following the 10-day review period required by subparagraph (B), the elections official shall consider any public comments the official receives from the public, shall amend the draft plan in response to the public comments to the extent the official deems appropriate, and may adopt a final plan and submit that plan to the Secretary of State along with the request for a modification or partial waiver pursuant to paragraph (1). The elections official shall post the county's request for a modification or partial waiver on the elections official's internet website, and the Secretary of State shall post a copy of the secretary's response on the secretary's internet website.

(3) A partial waiver or modification shall not be granted to a county unless the elections official in that county can demonstrate all of the following:

(A) The official made best efforts to secure the required in-person voting locations.

(B) The plan will not have a negative disparate impact on disabled voters or any protected class of voters.

(C) The plan will not reduce in-person voting locations below a number of locations necessary to safely and efficiently accommodate the anticipated demand for in-person voting services.

(4) For the purposes of this subdivision, "protected class" means a class of voters who are members of a race, color, or language minority group, as this class is referenced and defined in the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10301 et seq.).

(b) The Secretary of State shall conduct a statewide voter education and outreach campaign regarding new procedures in place for the November 3, 2020, statewide general election, including, but not limited to, procedures relating to voting by mail, newly consolidated polling places and services provided therein, available language assistance, voter registration, conditional voter registration and voting, and accessible vote by mail voting.

(c) The Secretary of State shall establish a strike team to assist counties as needed to acquire suitable locations for vote centers, polling places, and consolidated polling places as well as other assets necessary for the safe and successful conduct of the November 3, 2020, statewide general election. The strike team shall include members of the Secretary of State's legal and investigative divisions as well as Deputy Attorneys General provided for this purpose by the Department of Justice. The strike team shall assist with the enforcement of this code, including, but not limited to, Article 5 (commencing with Section 12280) of Chapter 3 of Division 12 and Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 18000) of Division 18. In undertaking its responsibilities, the strike team shall seek to ensure that the November 3, 2020, statewide general election is conducted in a manner that is as consistent as possible with state and federal voting rights laws.

(d) The Secretary of State is encouraged to work with health officials, elections officials, and other stakeholders to establish guidelines for the use of personal protective equipment by individuals at in-person voting locations, including election workers, precinct board members, and voters. These guidelines may include, but are not limited to, requiring that individuals who are physically present at voting locations wear personal protective equipment when they are required by state or local health guidelines, ensuring that elections officials have sufficient personal protective equipment for use at in-person voting locations by election workers, precinct board members, and voters, and procedures to ensure that voters are not turned away from using in-person voting locations due to a lack of access to the necessary personal protective equipment.

**1605.**

Notwithstanding any other law, a county may only hold the November 3, 2020, statewide general election in the manner provided for in this chapter if each registered voter is also mailed a vote by mail ballot.

**1606.**

This chapter shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2021, and as of that date is repealed.

**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.

**SEC. 4.**

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 to ensure the November 3, 2020, statewide general election can be conducted safely and successfully, it is necessary for this act to take effect immediately.

## Reference 7: Assembly Bill 860

### Assembly Bill No. 860 CHAPTER 4

An act to amend Sections 3019.7, 3020, and 15101 of, and to add Sections 3000.5 and 3016.7 to, the Elections Code, relating to elections, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[ Approved by Governor June 18, 2020. Filed with Secretary of State June 18, 2020. ]

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 860, Berman. Elections: vote by mail ballots.

Under existing law, a registered voter may vote by mail by requesting a vote by mail ballot for a specific election or by becoming a permanent vote by mail voter. County elections officials must begin mailing ballots and other required materials to these voters no later than 29 days before the day of the election. Existing law, the California Voter's Choice Act, authorizes any county to conduct any election occurring on or after January 1, 2020, as an all-mailed ballot election if specified conditions are met. In an all-mailed ballot election held under the act, the county elections official must mail a ballot to every registered voter, regardless of whether the voter requested a vote by mail ballot or is a permanent vote by mail voter.

This bill would require county elections officials to mail a ballot to every registered voter for the November 3, 2020, statewide general election.

Existing law requires county elections officials to permit voters with a disability, and military or overseas voters, to cast a ballot using a certified remote accessible vote by mail system.

This bill would require county elections officials to permit any voter to cast a ballot using a certified remote accessible vote by mail system for the November 3, 2020, statewide general election.

Existing law requires the Secretary of State to establish, by January 1, 2020, a system that a county elections official may use to allow a voter to track the voter's vote by mail ballot through the mail system and processing by the county elections official. County elections officials are not required to use the system, however.

This bill would require county elections officials to use the Secretary of State's system, or a system that meets the same specifications, for the November 3, 2020, statewide general election.

Under existing law, a vote by mail ballot is timely cast if it is voted on or before election day and, if returned by mail, received by the voter's elections official via the United States Postal Service, or a bona fide private mail delivery company, no later than 3 days after election day.

This bill would, for the November 3, 2020, statewide general election, extend the deadline by which vote by mail ballots must be received by the county elections official to the 17th day after election day.

Under existing law, any jurisdiction having the necessary computer capability may start to process vote by mail ballots on the 10th business day before the election. This processing 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.

This bill would authorize these jurisdictions, for the November 3, 2020, statewide general election, to begin processing vote by mail ballots on the 29th day before the election.

By requiring county elections officials to mail a ballot to every registered voter, and to take other actions expanding vote by mail voting, including making remote accessible voting available to all voters, 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.

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

### DIGEST KEY

Vote: 2/3 Appropriation: NO Fiscal Committee: YES Local Program: YES

BILL TEXT

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1.**

The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- (a) To maintain a healthy democracy in California, it is important to encourage eligible voters to vote and to ensure that residents of the state have the tools needed to participate in every election.
- (b) Vote by mail voting has become the means by which most Californians exercise their right to vote. In the most recent statewide general election, held in November 2018, 65.31 percent of voters used a vote by mail ballot. Just 10 years ago, in the November 2010 statewide general election, only 48.44 percent of voters used a vote by mail ballot.
- (c) Preliminary data indicates that for the March 2020 statewide primary election, approximately 78 percent of registered voters received a ballot in the mail.
- (d) Shortly after the March 2020 statewide primary election, the Governor and local governments declared states of emergency and took steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19. One of the early steps taken by the Governor was to order that three pending special elections be conducted as all-mailed ballot elections. This order was issued based on concerns that widespread in-person voting would conflict with public health officials' guidance on COVID-19.
- (e) Since California held its statewide primary election in March 2020, at least 16 states have either postponed their scheduled primary elections, or switched them to vote by mail elections, due to concerns that conducting in-person voting during the spread of COVID-19 would threaten the health and safety of voters, election workers, and the general public.
- (f) In Wisconsin's statewide primary election conducted on April 7, 2020, during which millions of voters had no choice but to vote in person, elections officials were forced to significantly reduce the number of polling locations because of COVID-19. In Milwaukee, the number of polling locations open on election day was reduced by more than 97 percent.
- (g) A statewide general election will be held in California on November 3, 2020, and it is uncertain whether by that date the COVID-19 pandemic will have subsided and what social distancing guidelines will remain in place. Even if the pandemic has subsided by the time of the election, many voters may nonetheless be uncomfortable with in-person voting because of health concerns.
- (h) Broadening the ability of California residents to engage in the democratic process will yield more representative election results and will ensure that the voices of more California residents are heard.
- (i) Mailing every voter a ballot for the November 2020 statewide general election is an important step in promoting resilience in the state's elections and ensuring that every California voter will have the opportunity to fill out their ballot in a safe manner.
- (j) Consistent with paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 2226 of the Elections Code, and with the longstanding interpretation by state and local elections officials of Sections 4000 to 4108, inclusive, of the Elections Code governing the conduct of all-mailed ballot elections and of Section 3005 of the Elections Code governing mailed ballot precincts, nothing in this act is intended, and shall not be construed, to mean that a voter with an inactive voter registration status shall receive a vote by mail ballot for the November 3, 2020, statewide general election.

**SEC. 2.**

Section 3000.5 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

**3000.5.**

- (a) Notwithstanding any other law, for the statewide general election to be held on November 3, 2020, the county elections official shall, no later than 29 days before the day of the election, begin mailing the materials specified in Section 3010 to every registered voter in the county. The county elections official shall have five days to mail a ballot to each person who is registered to vote on the 29th day before the day of the election and five days to mail a ballot to each person who is subsequently registered to vote. The county elections official shall not discriminate against any region or precinct in the county in choosing which ballots to mail first within the prescribed five-day mailing period.
- (b) The distribution of vote by mail ballots to all registered voters does not prevent a voter from voting in person at a polling place, vote center, or other authorized location.

**SEC. 3.**

Section 3016.7 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

**3016.7.**

For the statewide general election to be held on November 3, 2020, the county elections official shall permit any voter to cast a ballot using a certified remote accessible vote by mail system, regardless of whether the voter is a voter with disabilities or a military or overseas voter.

**SEC. 4.**

Section 3019.7 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

**3019.7.**

(a) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Secretary of State shall establish a system that a county elections official may use 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. The system established pursuant to this section shall, at a minimum, 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.

(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 established 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.

(c) The Secretary of State shall use funds provided to the state pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.) to develop the system described in this section. The Secretary of State shall implement this section only to the extent that these funds are available.

(d) For the statewide general election to be held on November 3, 2020, the county elections official shall use the system established by the Secretary of State pursuant to subdivision (a), 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.

## **SEC. 5.**

Section 3020 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

### **3020.**

(a) All vote by mail ballots cast under this division shall be received by the elections official from whom they were obtained or by the precinct board no later than the close of the polls on election day.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), any vote by mail ballot cast under this division 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 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.

(2) If the ballot has no postmark, a postmark with no date, or an illegible postmark, 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.

(d) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b), for the statewide general election to be held on November 3, 2020, any vote by mail ballot cast under this division 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 by the 17th day after election day and either of the following is satisfied:

(1) The ballot is postmarked on or before election day, 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, 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.

## **SEC. 6.**

Section 15101 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

### **15101.**

(a) Any 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) (1) Any jurisdiction having the necessary computer capability may start to process vote by mail ballots on the 10th business 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.

(2) For the statewide general election to be held on November 3, 2020, 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. 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.

#### **SEC. 8.**

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:

To ensure that county elections officials have sufficient time to prepare and mail a ballot to every registered voter in advance of the November 3, 2020, statewide general election, it is necessary for this act to take effect immediately.