

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 20, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1504

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo

February 27, 2015

An act to amend Section 4001 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1504, as amended, Alejo. Elections: all-mailed ballot elections: pilot project.

Until December 31, 2017, existing law, as a pilot program, authorizes elections in San Mateo County and Yolo County, other than statewide primary or general elections, or special elections to fill a vacancy in a state office, the Legislature, or Congress, to be conducted wholly by mail if specified conditions are satisfied. If San Mateo County or Yolo County conducts an all-mailed ballot election, existing law requires the county to report to the Legislature and the Secretary of State, as specified.

This bill would *extend this pilot program until January 1, 2020 and would also authorize Monterey County and Sacramento Counties* to conduct all-mailed ballot elections pursuant to these provisions. The bill would also make technical, nonsubstantive changes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4001 of the Elections Code is amended
 2 to read:
 3 4001. (a) Notwithstanding Section 4000 or any other law, as
 4 a pilot program, elections in San Mateo County, Yolo County,
 5 *Sacramento County*, and Monterey County may be conducted
 6 wholly by mail if all of the following conditions are satisfied:
 7 (1) The governing body of the city, county, or district, by
 8 resolution, authorizes the all-mailed ballot election and notifies
 9 the Secretary of State of its intent to conduct an all-mailed ballot
 10 election at least 88 days before the date of the election.
 11 (2) The election does not occur on the same date as a statewide
 12 primary or general election or any other election conducted in an
 13 overlapping jurisdiction that is not consolidated and conducted
 14 wholly by mail pursuant to this section.
 15 (3) The election is not a special election to fill a vacancy in a
 16 state office, the Legislature, or Congress.
 17 (4) (A) At least one ballot dropoff location is provided per city
 18 or the ballot dropoff locations are fixed in a manner so that the
 19 number of residents for each ballot dropoff location does not
 20 exceed 100,000 on the 88th day before the day of election,
 21 whichever results in more dropoff locations. A ballot dropoff
 22 location shall be open during business hours to receive voted ballots
 23 beginning 28 days before the date of the election and until 8 p.m.
 24 on the day of the election.
 25 (B) At least one polling place is provided per city where voters
 26 can request a ballot between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. on the day of the
 27 election if they have not received their ballots in the mail or if they
 28 need replacement ballots for any other reason.
 29 (C) Upon the request of the city, county, or district, the elections
 30 official, at his or her discretion, may provide additional ballot
 31 dropoff locations and polling places.
 32 (5) The elections official delivers to each voter all supplies
 33 necessary for the use and return of the mail ballot, including an
 34 envelope for the return of the voted mail ballot with postage
 35 prepaid.
 36 (6) The elections official delivers to each voter, with either the
 37 sample ballot sent pursuant to Section 13303 or with the voter's
 38 ballot, a list of the ballot dropoff locations and polling places

1 provided pursuant to paragraph (4), and also posts that list on the
2 Internet Web site of the county elections office.

3 (7) The return of voted mail ballots is subject to Section 3017.

4 (8) (A) The polling places provided under this section are at
5 an accessible location and are equipped with voting units or
6 systems that are accessible to individuals with disabilities and that
7 provide the same opportunity for access and participation, including
8 the ability to vote privately and independently.

9 (B) A ballot dropoff location provided for under this section
10 shall consist of a locked ballot box located in a secure public
11 building that meets the accessibility requirements for a polling
12 place.

13 (9) Elections in the county conducted pursuant to this section
14 may be held on no more than three different dates.

15 (b) (1) If the county conducts an all-mailed ballot election
16 pursuant to this section, on or before December 31, ~~2017~~, 2019,
17 the county shall report to the Legislature and to the Secretary of
18 State regarding the success of the election, including, but not
19 limited to, any statistics on the cost to conduct the election; the
20 turnout of different populations, including, but not limited to, to
21 the extent possible, the population categories of race, ethnicity,
22 age, gender, disability, permanent vote by mail status, and political
23 party affiliation; the number of ballots not counted and the reasons
24 they were rejected; voter fraud; and any other problems that
25 become known to the county during the election or canvass.

26 (2) Whenever possible, using the criteria set forth in paragraph
27 (1), the report of the county shall compare the success of the
28 all-mailed ballot election to similar elections not conducted wholly
29 by mail in the same jurisdiction or comparable jurisdictions.

30 (3) The report of the county shall be submitted to the Legislature
31 pursuant to Section 9795 of the Government Code within six
32 months after the date of the all-mailed ballot election or before the
33 date of any other all-mailed ballot election subject to this section
34 to be conducted in the county, whichever is sooner.

35 (c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, ~~2018~~,
36 2020, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,
37 that is enacted before January 1, ~~2018~~, 2020, deletes or extends
38 that date.

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