

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 14, 2015

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
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Cooley, Cooper, and McCarty)
(Coauthors: Senators Monning and Cannella)

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, 2018, and would also authorize Monterey 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 ~~drop-off~~ *drop-off* location is provided
18 per city or the ballot ~~drop-off~~ *drop-off* locations are fixed in a
19 manner so that the number of residents for each ballot ~~drop-off~~
20 *drop-off* location does not exceed 100,000 on the 88th day before
21 the day of election, whichever results in more ~~drop-off~~ *drop-off*
22 locations. A ballot ~~drop-off~~ *drop-off* location shall be open during
23 business hours to receive voted ballots beginning 28 days before
24 the date of the election and until 8 p.m. 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 ~~drop-off~~ *drop-off* 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

1 envelope for the return of the voted mail ballot with postage
2 prepaid.

3 (6) The elections official delivers to each voter, with either the
4 sample ballot sent pursuant to Section 13303 or with the voter's
5 ballot, a list of the ballot ~~dropoff~~ *drop-off* locations and polling
6 places provided pursuant to paragraph (4), and also posts that list
7 on the Internet Web site of the county elections office.

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

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

14 (B) A ballot ~~dropoff~~ *drop-off* location provided for under this
15 section shall consist of a locked ballot box located in a secure
16 public building that meets the accessibility requirements for a
17 polling place.

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

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

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

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

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

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