

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 21, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 7, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 15, 2015

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 450**

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**Introduced by Senators Allen and Hertzberg**

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members ~~Gonzalez~~ Gonzalez and Mullin)

February 25, 2015

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An act to ~~add Section 4005~~ amend Sections 3017 and 15320 of, to add Sections 4005, 4006, and 4007 to, and to add and repeal Section ~~4005.5~~ 4008 of, the Elections Code, relating to elections.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 450, as amended, Allen. Elections: ~~all-mailed ballot elections.~~ *vote by mail voting and mail ballot elections.*

*Existing law requires all vote by mail ballots to be voted on or before the day of the election. Existing law authorizes a vote by mail voter who is unable to return his or her vote by mail ballot to designate his or her spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, or a person residing in the same household as the voter to return the ballot, as specified. Existing law prohibits a vote by mail voter's ballot from being returned by specified persons, including, among others, a paid or volunteer worker of a political party.*

*This bill would remove those restrictions and instead authorize a vote by mail voter who is unable to return his or her vote by mail ballot to designate any person to return the ballot.*

Existing law authorizes cities with a population of fewer than 100,000 persons, school districts, and special districts to conduct an all-mailed

ballot special election to fill a vacancy on the legislative or governing body of those entities under specified conditions.

~~This bill would, on or after January 1, 2018, authorize a county specified counties, and on or after January 1, 2020, authorize any county except the County of Los Angeles, to conduct any election as an all-mailed ballot election if certain conditions are satisfied, including conditions related to ballot dropoff locations and vote centers. The bill would require a county that conducts an all-mailed ballot election to report certain information to the Legislature and the Secretary of State regarding all-mailed ballot elections conducted pursuant to these provisions: locations, vote centers, and plans for the administration of all-mailed ballot elections. The bill would require the Secretary of State, within 6 months of each all-mailed ballot election conducted by a county pursuant to these provisions, to report certain information to the Legislature regarding the success of the first all-mailed ballot election conducted pursuant to these provisions by a county: that election. The bill would require the county that conducted the all-mailed ballot election to submit to the Secretary of State the information needed for the Secretary of State to prepare the report.~~

*This bill would, on or after January 1, 2020, authorize the County of Los Angeles to conduct any election as a vote center election if certain conditions are satisfied, including conditions related to ballot dropoff location and vote centers. The bill would, on or after January 1, 2020, authorize the County of Los Angeles to conduct a special election as an all-mailed ballot election pursuant to specified provisions that apply to every county that chooses to conduct a special election as an all-mailed ballot election.*

~~The~~ This bill would also require the Secretary of State to establish a taskforce that includes certain individuals to review all-mailed ballot elections conducted pursuant to these ~~provision~~ provisions and to provide comments and recommendations to the Legislature ~~on or before April 1, 2021:~~ within 6 months of each all-mailed ballot election or vote center election.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 3017 of the Elections Code is amended  
2 to read:

1 3017. (a) All vote by mail ballots cast under this division shall  
2 be voted on or before the day of the election. After marking the  
3 ballot, the vote by mail voter shall do any of the following: (1)  
4 return the ballot by mail or in person to the elections official ~~from~~  
5 ~~whom it came, who issued the ballot,~~ (2) return the ballot in person  
6 to a member of a precinct board at a polling place *or vote center*  
7 *within the jurisdiction, state,* or (3) return the ballot to the elections  
8 ~~official from whom it came~~ at a vote by mail ballot ~~drop-off~~  
9 ~~location, if dropoff location within the state that is provided~~  
10 pursuant to Section ~~3025. 3025 or 4005.~~ However, a vote by mail  
11 voter who is unable to return the ballot may designate ~~his or her~~  
12 ~~spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, or~~  
13 ~~a person residing in the same household as the vote by mail voter~~  
14 *any person* to return the ballot to the elections official ~~from whom~~  
15 ~~it came or who issued the ballot,~~ to the precinct board at a polling  
16 place *or vote center* within the ~~jurisdiction. state,~~ or to a vote by  
17 *mail ballot dropoff location within the state that is provided*  
18 *pursuant to Section 3025 or 4005.* The ballot must, however, be  
19 received by ~~either the elections official from whom it came or who~~  
20 ~~issued the ballot, the precinct board board, or the vote by mail~~  
21 *ballot dropoff location* before the close of the polls on election  
22 day. *If a vote by mail ballot is returned to a precinct board at a*  
23 *polling place or vote center, or to a vote by mail ballot dropoff*  
24 *location, that is located in a county that is not the county of the*  
25 *elections official who issued the ballot, the elections official for*  
26 *the county in which the vote by mail ballot is returned shall forward*  
27 *the ballot to the elections official who issued the ballot no later*  
28 *than eight days after receipt.*

29 (b) The elections official shall establish procedures to ensure  
30 the secrecy of a ballot returned to a precinct polling place and the  
31 security, confidentiality, and integrity of any personal information  
32 collected, stored, or otherwise used pursuant to this section.

33 (c) On or before March 1, 2008, the elections official shall  
34 establish procedures to track and confirm the receipt of voted vote  
35 by mail ballots and to make this information available by means  
36 of online access using the county's elections division Internet Web  
37 site. If the county does not have an elections division Internet Web  
38 site, the elections official shall establish a toll-free telephone  
39 number that may be used to confirm the date a voted vote by mail  
40 ballot was received.

1 (d) The provisions of this section are mandatory, not directory,  
 2 and a ballot shall not be counted if it is not delivered in compliance  
 3 with this section.

4 ~~(e) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a vote by mail voter's ballot~~  
 5 ~~shall not be returned by a paid or volunteer worker of a general~~  
 6 ~~purpose committee, controlled committee, independent expenditure~~  
 7 ~~committee, political party, candidate's campaign committee, or~~  
 8 ~~any other group or organization at whose behest the individual~~  
 9 ~~designated to return the ballot is performing a service. However,~~  
 10 ~~this subdivision does not apply to a candidate or a candidate's~~  
 11 ~~spouse.~~

12 **SECTION 1.**

13 *SEC. 2.* Section 4005 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

14 4005. (a) Notwithstanding Section 4000 or any other law, on  
 15 or after January 1, 2018, ~~a county~~ *the counties of Calaveras, Inyo,*  
 16 *Madera, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo,*  
 17 *San Mateo, Santa Clara, Shasta, Sierra, Sutter, and Tuolumne,*  
 18 *and, except as provided in Section 4007, on or after January 1,*  
 19 *2020, any county may conduct any election as an all-mailed ballot*  
 20 *election if all of the following apply:*

21 (1) (A) At least two ballot dropoff locations are provided within  
 22 the jurisdiction where the election is held or the number of ballot  
 23 dropoff locations are fixed in a manner so that there is at least one  
 24 ballot dropoff location provided for every 15,000 registered voters  
 25 within the jurisdiction where the election is held, as determined  
 26 on the 88th day before the day of the election, whichever results  
 27 in more ballot dropoff locations. *For purposes of this*  
 28 *subparagraph, a vote center that includes an exterior ballot drop*  
 29 *box counts only as a single ballot dropoff location. Ballot dropoff*  
 30 *locations shall comply with the regulations adopted pursuant to*  
 31 *subdivision (b) of Section 3025.*

32 (B) A ballot dropoff location provided for under this section  
 33 consists of a secure, accessible, and locked ballot box *located as*  
 34 *near as possible to established public transportation routes and*  
 35 *that is able to receive voted ballots. All ballot dropoff locations*  
 36 *shall be open at least during regular business hours beginning not*  
 37 *less than 28 days before the date of the election, and on the date*  
 38 *of the election. At least one ballot dropoff location shall be an*  
 39 *accessible, secured, exterior drop box that is available for a*  
 40 *minimum of 12 hours per day including regular business hours.*

1 (2) (A) The county elections official permits a voter residing  
2 in the county to do any of the following at a vote center:

3 ~~(A)~~

4 (i) Return, or vote and return, his or her vote by mail ballot.

5 ~~(B)~~

6 (ii) Register to vote, update his or her voter registration, and  
7 vote pursuant to Section 2170.

8 ~~(C)~~

9 (iii) Receive and vote a provisional ballot pursuant to Section  
10 3016 or Article 5 (commencing with Section 14310) of Chapter 3  
11 of Division 14.

12 ~~(D)~~

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

19 ~~(E)~~

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

23 (B) *Each vote center shall have at least three voting machines*  
24 *that are accessible to voters with disabilities.*

25 (3) (A) On the day of the election, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.,  
26 inclusive, and on each of the three days before the election, for a  
27 minimum of eight hours per day, at least one vote center is provided  
28 for every ~~15,000~~ 10,000 registered voters within the jurisdiction  
29 where the election is held, as determined on the 88th day before  
30 the day of the election. *At least 90 percent of the number of vote*  
31 *centers required by this subparagraph shall be open for all four*  
32 *days during the required times. Up to 10 percent of the number of*  
33 *vote centers required by this subparagraph may be open for less*  
34 *than four days if at least one vote center is provided for every*  
35 *10,000 registered voters on each day.*

36 (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), for a jurisdiction with  
37 fewer than ~~30,000~~ 20,000 registered voters, a minimum of two  
38 voter centers are provided on the day of the election *and on each*  
39 *of the three days before the election* within the jurisdiction where  
40 the election is held.

1 (4) (A) ~~Not less than~~ *Beginning* 10 days before the day of the  
2 ~~election~~, *election and continuing daily up to and including the*  
3 *fourth day before the election*, for a minimum of eight hours per  
4 day, at least one vote center is provided for every ~~30,000~~ *50,000*  
5 registered voters within the jurisdiction where the election is held,  
6 as determined on the 88th day before the day of the election.

7 (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), for a jurisdiction with  
8 fewer than ~~30,000~~ *50,000* registered voters, a minimum of two  
9 vote centers are provided within the jurisdiction where the election  
10 is held.

11 (C) The vote centers provided under this section are established  
12 in accordance with the accessibility requirements described in  
13 Article 5 (commencing with Section 12280) of Chapter 3 of  
14 Division 12, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990  
15 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.), the federal Help America Vote Act  
16 of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.), and the federal Voting  
17 Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

18 (D) The vote centers provided under this section are *equitably*  
19 *distributed across the county so as to afford maximally convenient*  
20 *options for voters and are established at accessible locations as*  
21 *near as possible to established public transportation routes. The*  
22 *vote centers shall be equipped with voting units or systems that*  
23 *are accessible to individuals with disabilities and that provide the*  
24 *same opportunity for access and participation as is provided to*  
25 *voters who are not disabled, including the ability to vote privately*  
26 *and independently in accordance with Sections 12280 and 19240.*

27 (E) (i) ~~Vote~~ *The* vote centers provided under this section have  
28 an electronic mechanism for the county elections official to  
29 immediately access, at a minimum, all of the following voter  
30 registration data:

31 (I) Name.

32 (II) Address.

33 (III) Date of birth.

34 (IV) Language preference.

35 (V) Party preference.

36 (VI) Precinct.

37 (VII) Whether or not the voter has been issued a vote by mail  
38 ballot and whether or not a ballot has been received by the county  
39 elections official.

1 (ii) The electronic mechanism used to access voter registration  
2 data shall not be connected in any way to a voting system.

3 (5) A method is available *for voters with disabilities* to request  
4 and ~~deliver~~ *receive* a blank vote by mail ballot and, if a replacement  
5 ballot is necessary, a blank replacement ballot that voters with  
6 disabilities can *read and* mark privately and ~~independently~~.  
7 *independently pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act of*  
8 *2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.).*

9 (6) (A) Except as otherwise provided for in this section,  
10 election boards for the vote centers established under this section  
11 meet the requirements for eligibility and composition pursuant to  
12 Article 1 (commencing with Section 12300) of Chapter 4 of  
13 Division 12.

14 (B) Each vote center provides language assistance in all  
15 languages required in the jurisdiction under subdivision (c) of  
16 Section 12303 or Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of  
17 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.) in a manner that enables voters  
18 of the applicable language minority groups to participate effectively  
19 in the electoral process. Each vote center shall post information  
20 regarding the availability of language assistance in English and  
21 all other languages for which language assistance is required to  
22 be provided in the jurisdiction under subdivision (c) of Section  
23 12303 or Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52  
24 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

25 (i) If a vote center is located in, or adjacent to, a precinct, census  
26 tract, or other defined geographical subsection required to establish  
27 language requirements under subdivision (c) of Section 12303 or  
28 Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.  
29 Sec. 10101 et seq.), or if it is identified as needing language  
30 assistance through the public input process described in clause (ii),  
31 the county elections official shall ensure that the vote center is  
32 staffed by election board members who speak the required  
33 language. If the county elections official is unable to recruit  
34 election board members who speak the required language,  
35 alternative methods of effective language assistance shall be  
36 provided by the county elections official.

37 (ii) The county elections official shall solicit public input  
38 regarding which vote centers should be staffed by election board  
39 members who are fluent in a language in addition to English  
40 pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 12303 and Section 203 of

1 the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et  
2 seq.).

3 (iii) The county elections official shall provide notice in the  
4 sample ballot, in vote by mail materials, and on his or her Internet  
5 Web site of the specific language services available at each vote  
6 center.

7 (C) Each vote center provides election materials translated in  
8 all languages required in the jurisdiction under subdivision (c) of  
9 Section 14201 and Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act  
10 of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

11 (D) Each vote center provides reasonable modifications and  
12 auxiliary aids and services as required by the federal ~~American~~  
13 *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990* (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et  
14 ~~seq.~~ *seq.*) and the federal *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* (29 U.S.C.  
15 *Sec. 701 et seq.*).

16 (7) (A) *Beginning 10 days before the election, the county*  
17 *elections official maintains, in an electronic format, an index of*  
18 *voters who have done any of the following at one of the voter*  
19 *centers established pursuant to this section:*

20 (i) *Registered to vote or updated his or her voter registration.*

21 (ii) *Received and voted a provisional ballot or replacement*  
22 *ballot.*

23 (iii) *Voted a ballot using equipment at the vote center.*

24 (B) *The index required by subparagraph (A) includes the same*  
25 *information for each voter as is required to be included on copies*  
26 *of the index of affidavits of voter registration that are posted*  
27 *pursuant to Section 14294. The index required by subparagraph*  
28 *(A) shall be updated continuously during any time that a vote*  
29 *center is open in the jurisdiction.*

30 ~~(7)~~

31 (8) (A) ~~At least~~ *Beginning* 29 days before the ~~date~~ *day* of the  
32 election, the county elections official mails to each registered voter  
33 a vote by mail ballot packet that includes a return envelope with  
34 instructions for the use and return of the vote by mail ballot.

35 (B) The county elections official delivers to each voter, with  
36 either the sample ballot sent pursuant to Section 13303 or with the  
37 vote by mail ballot packet, all of the following:

38 (i) A notice, translated in all languages required under  
39 subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and Section 203 of the federal

1 Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.), that  
2 informs voters of all of the following:

3 (I) An all-mailed ballot election is being conducted and each  
4 eligible voter will be issued a vote by mail ballot by mail.

5 (II) The voter may cast a vote by mail ballot in person at a vote  
6 center during the times and days specified in subparagraph (A) of  
7 paragraph (4) or on election day.

8 (III) ~~At least~~ *No later than* seven days before the ~~date~~ *day* of  
9 the election, the voter may request the county elections official to  
10 send a vote by mail ballot in a language other than English pursuant  
11 to Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.  
12 Sec. 10101 et seq.) or a facsimile copy of the ballot printed in a  
13 language other than English pursuant to Section 14201.

14 (IV) *No later than seven days before the day of the election, the*  
15 *voter may request the county elections official to send or deliver*  
16 *a ballot that voters with disabilities can read and mark privately*  
17 *and independently pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act*  
18 *of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.).*

19 (ii) A list of the ballot dropoff locations and vote centers  
20 established pursuant to this section, including the dates and hours  
21 they are open. The list shall also be posted ~~in an accessible format~~  
22 on the Internet Web site of the county elections ~~official~~ *official*  
23 *in a format that is accessible for people with disabilities pursuant*  
24 *to Section 11135 of the Government Code.*

25 (iii) A postage-paid postcard that the voter may return to the  
26 county elections official for the purpose of requesting a vote by  
27 mail ballot in a language other than English.

28 (C) Upon request, the county elections official provides written  
29 voting materials to voters with disabilities in an ~~accessible format~~  
30 *format, as required by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act*  
31 *of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.) and the federal*  
32 *Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 701 et seq.).*

33 (9) (A) *The county elections official establishes a language*  
34 *accessibility advisory committee that is comprised of*  
35 *representatives of language minority communities. The committee*  
36 *shall be established no later than October 1 of the year before the*  
37 *first election conducted pursuant to this section. The committee*  
38 *shall hold its first meeting no later than April 1 of the year in which*  
39 *the first election is conducted pursuant to this section.*

1     (B) *The county elections official establishes a voting accessibility*  
 2 *advisory committee that is comprised of voters with disabilities.*  
 3 *The committee shall be established no later than October 1 of the*  
 4 *year before the first election conducted pursuant to this section.*  
 5 *The committee shall hold its first meeting no later than April 1 of*  
 6 *the year in which the first election is conducted pursuant to this*  
 7 *section.*

8     (C) *A county with fewer than 50,000 registered voters may*  
 9 *establish a joint advisory committee for language minority*  
 10 *communities and voters with disabilities.*

11     ~~(8)~~

12     (10) (A) The county elections official develops a draft plan for  
 13 the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section  
 14 in consultation with the public, including both of the following:

15     (i) One meeting, publicly noticed at least 10 days in advance of  
 16 the meeting, that includes representatives, advocates, and other  
 17 stakeholders representing each community for which the county  
 18 is required to provide voting materials and assistance in a language  
 19 other than English under subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and the  
 20 federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

21     (ii) One meeting, publicly noticed at least 10 days in advance  
 22 of the meeting, that includes representatives from the disability  
 23 community and community organizations and individuals that  
 24 advocate on behalf of, or provide services to, individuals with  
 25 disabilities.

26     (B) The county elections official, when developing the draft  
 27 plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this  
 28 section, considers, at a minimum, all of the following:

29     (i) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to public  
 30 transportation.

31     (ii) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to  
 32 communities with historically low vote by mail usage.

33     (iii) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to  
 34 population centers.

35     (iv) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to  
 36 language minority communities.

37     (v) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to voters  
 38 with disabilities.

39     (vi) Access to accessible and free parking at vote centers and  
 40 ballot dropoff locations.

1 (vii) The distance and time a voter must travel by car or public  
2 transportation to a vote center and ballot dropoff location.

3 (viii) ~~The availability of need for~~ alternate methods for voters  
4 with disabilities for whom vote by mail ~~ballot~~ *ballots* are not  
5 accessible to cast a ballot.

6 (ix) Traffic patterns near vote centers and ballot dropoff  
7 locations.

8 (x) ~~The availability of need for~~ mobile vote centers in addition  
9 to the number of vote centers established pursuant to this section.

10 (C) The county elections official publicly notices the draft plan  
11 for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this  
12 section and accepts public comments on the draft plan for at least  
13 14 days before the hearing held pursuant to subparagraph (D).

14 (D) (i) Following the 14-day review period required by  
15 subparagraph (C), the county elections official holds a public  
16 meeting to consider the draft plan for the administration of elections  
17 conducted pursuant to this section and to accept public comment.  
18 The meeting shall be publicly noticed at least 10 days in advance  
19 of the meeting on the Internet Web sites of the clerk of the county  
20 board of supervisors and the county elections official, or, if neither  
21 the clerk of the county board of supervisors nor the county elections  
22 official maintain an Internet Web site, in the office of the county  
23 elections official.

24 (ii) After the public hearing to consider the draft plan for the  
25 administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section and  
26 to accept public comments, the county elections official ~~may amend~~  
27 ~~the draft plan.~~ *shall consider any public comments he or she*  
28 *receives from the public and shall amend the draft plan in response*  
29 *to the public comments to the extent he or she deems appropriate.*  
30 The county elections official shall publicly notice the amended  
31 draft plan and shall accept public comments on the amended draft  
32 plan for at least 14 days before the county elections official may  
33 adopt the amended draft plan pursuant to subparagraph (E).

34 (E) (i) Following the 14-day review and comment period  
35 required by clause (ii) of subparagraph (D), the county elections  
36 *official may adopt a final plan for the administration of elections*  
37 *conducted pursuant to this ~~section.~~ section, and shall submit the*  
38 *voter education and outreach plan that is required by clause (i)*  
39 *of subparagraph (I) to the Secretary of State for approval.*

1 (ii) *The Secretary of State shall approve, approve with*  
2 *modifications, or reject a voter education and outreach plan*  
3 *submitted pursuant to clause (i) of subparagraph (I) within 14*  
4 *days after the plan is submitted by the county elections official.*

5 (iii) *The draft plan, the amended draft plan, and the adopted*  
6 *final plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant*  
7 *to this section shall be posted on the Internet Web site of the county*  
8 *elections official in each language in which the county is required*  
9 *to provide voting materials and assistance under subdivision (c)*  
10 *of Section 14201 and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52*  
11 *U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.), and the Secretary of State's Internet*  
12 *Web site in a format that is accessible for people with disabilities*  
13 *pursuant to Section 11135 of the Government Code.*

14 (F) Public meetings held pursuant to this paragraph shall, upon  
15 request, provide auxiliary aids and services to ensure effective  
16 communication with people with disabilities.

17 (G) Within two years of the adoption of the first plan for the  
18 administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section, the  
19 county elections official shall hold public meetings in accordance  
20 with the procedures described in subparagraphs (C) to (F),  
21 inclusive, to consider revising the first plan for the administration  
22 of elections conducted pursuant to this section. Every four years  
23 thereafter, the county elections official shall hold public meetings  
24 in accordance with the procedures described in subparagraphs (C)  
25 to (F), inclusive, to consider revising the plan for the administration  
26 of elections conducted pursuant to this section.

27 (H) (i) With reasonable public notification, a county elections  
28 official may amend a plan for the administration of elections  
29 conducted pursuant to this section no more than 120 days before  
30 the date of an election held pursuant to this section.

31 (ii) With reasonable public notification, a county elections  
32 official may amend a plan for the administration of elections  
33 conducted pursuant to this section more than 120 days before the  
34 date of an election held pursuant to this section if he or she provides  
35 at least 30 days to accept public comment on the amended plan.

36 (I) The plan for the administration of elections conducted  
37 pursuant to this section, includes all of the following:

38 (i) *A voter education and outreach plan that is approved by the*  
39 *Secretary of State and that includes all of the following:*

40 (i)

1 (I) A description of how the county elections official will use  
2 the media, including social media, newspapers, radio, and television  
3 that serve language minority communities for purposes of  
4 informing voters of the upcoming election and promoting the  
5 toll-free voter assistance hotline.

6 ~~(ii)~~

7 (II) A description of how the county elections official will have  
8 a community presence to educate voters regarding the provisions  
9 of this section.

10 ~~(iii)~~

11 (III) A description of the accessible information that will be  
12 publicly available on the accessible Internet Web site of the county  
13 elections official.

14 (IV) *A description of the method used by the county elections  
15 official to identify language minority voters.*

16 ~~(iv)~~

17 (V) A description of how the county elections official will  
18 educate and communicate the provisions of this section to the  
19 public, including:

20 ~~(F)~~

21 (ia) Communities for which the county is required to provide  
22 voting materials and assistance in a language other than English  
23 under subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and the federal Voting  
24 Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.). *The county  
25 elections official shall hold at least one bilingual voter education  
26 workshop for each language in which the county is required to  
27 provide voting materials and assistance in a language other than  
28 English under subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and the federal  
29 Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).*

30 ~~(H)~~

31 (ib) The disability community, including organizations and  
32 individuals that advocate on behalf of, or provide services to,  
33 individuals with disabilities. *The county elections official shall  
34 hold at least one voter education workshop to increase accessibility  
35 and participation of eligible voters with disabilities.*

36 (VI) *A description of how the county will spend the necessary  
37 resources on voter education and outreach to ensure that voters  
38 are fully informed about the election. This description shall include  
39 information about the amount of money the county plans to spend  
40 on voter education and outreach activities under the plan, and*

1 *how that compares to the amount of money spent on voter*  
 2 *education and outreach in recent similar elections in the same*  
 3 *jurisdiction that were not conducted pursuant to this section.*

4 (VII) *At least one public service announcement in the media,*  
 5 *including newspapers, radio, and television, that serve*  
 6 *English-speaking citizens for purposes of informing voters of the*  
 7 *upcoming election and promoting the toll-free voter assistance*  
 8 *hotline. Outreach made under this subclause shall include access*  
 9 *for voters who are deaf or hard of hearing and voters who are*  
 10 *blind or visually impaired.*

11 (VIII) *At least one public service announcement in the media,*  
 12 *including newspapers, radio, and television, that serve*  
 13 *non-English-speaking citizens for each language in which the*  
 14 *county is required to provide voting materials and assistance under*  
 15 *subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and the federal Voting Rights Act*  
 16 *of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.) for purposes of informing*  
 17 *voters of the upcoming election and promoting the toll-free voter*  
 18 *assistance hotline.*

19 (IX) *At least two direct contacts with voters for purposes of*  
 20 *informing voters of the upcoming election and promoting the*  
 21 *toll-free voter assistance hotline.*

22 ~~(v)~~

23 (ii) *A description of how a voter with disabilities may request*  
 24 *and receive a blank vote by mail ballot and, if a replacement ballot*  
 25 *is necessary, a blank replacement ballot that voters with disabilities*  
 26 *can mark privately and independently.*

27 ~~(vi)~~

28 (iii) *A description of how the county elections official will*  
 29 *address significant disparities in voter accessibility and*  
 30 *participation identified in the ~~reports~~ report required by subdivision*  
 31 ~~(f)~~ (g).

32 (iv) *A description of the methods and standards that the county*  
 33 *elections official will use to ensure the security of voting conducted*  
 34 *at vote centers.*

35 (v) *Information about estimated short-term and long-term costs*  
 36 *and savings from conducting elections pursuant to this section as*  
 37 *compared to recent similar elections in the same jurisdiction that*  
 38 *were not conducted pursuant to this section.*

39 ~~(vii)~~

- 1 (vi) To the extent available at the time of publication,  
2 information on all of the following:
- 3 (I) The total number of vote centers to be established.
  - 4 (II) The total number of ballot dropoff locations to be  
5 established.
  - 6 (III) The location of each vote center.
  - 7 (IV) The location of each ballot dropoff location and whether  
8 it is inside or outside.
  - 9 (V) A map of the locations of each vote center and ballot dropoff  
10 location.
  - 11 (VI) The hours of operation for each vote center.
  - 12 (VII) The hours of operation for each ballot dropoff location.
  - 13 (VIII) The security and contingency plans that would be  
14 implemented by the county elections official to do both of the  
15 following:
    - 16 (ia) Prevent a disruption of the vote center process.
    - 17 (ib) Ensure that the election is properly conducted if a disruption  
18 occurs.
  - 19 (IX) The number of election board members and the number of  
20 bilingual election board members and the languages spoken.
  - 21 (X) *The services provided to voters with disabilities, including,*  
22 *but not limited to, the type and number of accessible voting*  
23 *machines and ~~related accessible services~~ reasonable modifications*  
24 *at each vote center.*
  - 25 (XI) The design, layout, and placement of equipment inside  
26 each voter center that protects each voter's right to cast a private  
27 *and independent* ballot.
  - 28 ~~(viii)~~
  - 29 (vii) A toll-free voter assistance hotline *that is accessible to*  
30 *voters who are deaf or hard of hearing, and that is maintained by*  
31 *the county elections official that is operational no later than 29*  
32 *days before the ~~date~~ day of the election until 5 p.m. on the day*  
33 *after the election. The toll-free voter assistance hotline shall provide*  
34 *assistance to voters in all languages in which the county is required*  
35 *to provide voting materials and assistance under subdivision (c)*  
36 *of Section 14201 and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52*  
37 *U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).*
  - 38 ~~(ix) At least one public service announcement in the media,~~  
39 ~~including newspapers, radio, and television, that serve~~  
40 ~~English-speaking citizens for purposes of informing voters of the~~

1 ~~upcoming election and promoting the toll-free voter assistance~~  
2 ~~hotline.~~

3 ~~(x) At least one public service announcement in the media,~~  
4 ~~including newspapers, radio, and television, that serve~~  
5 ~~non-English-speaking citizens for each language in which the~~  
6 ~~county is required to provide voting materials and assistance under~~  
7 ~~subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and the federal Voting Rights~~  
8 ~~Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.) for purposes of~~  
9 ~~informing voters of the upcoming election and promoting the~~  
10 ~~toll-free voter assistance hotline.~~

11 (J) The plan for the administration of elections—~~conduct~~  
12 *conducted* pursuant to this section is posted in a format that is  
13 accessible to persons with disabilities on the Internet Web site of  
14 the Secretary of State and on the Internet Web site of the county  
15 elections official.

16 (b) Notwithstanding Section ~~4002~~ 4000 or any other law, on or  
17 after January 1, 2018, ~~a county elections official~~ *the counties of*  
18 *Calaveras, Inyo, Madera, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento,*  
19 *San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Shasta, Sierra, Sutter,*  
20 *and Tuolumne, and on or after January 1, 2020, any county may*  
21 *conduct a special election as an all-mailed ballot election under*  
22 *this section if all of the following apply:*

23 *(1) The county elections official has done either of the following:*

24 *(A) Previously conducted an election as an all-mailed ballot*  
25 *election in accordance with subdivision (a).*

26 *(B) Adopted a final plan for the administration of elections*  
27 *pursuant to clause (i) of subparagraph (E) of paragraph (9) of*  
28 *subdivision (a), in which case the county elections official shall*  
29 *complete all activities provided for in the voter education and*  
30 *outreach plan that is required by clause (i) of subparagraph (I)*  
31 *of paragraph (9) of subdivision (a) before the day of the special*  
32 *election.*

33 ~~(H)~~

34 (2) (A) On the day of election, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., *inclusive,*  
35 at least one vote center is provided for every 30,000 registered  
36 voters. The county elections official shall make a reasonable effort  
37 to establish a vote center within the jurisdiction where the special  
38 election is held.

1 (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), for a jurisdiction with  
2 fewer than 30,000 registered voters, the county elections official  
3 makes a reasonable effort to establish a vote center.

4 ~~(2)~~

5 (3) (A) Not less than 10 days before the day of the election, for  
6 a minimum of eight hours per day, at least one vote center is  
7 provided for every 60,000 registered voters. ~~The~~ *If the jurisdiction*  
8 *is not wholly contained within the county, the* county elections  
9 official shall make a reasonable effort to establish a vote center  
10 within the jurisdiction where the special election is held.

11 (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), for a jurisdiction with  
12 fewer than 30,000 registered voters, the county elections official  
13 makes a reasonable effort to establish a vote center.

14 ~~(3)~~

15 (4) (A) At least one ballot dropoff location is provided for every  
16 15,000 registered voters. At least one ballot dropoff location shall  
17 be located within the jurisdiction where the special election is held.  
18 All ballot dropoff locations shall be open at least during regular  
19 business hours beginning not less than 28 days before the ~~date~~  
20 *day* of the election, and on the ~~date~~ *day* of the election.

21 (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), for a jurisdiction with  
22 fewer than 15,000 registered voters, at least one ballot dropoff  
23 location shall be provided.

24 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the election  
25 day procedures shall be conducted in accordance with Division  
26 14 (commencing with Section 14000).

27 (d) The county elections official may provide, at his or her  
28 discretion, additional ballot dropoff locations and vote centers for  
29 purposes of this section.

30 (e) The return of voted vote by mail ballots is subject to Sections  
31 3017 and 3020.

32 (f) For the sole purpose of reporting the results of an election  
33 conducted pursuant to this section, upon completion of the ballot  
34 count, the county elections official shall divide the jurisdiction  
35 into precincts pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section  
36 12220) of Chapter 3 of Division 12 and shall prepare a statement  
37 of the results of the election in accordance with Sections 15373  
38 and 15374.

39 (g) (1) (A) ~~If an~~ *Within six months of each* election ~~is~~ conducted  
40 pursuant to this ~~section~~, *section or Section 4007*, the Secretary of

1 State shall report to the Legislature regarding the success of the  
 2 first election conducted pursuant to this section, including,  
 3 Legislature, to the extent possible, the turnout of different  
 4 populations, including the population all of the following  
 5 information by categories of race, ethnicity, language preference,  
 6 age, gender, disability, permanent vote by mail status, and  
 7 historical polling place voters, political party affiliation,  
 8 and language minorities as it relates to the languages required  
 9 under subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and Section 203 of the  
 10 federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).  
 11 seq.):

- 12 (i) Voter turnout.
- 13 (ii) Voter registration.
- 14 (iii) Ballot rejection rates.
- 15 (iv) Reasons for ballot rejection.
- 16 (v) Provisional ballot use.
- 17 (vi) The number of votes cast at each vote center.
- 18 (vii) The number of ballots returned at ballot dropoff locations.
- 19 (viii) The number of ballots returned by mail.
- 20 (ix) The number of persons who registered to vote at a vote  
 21 center.

22 (x) Instances of voter fraud.  
 23 (xi) Any other problems that became known to the county  
 24 elections official or the Secretary of State during the election or  
 25 canvass.

26 (B) The report required by subparagraph (A) shall be posted  
 27 on the Internet Web site of the Secretary of State in a format that  
 28 is accessible for people with disabilities pursuant to Section 11135  
 29 of the Government Code.

30 (C) The report required by subparagraph (A) shall be submitted  
 31 to the Legislature in compliance with Section 9795 of the  
 32 Government Code.

33 ~~(B)~~

34 (D) If an election is conducted pursuant to this section, the  
 35 county shall submit to the Legislature and submit, to the extent  
 36 possible, to the Secretary of State a report that includes all of the  
 37 following: the information needed for the Secretary of State to  
 38 prepare the report required by subparagraph (A).

39 (i) Information on the cost to conduct the election.

- 1     ~~(ii) The number of ballots that were not counted and the reasons~~  
2 ~~they were not counted.~~
- 3     ~~(iii) Voter fraud.~~
- 4     ~~(iv) Any other problems that became known to the county during~~  
5 ~~the election or canvass.~~
- 6     ~~(v) The number of votes cast at each vote center.~~
- 7     ~~(2) Whenever possible, using the criteria set forth in paragraph~~  
8 ~~(1), the reports shall compare the election conducted pursuant to~~  
9 ~~this section to similar elections not conducted pursuant to this~~  
10 ~~section in the same jurisdiction or comparable jurisdictions.~~
- 11     ~~(3) Within six months after the date of the election or before~~  
12 ~~the date of a subsequent election conducted pursuant to this section,~~  
13 ~~whichever is sooner, the Secretary of State and counties shall do~~  
14 ~~all of the following with respect to the reports required by this~~  
15 ~~subdivision:~~
- 16         ~~(A) Submit the reports to the Legislature in compliance with~~  
17 ~~Section 9795 of the Government Code.~~
- 18         ~~(B) Post the reports in a format that is accessible to voters with~~  
19 ~~disabilities on the Internet Web site of the Secretary of State or~~  
20 ~~the county elections official, as applicable.~~
- 21     ~~(2) The county elections official shall post on his or her Internet~~  
22 ~~Web site a report that compares the cost of elections conducted~~  
23 ~~pursuant to this section to the costs of previous elections. The~~  
24 ~~report shall be posted in a format that is accessible for people with~~  
25 ~~disabilities pursuant to Section 11135 of the Government Code.~~
- 26     ~~(h) The Secretary of State shall enforce the provisions of this~~  
27 ~~section pursuant to Section 12172.5 of the Government Code.~~
- 28     ~~(i) For purposes of this section, “disability” has the same~~  
29 ~~meaning as defined in subdivisions (j), (m), and (n) of Section~~  
30 ~~12926 of the Government Code.~~
- 31     ~~SEC. 3. Section 4006 is added to the Elections Code, to read:~~  
32 ~~4006. For any election conducted pursuant to Section 4005,~~  
33 ~~the county elections official shall make a reasonable effort to~~  
34 ~~inform a voter of either of the following:~~
- 35         ~~(a) If the voter’s vote by mail ballot envelope is missing a~~  
36 ~~signature.~~
- 37         ~~(b) How the voter can correct the missing signature.~~
- 38     ~~SEC. 4. Section 4007 is added to the Elections Code, to read:~~

1 4007. (a) *On or after January 1, 2020, the County of Los*  
2 *Angeles may conduct any election as a vote center election if all*  
3 *of the following apply:*

4 (1) *The county elections official complies with all the provisions*  
5 *of subdivision (a) of Section 4005 that are not inconsistent with*  
6 *this section.*

7 (2) *Every permanent vote by mail voter receives a ballot.*

8 (3) *At least two ballot dropoff locations are provided within the*  
9 *jurisdiction where the election is held or the number of ballot*  
10 *dropoff locations are fixed in a manner so that there is at least*  
11 *one ballot dropoff location provided for every 15,000 permanent*  
12 *vote by mail registered voters within the jurisdiction where the*  
13 *election is held, as determined on the 88th day before the day of*  
14 *the election, whichever results in more ballot dropoff locations.*

15 (4) *On the day of the election, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., inclusive,*  
16 *and on each of the three days before the election, for a minimum*  
17 *of eight hours per day, at least one vote center is provided for*  
18 *every 7,500 registered voters within the jurisdiction where the*  
19 *election is held, as determined on the 88th day before the day of*  
20 *the election. At least 90 percent of the number of vote centers*  
21 *required by this subparagraph shall be open for all four days*  
22 *during the required times. Up to 10 percent of the number of vote*  
23 *centers required by this subparagraph may be open for less than*  
24 *four days if at least one vote center is provided for every 7,500*  
25 *registered voters on each day.*

26 (5) *Beginning 10 days before the day of the election and*  
27 *continuing up to and including the fourth day before the day of*  
28 *the election, for a minimum of eight hours per day, at least one*  
29 *vote center is provided for every 30,000 registered voters within*  
30 *the jurisdiction where the election is held, as determined on the*  
31 *88th day before the election.*

32 (6) *Precincts with fewer than 500 registered voters are*  
33 *designated as all vote-by-mail ballot precincts.*

34 (7) *Voters residing in jurisdictions within the County of Los*  
35 *Angeles that border a county that is conducting an election*  
36 *pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 4005 receive a vote by mail*  
37 *ballot if they are eligible to vote in that election.*

38 (8) *Voters in a precinct that is either more than a 30 minute*  
39 *travel time from a vote center or in which the polling place in the*

1 *most recent statewide general election is more than 15 miles from*  
2 *the nearest vote center are mailed a vote by mail ballot.*

3 *(9) The vote centers are located within a reasonable travel time*  
4 *of registered voters.*

5 *(10) The county elections official conducts a service area*  
6 *analysis of the vote center plans, identifies services gaps, and*  
7 *publicly reports those findings.*

8 *(b) Notwithstanding Section 4000 or any other law, on or after*  
9 *January 1, 2020, the County of Los Angeles may conduct a special*  
10 *election as an all-mailed ballot election pursuant to subdivision*  
11 *(b) of Section 4005.*

12 *(c) No later than four years after conducting the first vote center*  
13 *election pursuant to this section, the County of Los Angeles may*  
14 *conduct all-mailed ballot elections pursuant to Section 4005 and*  
15 *shall not conduct vote center elections pursuant to this section.*

16 ~~SEC. 2.~~

17 ~~SEC. 5.~~ Section ~~4005.5~~4008 is added to the Elections Code,  
18 to read:

19 ~~4005.5.~~

20 4008. (a) The Secretary of State shall establish a taskforce that  
21 includes representatives of all of the following:

22 (1) County elections officials.

23 (2) Individuals with demonstrated language accessibility  
24 experience for languages covered under the federal Voting Rights  
25 Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

26 (3) The disability community and community organizations and  
27 individuals that advocate on behalf of, or provide services to,  
28 individuals with disabilities.

29 (4) Experts with demonstrated experience in the field of  
30 elections.

31 (b) The taskforce shall review elections conducted pursuant to  
32 Section 4005 or 4007 and provide comments and recommendations  
33 to the Legislature ~~on or before April 1, 2021.~~ *within six months of*  
34 *each election conducted pursuant to Section 4005 or 4007.*

35 (c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2022,  
36 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that  
37 is enacted before January 1, 2022, deletes or extends that date.

38 ~~SEC. 6.~~ Section 15320 of the Elections Code is amended to  
39 read:

1 15320. Vote by mail ballots and mail ballot precinct ballots  
2 returned to the elections office and to the polls on election day that  
3 are not included in the semifinal official canvass phase of the  
4 ~~election~~ *election, including any ballots returned to another*  
5 *jurisdiction in the state and forwarded to the elections official who*  
6 *issued the ballot pursuant to Section 3017*, shall be processed and  
7 counted during the official canvass in the manner prescribed by  
8 Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 15100) and pursuant to the  
9 requirements of Section 3019.

O