

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 18, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 15, 2016

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, Mullin, Nazarian,  
and Weber)

February 25, 2015

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 450, as amended, Allen. 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 and requires the vote by mail voter to return the ballot by mail or in person, as specified, to the elections official who issued the ballot.

This bill would require an elections official who receives a vote by mail ballot that he or she did not issue to forward that ballot to the elections official who issued the ballot no later than 8 days after receipt. By requiring an elections official to forward a ballot to the elections official who issued the ballot, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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, *the California Voter's Choice Act*, would, on or after January 1, 2018, authorize 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, 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 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 locations 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.

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 provisions and to provide comments and recommendations to the Legislature within 6 months of each all-mailed ballot election or vote center election.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 3017 of the Elections Code proposed by AB 1921 that would become operative only if AB 1921 and this bill are both chaptered and this bill is chaptered last.

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 these statutory provisions.

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

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

1     **SECTION 1.** *This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the*  
2 *California Voter’s Choice Act.*

3     **SECTION 1.**

4     **SEC. 2.** Section 3017 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

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

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

34     (c) On or before March 1, 2008, the elections official shall  
35 establish procedures to track and confirm the receipt of voted vote

1 by mail ballots and to make this information available by means  
2 of online access using the county's elections division Internet Web  
3 site. If the county does not have an elections division Internet Web  
4 site, the elections official shall establish a toll-free telephone  
5 number that may be used to confirm the date a voted vote by mail  
6 ballot was received.

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

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

18 ~~SEC. 1.5.~~

19 *SEC. 2.5.* Section 3017 of the Elections Code is amended to  
20 read:

21 3017. (a) All vote by mail ballots cast under this division shall  
22 be voted on or before the day of the election. After marking the  
23 ballot, the vote by mail voter shall do any of the following: (1)  
24 return the ballot by mail or in person to the elections official who  
25 issued the ballot, (2) return the ballot in person to a member of a  
26 precinct board at a polling place or vote center within the state, or  
27 (3) return the ballot to a vote by mail ballot dropoff location within  
28 the state that is provided pursuant to Section 3025 or 4005.  
29 However, a vote by mail voter who is unable to return the ballot  
30 may designate any person to return the ballot to the elections  
31 official who issued the ballot, to the precinct board at a polling  
32 place or vote center within the state, or to a vote by mail ballot  
33 dropoff location within the state that is provided pursuant to Section  
34 3025 or 4005. The ballot must, however, be received by the  
35 elections official who issued the ballot, the precinct board, or the  
36 vote by mail ballot dropoff location before the close of the polls  
37 on election day. If a vote by mail ballot is returned to a precinct  
38 board at a polling place or vote center, or to a vote by mail ballot  
39 dropoff location, that is located in a county that is not the county  
40 of the elections official who issued the ballot, the elections official

1 for the county in which the vote by mail ballot is returned shall  
2 forward the ballot to the elections official who issued the ballot  
3 no later than eight days after receipt.

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

8 (c) On or before March 1, 2008, the elections official shall  
9 establish procedures to track and confirm the receipt of voted vote  
10 by mail ballots and to make this information available by means  
11 of online access using the county's elections division Internet Web  
12 site. If the county does not have an elections division Internet Web  
13 site, the elections official shall establish a toll-free telephone  
14 number that may be used to confirm the date a voted vote by mail  
15 ballot was received.

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

19 (e) (1) A person designated to return a vote by mail ballot shall  
20 not receive any form of compensation based on the number of  
21 ballots that the person has returned and no individual, group, or  
22 organization shall provide compensation on this basis.

23 (2) For purposes of this paragraph, "compensation" means any  
24 form of monetary payment, goods, services, benefits, promises or  
25 offers of employment, or any other form of consideration offered  
26 to another person in exchange for returning another voter's vote  
27 by mail ballot.

28 (3) Any person in charge of a vote by mail ballot and who  
29 knowingly and willingly engages in criminal acts related to that  
30 ballot as described in Division 18 (commencing with Section  
31 18000), including, but not limited to, fraud, bribery, intimidation,  
32 and tampering with or failing to deliver the ballot in a timely  
33 fashion, is subject to the appropriate punishment specified in that  
34 division.

35 ~~SEC. 2.~~

36 *SEC. 3.* Section 4005 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

37 4005. (a) Notwithstanding Section 4000 or any other law, on  
38 or after January 1, 2018, the Counties of Calaveras, Inyo, Madera,  
39 Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo,  
40 Santa Clara, Shasta, Sierra, Sutter, and Tuolumne, and, except as

1 provided in Section 4007, on or after January 1, 2020, any county  
2 may conduct any election as an all-mailed ballot election if all of  
3 the following apply:

4 (1) (A) At least two ballot dropoff locations are provided within  
5 the jurisdiction where the election is held or the number of ballot  
6 dropoff locations are fixed in a manner so that there is at least one  
7 ballot dropoff location provided for every 15,000 registered voters  
8 within the jurisdiction where the election is held, as determined  
9 on the 88th day before the day of the election, whichever results  
10 in more ballot dropoff locations. For purposes of this subparagraph,  
11 a vote center that includes an exterior ballot drop box counts only  
12 as a single ballot dropoff location. Ballot dropoff locations shall  
13 comply with the regulations adopted pursuant to subdivision (b)  
14 of Section 3025.

15 (B) A ballot dropoff location provided for under this section  
16 consists of a secure, accessible, and locked ballot box located as  
17 near as possible to established public transportation routes and that  
18 is able to receive voted ballots. All ballot dropoff locations shall  
19 be open at least during regular business hours beginning not less  
20 than 28 days before the day of the election, and on the day of the  
21 election. At least one ballot dropoff location shall be an accessible,  
22 secured, exterior drop box that is available for a minimum of 12  
23 hours per day including regular business hours.

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

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

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

29 (iii) Receive and vote a provisional ballot pursuant to Section  
30 3016 or Article 5 (commencing with Section 14310) of Chapter 3  
31 of Division 14.

32 (iv) Receive a replacement ballot upon verification that a ballot  
33 for the same election has not been received from the voter by the  
34 county elections official. If the county elections official is unable  
35 to determine if a ballot for the same election has been received  
36 from the voter, the county elections official may issue a provisional  
37 ballot.

38 (v) Vote a regular, provisional, or replacement ballot using  
39 accessible voting equipment that provides for a private and  
40 independent voting experience.

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

3 (3) (A) On the day of the election, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.,  
4 inclusive, and on each of the three days before the election, for a  
5 minimum of eight hours per day, at least one vote center is  
6 provided for every 10,000 registered voters within the jurisdiction  
7 where the election is held, as determined on the 88th day before  
8 the day of the election. At least 90 percent of the number of vote  
9 centers required by this subparagraph shall be open for all four  
10 days during the required times. Up to 10 percent of the number of  
11 vote centers required by this subparagraph may be open for less  
12 than four days if at least one vote center is provided for every  
13 10,000 registered voters on each day.

14 (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), for a jurisdiction with  
15 fewer than 20,000 registered voters, a minimum of two voter  
16 centers are provided on the day of the election and on each of the  
17 three days before the election within the jurisdiction where the  
18 election is held.

19 (4) (A) Beginning 10 days before the day of the election and  
20 continuing daily up to and including the fourth day before the  
21 election, for a minimum of eight hours per day, at least one vote  
22 center is provided for every 50,000 registered voters within the  
23 jurisdiction where the election is held, as determined on the 88th  
24 day before the day of the election.

25 (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), for a jurisdiction with  
26 fewer than 50,000 registered voters, a minimum of two vote centers  
27 are provided within the jurisdiction where the election is held.

28 (C) The vote centers provided under this section are established  
29 in accordance with the accessibility requirements described in  
30 Article 5 (commencing with Section 12280) of Chapter 3 of  
31 Division 12, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990  
32 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.), the federal Help America Vote Act  
33 of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.), and the federal Voting  
34 Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

35 (D) The vote centers provided under this section are equitably  
36 distributed across the county so as to afford maximally convenient  
37 options for voters and are established at accessible locations as  
38 near as possible to established public transportation routes. The  
39 vote centers shall be equipped with voting units or systems that  
40 are accessible to individuals with disabilities and that provide the

1 same opportunity for access and participation as is provided to  
2 voters who are not disabled, including the ability to vote privately  
3 and independently in accordance with Sections 12280 and 19240.

4 (E) (i) The vote centers provided under this section have an  
5 electronic mechanism for the county elections official to  
6 immediately access, at a minimum, all of the following voter  
7 registration data:

8 (I) Name.

9 (II) Address.

10 (III) Date of birth.

11 (IV) Language preference.

12 (V) Party preference.

13 (VI) Precinct.

14 (VII) Whether or not the voter has been issued a vote by mail  
15 ballot and whether or not a ballot has been received by the county  
16 elections official.

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

19 (5) A method is available for voters with disabilities to request  
20 and receive a blank vote by mail ballot and, if a replacement ballot  
21 is necessary, a blank replacement ballot that voters with disabilities  
22 can read and mark privately and independently pursuant to the  
23 federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et  
24 seq.).

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

30 (B) Each vote center provides language assistance in all  
31 languages required in the jurisdiction under subdivision (c) of  
32 Section 12303 or Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of  
33 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.) in a manner that enables voters  
34 of the applicable language minority groups to participate effectively  
35 in the electoral process. Each vote center shall post information  
36 regarding the availability of language assistance in English and  
37 all other languages for which language assistance is required to  
38 be provided in the jurisdiction under subdivision (c) of Section  
39 12303 or Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52  
40 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

1 (i) If a vote center is located in, or adjacent to, a precinct, census  
2 tract, or other defined geographical subsection required to establish  
3 language requirements under subdivision (c) of Section 12303 or  
4 Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.  
5 Sec. 10101 et seq.), or if it is identified as needing language  
6 assistance through the public input process described in clause (ii),  
7 the county elections official shall ensure that the vote center is  
8 staffed by election board members who speak the required  
9 language. If the county elections official is unable to recruit  
10 election board members who speak the required language,  
11 alternative methods of effective language assistance shall be  
12 provided by the county elections official.

13 (ii) The county elections official shall solicit public input  
14 regarding which vote centers should be staffed by election board  
15 members who are fluent in a language in addition to English  
16 pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 12303 and Section 203 of  
17 the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et  
18 seq.).

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

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

27 (D) Each vote center provides reasonable modifications and  
28 auxiliary aids and services as required by the federal Americans  
29 with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.) and  
30 the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 701 et seq.).

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

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

36 (ii) Received and voted a provisional ballot or replacement  
37 ballot.

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

39 (B) The index required by subparagraph (A) includes the same  
40 information for each voter as is required to be included on copies

1 of the index of affidavits of voter registration that are posted  
2 pursuant to Section 14294. The index required by subparagraph  
3 (A) shall be updated continuously during any time that a vote  
4 center is open in the jurisdiction.

5 (8) (A) Beginning 29 days before the day of the election, the  
6 county elections official mails to each registered voter a vote by  
7 mail ballot packet that includes a return envelope with instructions  
8 for the use and return of the vote by mail ballot.

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

12 (i) A notice, translated in all languages required under  
13 subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and Section 203 of the federal  
14 Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.), that  
15 informs voters of all of the following:

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

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

21 (III) No later than seven days before the day of the election, the  
22 voter may request the county elections official to send a vote by  
23 mail ballot in a language other than English pursuant to Section  
24 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101  
25 et seq.) or a facsimile copy of the ballot printed in a language other  
26 than English pursuant to Section 14201.

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

32 (ii) A list of the ballot dropoff locations and vote centers  
33 established pursuant to this section, including the dates and hours  
34 they are open. The list shall also be posted on the Internet Web  
35 site of the county elections official in a format that is accessible  
36 for people with disabilities pursuant to Section 11135 of the  
37 Government Code.

38 (iii) A postage-paid postcard that the voter may return to the  
39 county elections official for the purpose of requesting a vote by

1 mail ballot in a language other than English or for the purpose of  
2 requesting a vote by mail ballot in an accessible format.

3 (C) Upon request, the county elections official provides written  
4 voting materials to voters with disabilities in an accessible format,  
5 as required by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990  
6 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.) and the federal Rehabilitation Act  
7 of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 701 et seq.).

8 (9) (A) The county elections official establishes a language  
9 accessibility advisory committee that is comprised of  
10 representatives of language minority communities. The committee  
11 shall be established no later than October 1 of the year before the  
12 first election conducted pursuant to this section. The committee  
13 shall hold its first meeting no later than April 1 of the year in which  
14 the first election is conducted pursuant to this section.

15 (B) The county elections official establishes a voting  
16 accessibility advisory committee that is comprised of voters with  
17 disabilities. The committee shall be established no later than  
18 October 1 of the year before the first election conducted pursuant  
19 to this section. The committee shall hold its first meeting no later  
20 than April 1 of the year in which the first election is conducted  
21 pursuant to this section.

22 (C) A county with fewer than 50,000 registered voters may  
23 establish a joint advisory committee for language minority  
24 communities and voters with disabilities.

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

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

34 (ii) One meeting, publicly noticed at least 10 days in advance  
35 of the meeting, that includes representatives from the disability  
36 community and community organizations and individuals that  
37 advocate on behalf of, or provide services to, individuals with  
38 disabilities.

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

4 (i) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to public  
 5 transportation.

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

8 (iii) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to  
 9 population centers.

10 (iv) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to  
 11 language minority communities.

12 (v) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to voters  
 13 with disabilities.

14 *(vi) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to*  
 15 *communities with low rates of household vehicle ownership.*

16 *(vii) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to*  
 17 *low-income communities.*

18 *(viii) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to*  
 19 *communities of eligible voters who are not registered to vote and*  
 20 *may need access to same day voter registration.*

21 *(ix) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to*  
 22 *geographically isolated populations, including Native American*  
 23 *reservations.*

24 ~~(vi)~~

25 (x) Access to accessible and free parking at vote centers and  
 26 ballot dropoff locations.

27 ~~(vii)~~

28 (xi) The distance and time a voter must travel by car or public  
 29 transportation to a vote center and ballot dropoff location.

30 ~~(viii)~~

31 (xii) The need for alternate methods for voters with disabilities  
 32 for whom vote by mail ballots are not accessible to cast a ballot.

33 ~~(ix)~~

34 (xiii) Traffic patterns near vote centers and ballot dropoff  
 35 locations.

36 ~~(x)~~

37 (xiv) The need for mobile vote centers in addition to the number  
 38 of vote centers established pursuant to this section.

39 (C) The county elections official publicly notices the draft plan  
 40 for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this

1 section and accepts public comments on the draft plan for at least  
2 14 days before the hearing held pursuant to subparagraph (D).

3 (D) (i) Following the 14-day review period required by  
4 subparagraph (C), the county elections official holds a public  
5 meeting to consider the draft plan for the administration of elections  
6 conducted pursuant to this section and to accept public comments.  
7 The meeting shall be publicly noticed at least 10 days in advance  
8 of the meeting on the Internet Web sites of the clerk of the county  
9 board of supervisors and the county elections official, or, if neither  
10 the clerk of the county board of supervisors nor the county elections  
11 official maintain an Internet Web site, in the office of the county  
12 elections official.

13 (ii) After the public hearing to consider the draft plan for the  
14 administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section and  
15 to accept public comments, the county elections official shall  
16 consider any public comments he or she receives from the public  
17 and shall amend the draft plan in response to the public comments  
18 to the extent he or she deems appropriate. The county elections  
19 official shall publicly notice the amended draft plan and shall  
20 accept public comments on the amended draft plan for at least 14  
21 days before the county elections official may adopt the amended  
22 draft plan pursuant to subparagraph (E).

23 (E) (i) Following the 14-day review and comment period  
24 required by clause (ii) of subparagraph (D), the county elections  
25 official may adopt a final plan for the administration of elections  
26 conducted pursuant to this section, and shall submit the voter  
27 education and outreach plan that is required by clause (i) of  
28 subparagraph (I) to the Secretary of State for approval.

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

33 (iii) The draft plan, the amended draft plan, and the adopted  
34 final plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant  
35 to this section shall be posted on the Internet Web site of the county  
36 elections official in each language in which the county is required  
37 to provide voting materials and assistance under subdivision (c)  
38 of Section 14201 and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52  
39 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.), and the Secretary of State's Internet

1 Web site in a format that is accessible for people with disabilities  
2 pursuant to Section 11135 of the Government Code.

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

6 (G) Within two years of the adoption of the first plan for the  
7 administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section, the  
8 county elections official shall hold public meetings in accordance  
9 with the procedures described in subparagraphs (C) to (F),  
10 inclusive, to consider revising the first plan for the administration  
11 of elections conducted pursuant to this section. Every four years  
12 thereafter, the county elections official shall hold public meetings  
13 in accordance with the procedures described in subparagraphs (C)  
14 to (F), inclusive, to consider revising the plan for the administration  
15 of elections conducted pursuant to this section.

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

20 (ii) With reasonable public notification, a county elections  
21 official may amend a plan for the administration of elections  
22 conducted pursuant to this section more than 120 days before the  
23 date of an election held pursuant to this section if he or she provides  
24 at least 30 days to accept public comments on the amended plan.

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

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

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

34 (II) A description of how the county elections official will use  
35 the media, including social media, newspapers, radio, and television  
36 for purposes of informing voters of the availability of a vote by  
37 mail ballot in an accessible format and the process for requesting  
38 such a ballot.

1 (III) A description of how the county elections official will have  
2 a community presence to educate voters regarding the provisions  
3 of this section.

4 (IV) A description of the accessible information that will be  
5 publicly available on the accessible Internet Web site of the county  
6 elections official.

7 (V) A description of the method used by the county elections  
8 official to identify language minority voters.

9 (VI) A description of how the county elections official will  
10 educate and communicate the provisions of this section to the  
11 public, including:

12 (ia) Communities for which the county is required to provide  
13 voting materials and assistance in a language other than English  
14 under subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and the federal Voting  
15 Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.). The county  
16 elections official shall hold at least one bilingual voter education  
17 workshop for each language in which the county is required to  
18 provide voting materials and assistance in a language other than  
19 English under subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and the federal  
20 Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

21 (ib) The disability community, including organizations and  
22 individuals that advocate on behalf of, or provide services to,  
23 individuals with disabilities. The county elections official shall  
24 hold at least one voter education workshop to increase accessibility  
25 and participation of eligible voters with disabilities.

26 (VII) A description of how the county will spend the necessary  
27 resources on voter education and outreach to ensure that voters  
28 are fully informed about the election. This description shall include  
29 information about the amount of money the county plans to spend  
30 on voter education and outreach activities under the plan, and how  
31 that compares to the amount of money spent on voter education  
32 and outreach in recent similar elections in the same jurisdiction  
33 that were not conducted pursuant to this section.

34 (VIII) At least one public service announcement in the media,  
35 including newspapers, radio, and television, that serve  
36 English-speaking citizens for purposes of informing voters of the  
37 upcoming election and promoting the toll-free voter assistance  
38 hotline. Outreach made under this subclause shall include access  
39 for voters who are deaf or hard of hearing and voters who are blind  
40 or visually impaired.

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

9 (X) At least two direct contacts with voters for purposes of  
10 informing voters of the upcoming election and promoting the  
11 toll-free voter assistance hotline. *The two direct contacts are in*  
12 *addition to any other required contacts including, but not limited*  
13 *to, sample ballots and the delivery of vote by mail ballots.*

14 (ii) A description of how a voter with disabilities may request  
15 and receive a blank vote by mail ballot and, if a replacement ballot  
16 is necessary, a blank replacement ballot that a voter with disabilities  
17 can mark privately and independently.

18 (iii) A description of how the county elections official will  
19 address significant disparities in voter accessibility and  
20 participation identified in the report required by subdivision (g).

21 (iv) A description of the methods and standards that the county  
22 elections official will use to ensure the security of voting conducted  
23 at vote centers.

24 (v) Information about estimated short-term and long-term costs  
25 and savings from conducting elections pursuant to this section as  
26 compared to recent similar elections in the same jurisdiction that  
27 were not conducted pursuant to this section.

28 (vi) To the extent available at the time of publication,  
29 information on all of the following:

30 (I) The total number of vote centers to be established.

31 (II) The total number of ballot dropoff locations to be  
32 established.

33 (III) The location of each vote center.

34 (IV) The location of each ballot dropoff location and whether  
35 it is inside or outside.

36 (V) A map of the locations of each vote center and ballot dropoff  
37 location.

38 (VI) The hours of operation for each vote center.

39 (VII) The hours of operation for each ballot dropoff location.

1 (VIII) The security and contingency plans that would be  
2 implemented by the county elections official to do both of the  
3 following:

4 (ia) Prevent a disruption of the vote center process.

5 (ib) Ensure that the election is properly conducted if a disruption  
6 occurs.

7 (IX) The number of election board members and the number of  
8 bilingual election board members and the languages spoken.

9 (X) The services provided to voters with disabilities, including,  
10 but not limited to, the type and number of accessible voting  
11 machines and reasonable modifications at each vote center.

12 (XI) The design, layout, and placement of equipment inside  
13 each voter center that protects each voter's right to cast a private  
14 and independent ballot.

15 (vii) A toll-free voter assistance hotline that is accessible to  
16 voters who are deaf or hard of hearing, and that is maintained by  
17 the county elections official that is operational no later than 29  
18 days before the day of the election until 5 p.m. on the day after the  
19 election. The toll-free voter assistance hotline shall provide  
20 assistance to voters in all languages in which the county is required  
21 to provide voting materials and assistance under subdivision (c)  
22 of Section 14201 and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52  
23 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

24 (J) The plan for the administration of elections conducted  
25 pursuant to this section is posted in a format that is accessible to  
26 persons with disabilities on the Internet Web site of the Secretary  
27 of State and on the Internet Web site of the county elections  
28 official.

29 (b) Notwithstanding Section 4000 or any other law, on or after  
30 January 1, 2018, the Counties of Calaveras, Inyo, Madera, Napa,  
31 Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa  
32 Clara, Shasta, Sierra, Sutter, and Tuolumne, and on or after January  
33 1, 2020, any county may conduct a special election as an all-mailed  
34 ballot election under this section if all of the following apply:

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

36 (A) Previously conducted an election as an all-mailed ballot  
37 election in accordance with subdivision (a).

38 (B) Adopted a final plan for the administration of elections  
39 pursuant to clause (i) of subparagraph (E) of paragraph (9) of  
40 subdivision (a), in which case the county elections official shall

1 complete all activities provided for in the voter education and  
2 outreach plan that is required by clause (i) of subparagraph (I) of  
3 paragraph (9) of subdivision (a) before the day of the special  
4 election.

5 (2) (A) On the day of election, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., inclusive,  
6 at least one vote center is provided for every 30,000 registered  
7 voters. ~~The~~ *If the jurisdiction is not wholly contained within the*  
8 *county, the county elections official shall make a reasonable effort*  
9 *to establish a vote center within the jurisdiction where the special*  
10 *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) (A) Not less than 10 days before the day of the election, for  
15 a minimum of eight hours per day, at least one vote center is  
16 provided for every 60,000 registered voters. If the jurisdiction is  
17 not wholly contained within the county, the county elections  
18 official shall make a reasonable effort to establish a vote center  
19 within the jurisdiction where the special election is held.

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

23 (4) (A) At least one ballot dropoff location is provided for every  
24 15,000 registered voters. At least one ballot dropoff location shall  
25 be located within the jurisdiction where the special election is held.  
26 All ballot dropoff locations shall be open at least during regular  
27 business hours beginning not less than 28 days before the day of  
28 the election, and on the day of the election.

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

32 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the election  
33 day procedures shall be conducted in accordance with Division  
34 14 (commencing with Section 14000).

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

38 (e) The return of voted vote by mail ballots is subject to Sections  
39 3017 and 3020.

1 (f) For the sole purpose of reporting the results of an election  
2 conducted pursuant to this section, upon completion of the ballot  
3 count, the county elections official shall divide the jurisdiction  
4 into precincts pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section  
5 12220) of Chapter 3 of Division 12 and shall prepare a statement  
6 of the results of the election in accordance with Sections 15373  
7 and 15374.

8 (g) (1) (A) Within six months of each election conducted  
9 pursuant to this section or Section 4007, the Secretary of State  
10 shall report to the Legislature, to the extent possible, all of the  
11 following information by categories of race, ethnicity, language  
12 preference, age, gender, disability, permanent vote by mail status,  
13 historical polling place voters, political party affiliation, and  
14 language minorities as it relates to the languages required under  
15 subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and Section 203 of the federal  
16 Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.):

- 17 (i) Voter turnout.
- 18 (ii) Voter registration.
- 19 (iii) Ballot rejection rates.
- 20 (iv) Reasons for ballot rejection.
- 21 (v) Provisional ballot use.
- 22 (vi) Accessible vote by mail ballot use.
- 23 (vii) The number of votes cast at each vote center.
- 24 (viii) The number of ballots returned at ballot dropoff locations.
- 25 (ix) The number of ballots returned by mail.
- 26 (x) The number of persons who registered to vote at a vote  
27 center.
- 28 (xi) Instances of voter fraud.
- 29 (xii) Any other problems that became known to the county  
30 elections official or the Secretary of State during the election or  
31 canvass.

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

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

39 (D) If an election is conducted pursuant to this section, the  
40 county shall submit, to the extent possible, to the Secretary of State

1 the information needed for the Secretary of State to prepare the  
2 report required by subparagraph (A).

3 (2) The county elections official shall post on his or her Internet  
4 Web site a report that compares the cost of elections conducted  
5 pursuant to this section to the costs of previous elections. The  
6 report shall be posted in a format that is accessible for people with  
7 disabilities pursuant to Section 11135 of the Government Code.

8 (h) The Secretary of State shall enforce the provisions of this  
9 section pursuant to Section 12172.5 of the Government Code.

10 (i) For purposes of this section, “disability” has the same  
11 meaning as defined in subdivisions (j), (m), and (n) of Section  
12 12926 of the Government Code.

13 ~~SEC. 3.~~

14 *SEC. 4.* Section 4006 is added to the Elections Code, to read:  
15 4006. For any election conducted pursuant to Section 4005,  
16 the county elections official shall make a reasonable effort to  
17 inform a voter of either of the following:

18 (a) If the voter’s vote by mail ballot envelope is missing a  
19 signature.

20 (b) How the voter can correct the missing signature.

21 ~~SEC. 4.~~

22 *SEC. 5.* Section 4007 is added to the Elections Code, to read:  
23 4007. (a) On or after January 1, 2020, the County of Los  
24 Angeles may conduct any election as a vote center election if all  
25 of the following apply:

26 (1) The county elections official complies with all the provisions  
27 of subdivision (a) of Section 4005 that are not inconsistent with  
28 this section.

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

30 (3) At least two ballot dropoff locations are provided within the  
31 jurisdiction where the election is held or the number of ballot  
32 dropoff locations are fixed in a manner so that there is at least one  
33 ballot dropoff location provided for every 15,000 permanent vote  
34 by mail registered voters within the jurisdiction where the election  
35 is held, as determined on the 88th day before the day of the  
36 election, whichever results in more ballot dropoff locations.

37 (4) *Within the jurisdiction where the election is held, at least*  
38 *one vote center is provided for each city that has at least 1,000*  
39 *registered voters according to the official report of registration*

1 *submitted by the county elections official to the Secretary of State*  
2 *before the last general election.*

3 ~~(4)~~

4 (5) On the day of the election, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., inclusive,  
5 and on each of the three days before the election, for a minimum  
6 of eight hours per day, at least one vote center is provided for every  
7 7,500 registered voters within the jurisdiction where the election  
8 is held, as determined on the 88th day before the day of the  
9 election. At least 90 percent of the number of vote centers required  
10 by this subparagraph shall be open for all four days during the  
11 required times. Up to 10 percent of the number of vote centers  
12 required by this subparagraph may be open for less than four days  
13 if at least one vote center is provided for every 7,500 registered  
14 voters on each day.

15 ~~(5)~~

16 (6) Beginning 10 days before the day of the election and  
17 continuing up to and including the fourth day before the day of  
18 the election, for a minimum of eight hours per day, at least one  
19 vote center is provided for every 30,000 registered voters within  
20 the jurisdiction where the election is held, as determined on the  
21 88th day before the election.

22 ~~(6)~~

23 (7) Precincts with fewer than 500 registered voters are  
24 designated as all vote-by-mail ballot precincts.

25 ~~(7)~~

26 (8) Voters residing in a legislative or congressional district that  
27 lies partially within the County of Los Angeles and that also lies  
28 within another county that is conducting an election pursuant to  
29 subdivision (a) of Section 4005 receive a vote by mail ballot if  
30 they are eligible to vote in that election.

31 ~~(8)~~

32 (9) Voters in a precinct that is either more than a 30 minute  
33 travel time from a vote center or in which the polling place in the  
34 most recent statewide general election is more than 15 miles from  
35 the nearest vote center are mailed a vote by mail ballot.

36 ~~(9)~~

37 (10) The vote centers are located within a reasonable travel time  
38 of registered voters.

39 ~~(10)~~

1 (II) The county elections official conducts a service area  
2 analysis of the vote center plans, identifies services gaps, and  
3 publicly reports those findings.

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

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

12 ~~SEC. 5.~~

13 *SEC. 6.* Section 4008 is added to the Elections Code, to read:  
14 4008. (a) The Secretary of State shall establish a taskforce that  
15 includes representatives of all of the following:

16 (1) County elections officials.

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

20 (3) The disability community and community organizations and  
21 individuals that advocate on behalf of, or provide services to,  
22 individuals with disabilities.

23 (4) Experts with demonstrated experience in the field of  
24 elections.

25 (b) The taskforce shall review elections conducted pursuant to  
26 Section 4005 or 4007 and provide comments and recommendations  
27 to the Legislature within six months of each election conducted  
28 pursuant to Section 4005 or 4007.

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

32 ~~SEC. 6.~~

33 *SEC. 7.* Section 15320 of the Elections Code is amended to  
34 read:

35 15320. Vote by mail ballots and mail ballot precinct ballots  
36 returned to the elections office and to the polls on election day that  
37 are not included in the semifinal official canvass phase of the  
38 election, including any ballots returned to another jurisdiction in  
39 the state and forwarded to the elections official who issued the  
40 ballot pursuant to Section 3017, shall be processed and counted

1 during the official canvass in the manner prescribed by Chapter 2  
2 (commencing with Section 15100) and pursuant to the requirements  
3 of Section 3019.

4 ~~SEC. 7.~~

5 ~~SEC. 8.~~ Section ~~1.5~~ 2.5 of this bill incorporates amendments  
6 to Section 3017 of the Elections Code proposed by both this bill  
7 and Assembly Bill 1921. It shall only become operative if (1) both  
8 bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1,  
9 2017, (2) each bill amends Section 3017 of the Elections Code,  
10 and (3) this bill is enacted after Assembly Bill 1921, in which case  
11 Section ~~1~~ 2 of this bill shall not become operative.

12 ~~SEC. 8.~~

13 ~~SEC. 9.~~ If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
14 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
15 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
16 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
17 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.