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# SAN MATEO COUNTY CALIFORNIA VOTER'S CHOICE ACT (SB 450)

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# What is SB 450 – California Voter's Choice Act?

- Landmark legislation - Signed into law September 29, 2016
- Fundamentally transforms elections to All-Mailed Ballot/Vote Center Model with Ballot Drop-off Locations
- Part of a sweeping collection of election reforms designed to increase voter participation





# California Voter's Choice Act

**For 14 selected counties effective January 1, 2018**

- San Mateo
- Inyo
- Madera
- Napa
- Nevada
- Orange
- Sacramento
- San Luis Obispo
- Calaveras
- Santa Clara
- Shasta
- Sierra
- Sutter
- Tuolumne





# What is California Voter's Choice Act?

- The Act applies to “any” election including Presidential and Gubernatorial Elections
- Distinguished from San Mateo County's All-Mailed Ballot AB 2028 Pilot Program, which applies only to Local Consolidated Elections and Local Special Elections
- Discretionary at the County level





# How does California Voter's Choice Act work?

## Voting Options

- All-Mailed Ballot
- Vote Centers
- Ballot Drop-off Locations







# California Voter's Choice Act

## All-Mailed Ballot

- Every voter gets a ballot in the mail
- Mailed 29 days before the election
- Return envelopes are postage paid
- Provided in Spanish, Chinese and English
- Postmark + 3 days





# California Voter's Choice Act

## Vote Centers

- Vote in person at “any” Vote Center countywide
- Early voting starting 29 days before Election Day
- Will be open on two weekends
- At least one Vote Center in each city or town
- Voter can receive a replacement ballot
- Voter can drop off voted ballot





# California Voter's Choice Act

## Vote Centers (continued)

- Conditional Voter Registration available on-site at Vote Centers
- Real time access to VoteCal database allows for immediate verification of voter status
- Multilingual and Accessibility Assistance
- Three Accessible Devices per Vote Center







# California Voter's Choice Act

## Vote Center Formula:

- **29 days before Election Day** - 4 Vote Centers
- **10 Days before Election Day:** 1 Vote Center for every 50,000 registered voters = 8 Vote Centers\*
- **3 Days before Election Day:** 1 Vote Center for every 10,000 registered voters = 39 Vote Centers\*

\* Required by SB 450. Based on estimated 390,000 registered voters.





# California Voter's Choice Act

## Ballot Drop-off Formula

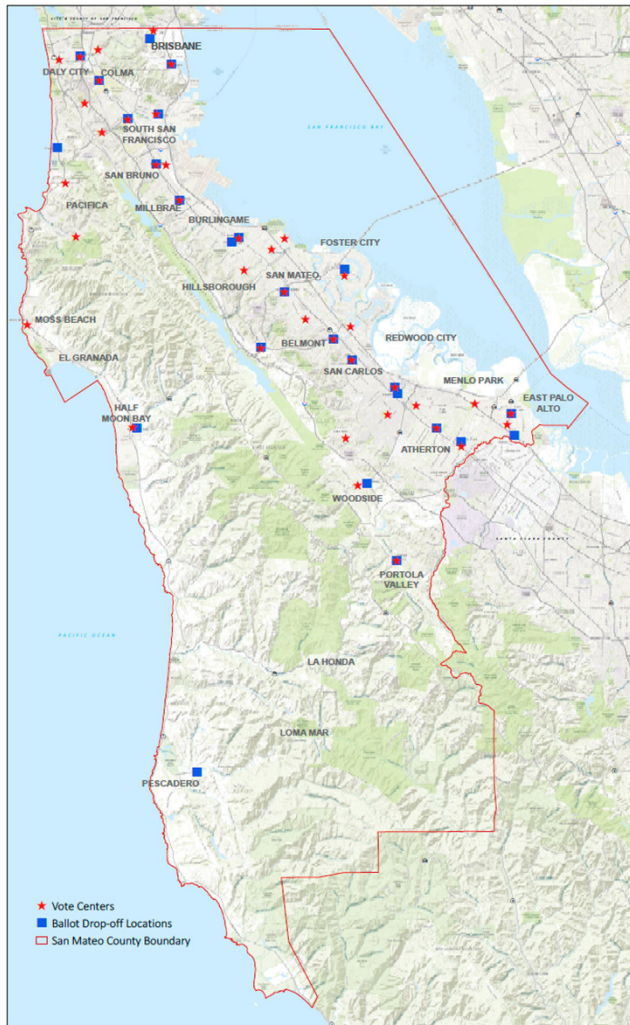
- **28 Days before Election Day:**  
1 Ballot Drop-off Location per  
every 15,000 registered voters  
= 26 Ballot Drop off Locations\*
- **Military Grade Exterior Drop  
Box:** Designed with Image  
Capture Technology

\* Based on estimated 390,000  
registered voters.





# Proposed Vote Center/Ballot Drop-off Locations



- ★ Vote Centers
- Ballot Drop-off Locations
- San Mateo County Boundary





# California Voter's Choice Act

## Election Administration Plan (EAP)

- Requires the County to prepare a comprehensive Draft Plan for the administration of elections
- Consultations with the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) and the Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC)
- Includes Voter Education and Outreach Plan





# California Voter's Choice Act

## Voter Education & Outreach Plan

- Will identify Vote Center/Ballot Drop-off Locations
- Fixed locations to be supplemented by a Roving Vote Center
- Will be reviewed and approved by the Secretary of State







# California Voter's Choice Act

- Community Education and Outreach will include:
  - Public Meetings
  - Public Service Announcements
  - Radio/Television/Print Advertisements
  - Social Media
  - Direct Voter Contact (Postcards)
  - Website Postings
  - Multilingual Communications





# California Voter's Choice Act



- Digital "I Voted" Sticker
  - Recognizes voters' participation in the election
  - For voters' social media and digital signatures
  - Developing banner indicating number of years voters have cast ballots





# California Voter's Choice Act

## Public Hearing Calendar

### **Public Hearing with Language Community**

Thursday, October 12, 2017, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

County Clerk-Recorder's Office, 555 County Center, Redwood City

### **Public Hearing with Disability Community**

Monday, October 16, 2017, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

BOS Chamber, Hall of Justice, 400 County Center, Redwood City

### **Public Hearing of Draft Election Administration Plan**

Thursday, January 18, 2018, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

BOS Chamber, Hall of Justice, 400 County Center, Redwood City





# California Voter's Choice Act

## Public Review Process

### **Draft Election Administration Plan**

- 14-day comment period before the hearing

### **Public Hearing**

### **Amended Draft Election Administration Plan**

- 14-day comment period before Amended Draft Plan is adopted

### **Final Election Administration Plan**

### **Voter Education and Outreach Plan**

- Submitted to Secretary of State for approval
- 14-day comment period by Secretary of State

### **Public Meetings**

- Within 2 years and every 4 years thereafter





# California Voter's Choice Act

## Target Election Dates

- June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary Election
- November 6, 2018 Statewide Direct General Election







# California Voter's Choice Act

## Vote Center Technology

- June 2018 Election – Deploy 400 eSlate voting machines, 200 laptops with VPN and Wi-Fi connections, and on-demand ballot printing systems
- 2020 Presidential Election – Evaluating new voting system that will be designed to operate in a Vote Center environment using:
  - E-poll books
  - Ballot scanners





# California Voter's Choice Act

## Accessibility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

- Accessible Sample Ballot
- Disabled Accessible Unit (DAU)
- Remote Accessible Vote by Mail
- Mobile Voting
- Transportation Assistance





# California Voter's Choice Act

## Voting System Security

- State Certified Voting System
- “Closed” Voting Tabulation System
  - No Online Connectivity to Voter Registration database
- Digital Encryption to protect data
- Physical Hardware Access Controls
- Strict Chain of Custody security processes
- Best practices and rigorous staff training to mitigate risks and cyber security breaches
- Dual Factor Authentication





## **Billable Election Costs to Local Jurisdictions**

### **2015 All-Mailed Ballot Election vs. 2013 Polling Place Election Costs**

<b>Billable Election Expenses</b>				
	2015	2013	Difference	Percentage Savings
Total Billable Costs	\$1,262,397.57	\$1,815,712.29	\$553,314.72	30.5%





## Total Election Costs to County

### Polling Place vs. Vote Center Estimated June 2018 Election Costs

	Polling Place Election	Vote Center Election	Difference
Costs	\$3,086,000	\$3,234,000	\$148,000
Outreach	0	\$340,000	\$340,000
Statutory Consultant Reports	0	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total	\$3,086,000	\$3,624,000*	\$538,000

\* Includes 212 Vote Center days per SB 450 as contrasted with 32 Vote Center days per AB 2028







# New State Election Laws

- **SB 450** *California Voter's Choice Act*  
(Vote by Mail/Vote Center/Ballot Drop-Off)
- **SB 415** *California Voter Participation Rights Act*  
(Odd to Even-Numbered Year Elections)
- **AB 1436** *Conditional Voter Registration Law*
- **AB 1461** *California New Motor Voter Law*
- **AB 2252** *Remote Accessible Vote by Mail Systems*





# Conditional Voter Registration

- Available at all Vote Centers
- Voters who missed the registration deadline can register to vote, up to and including Election Day
  - Voters will complete a registration form (paper or online) and be provided with a provisional ballot
  - The provisional ballot will be counted when the voter's eligibility is confirmed





# Questions?

