San Mateo County
California Voter’s Choice Act (SB 450)

Office of Mark Church
Chief Elections Officer & Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder
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
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Billable Election Expenses</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>Percentage Savings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Billable Costs</td>
<td>$1,262,397.57</td>
<td>$1,815,712.29</td>
<td>$553,314.72</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Total Election Costs to County

## Polling Place vs. Vote Center

**Estimated June 2018 Election Costs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Polling Place Election</th>
<th>Vote Center Election</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Costs</td>
<td>$3,086,000</td>
<td>$3,234,000</td>
<td>$148,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$340,000</td>
<td>$340,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Consultant Reports</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$3,086,000</td>
<td>$3,624,000*</td>
<td>$538,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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?