
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





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 - 3 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

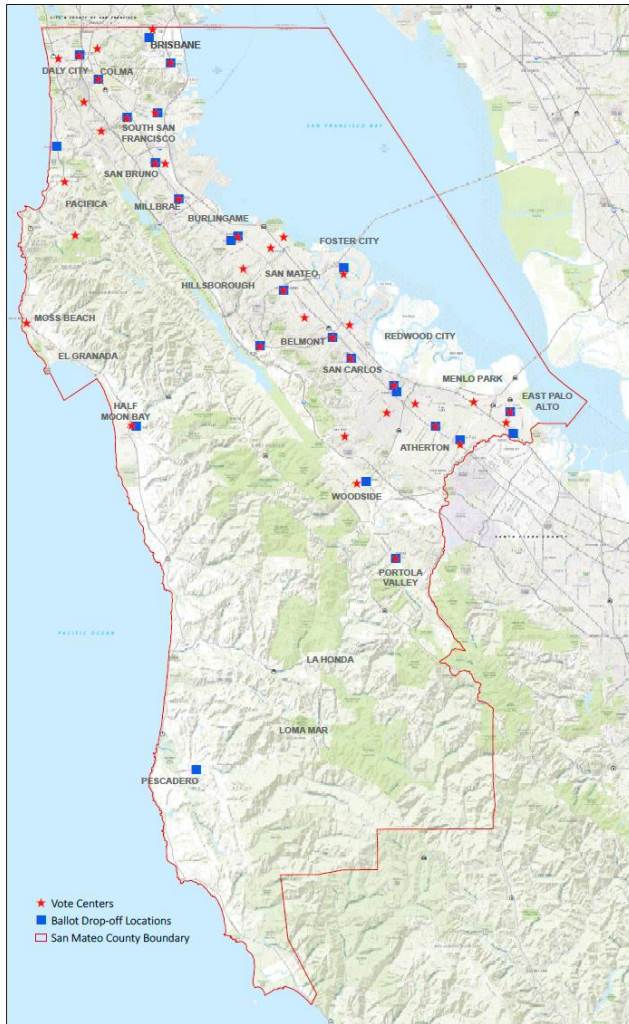
Ballot Drop-off Formula

- **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

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





Total Election Costs to County

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

Full Election Cost Comparisons 2015 and 2013 UDEL Elections

	2015	2013	Difference	Savings
Excluding Outreach Costs				
Total Election Cost	\$1,788,348.31	\$2,093,237.90	\$304,889.59	14.57%
Including Outreach Costs				
Total Election Cost	\$2,127,772.36	\$2,093,237.90	(\$34,534.46)	(1.6%)





Billable Election Costs to Local Jurisdictions

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

Billable Election Expenses				
	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?

