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 – Effective January 1, 2018
• 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
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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

- **29 days before Election Day:** 4 Vote Centers
- **10 Days before Election Day:** 1 Vote Center for every 50,000 registered voters: * 9 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:* 28 Ballot Drop off Locations (26 Required)

• **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 Election Administration 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

• Identifies Vote Center/Ballot Drop-off Locations
• Fixed locations to be supplemented by a Roving Vote Center
• EAP must be 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

Target Election Dates

• June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary Election
• November 6, 2018 Statewide Direct General Election
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
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Vote Center Technology

- June 2018 Election – Deploy 400 eSlate voting machines, 210 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
Questions?