

2025

NEW CALIFORNIA ELECTION LAWS



**ORANGE COUNTY
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

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Orange County Registrar of Voters

Mission Statement

“To provide election services for the citizens of Orange County to ensure equal access to the election process, protect the integrity of votes, and maintain a transparent, accurate and fair process.”

Vision Statement

“To ensure excellence in the administration of elections to inspire confidence and trust in the democratic process.”

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INTRODUCTION

This Chaptered Legislation is a Quick Reference Guide to the Chaptered Bills signed by the Governor in 2024 to be in effect immediately and in 2025 that will impact election administration, voter registration, the California Political Reform Act, redistricting and state ballot measures. It includes the Legislative Counsel's Digest. More information on Chaptered Legislation can be found at the California Legislative Information Website www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov

CHAPTERED BILLS – ELECTIONS

[AB 1784, Pellerin. Primary elections: candidate withdrawals. \(Chapter 355\)](#)

An act to amend Sections 8003, 8022, 8024, 8040, 8800, 8809, 10225, 10229, 10407, 10516, and 10604 of, and to add Section 8020.5 to, the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law requires candidates for an office at a primary election to deliver their nomination documents to the county elections official no later than 5 p.m. on the 88th day before the primary election, or in specified cases, no later than 5 p.m. on the 83rd day before the primary election. Existing law prohibits a person who has delivered nomination documents to the county elections official from withdrawing their candidacy. Existing law further prohibits a person from filing nomination documents for a party nomination and an independent nomination for the same office, or for more than one office at the same election.

This bill would permit a candidate for any office other than a statewide office, as defined, at a primary election to withdraw their nomination documents for that office during the applicable filing period. The bill would establish requirements for withdrawal, including that the candidate submit a statement under penalty of perjury that they are withdrawing their nomination documents and understand the withdrawal is irrevocable and that the filing fees are nonrefundable. The bill would permit a candidate who withdraws to file nomination documents for another office at that primary election during the applicable filing period. The bill would clarify that a candidate is prohibited from filing nomination documents for more than one office at the same primary election, except as specified. If an incumbent has delivered but then withdrawn their nomination documents before 5 p.m. on the 88th day before the primary election, the bill would authorize another candidate to deliver their nomination documents no later than 5 p.m. on the 83rd day before the primary election.

By establishing a new crime based upon the requirement that a candidate submit a statement of withdrawal under penalty of perjury, and by establishing new duties for local elections officials, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

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 with regard to certain mandates no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

With regard to any other mandates, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs so mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

[AB 2127, Berman. Voter registration: California New Motor Voter Program. \(Chapter 378\)](#)

An act to amend and repeal Section 2275 of the Elections Code, relating to voter registration.

Existing law requires the Secretary of State and the Department of Motor Vehicles to establish the California New Motor Voter Program for the purpose of increasing opportunities for voter registration. Pursuant to this program, existing law requires every driver's license application to include a voter registration application that consists of, among other things, an attestation that the applicant meets voter eligibility requirements. Under existing law, a person who attests to their eligibility to vote on the voter registration application will be registered to vote unless the voter affirmatively declines to register to vote.

Existing law, until January 1, 2025, requires the Secretary of State to establish a taskforce of specified members that, among other tasks, must convene for meetings at least quarterly and advise the Secretary of State and the department on effective implementation of the California New Motor Voter Program.

This bill would extend the operation of the taskforce until January 1, 2030.

[AB 2582, Pellerin. Elections omnibus bill.](#) (Chapter 109)

An act to amend Sections 2119 and 10223 of, to amend and repeal Section 17506 of, to add Sections 10226.3 and 10226.5 to, to repeal Sections 331 and 332 of, to repeal Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 3400) and Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 3500) of Division 3 of, and to repeal and add Section 10226 of, the Elections Code, relating to elections.

(1) Existing law establishes specific procedures for new residents and new citizens to register and vote. Existing law requires an elections official to preserve the list of new resident voters voting in accordance with these provisions for 22 months from the date of the election.

This bill would repeal the specific procedures for new residents and new citizens to register and vote. As of January 1, 2027, the bill would repeal the requirement for an elections official to preserve the list of new resident voters voting in accordance with these provisions for 22 months. The bill would make additional conforming changes.

(2) Existing law requires a candidate for municipal office to file nomination papers and affidavits, as specified.

This bill would prescribe new forms for nomination papers and affidavits and would require a candidate for municipal office to file a declaration of candidacy along with the nomination papers, as specified. The bill would require the Secretary of State to establish uniform forms for candidates for municipal office to use for these purposes.

(3) The bill would also make additional (3) technical, nonsubstantive changes to provisions of existing law relating to elections.

[AB 2642, Berman. Elections: intimidation.](#) (Chapter 533)

An act to add Article 5 (commencing with Section 18580) to Chapter 6 of Division 18 of the Elections Code, relating to elections, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

Existing law makes it a crime to intimidate a voter or to interfere with the conduct of an election, as specified. Existing law makes it a crime for a person in possession of a firearm or a uniformed peace officer, private guard, or security personnel to be stationed in the immediate vicinity of, or posted at, a polling place without written authorization of the appropriate elections official, except as specified. Existing law also makes it a crime to hire a person to conduct these prohibited acts.

This bill would prohibit a person from intimidating, threatening, or coercing, or attempting to intimidate, threaten, or coerce, any other person for engaging in specified election-related activities. The bill would authorize an aggrieved person, an officer holding an election or conducting a canvass, or the Attorney General to file a civil action to enforce this prohibition. The bill would create a presumption that a person who openly carries a firearm or imitation firearm while interacting with or observing the specified election-related activities would be presumed to have engaged in prohibited intimidation, in the absence of an

affirmative showing to the contrary by a preponderance of the evidence. The bill would provide that an aggrieved person who prevails in such an action will recover reasonable attorney's fees, reasonable expert fees, and reasonable litigation expenses, as specified.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

[AB 2655, Berman. Defending Democracy from Deepfake Deception Act of 2024.](#) (Chapter 261)

An act to amend Section 35 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and to add Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 20510) to Division 20 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law establishes requirements for the conduct of election campaigns, including requirements regarding the endorsement of candidates, political corporations, campaign funds, fair campaign practices, and libel and slander. Existing law, until January 1, 2027, prohibits any person, committee, or other entity from distributing, with actual malice, materially deceptive audio or visual media of a candidate for elective office with the intent to injure the candidate's reputation or to deceive a voter into voting for or against the candidate, within 60 days of the election. Existing law requires specified actions pertaining to elections to be given precedence when they are filed in court, including actions involving the registration of voters, the certification of candidates and measures, and election contests, and, until January 1, 2027, actions involving the foregoing prohibition against materially deceptive media.

This bill, to be known as the Defending Democracy from Deepfake Deception Act of 2024, would require a large online platform, as defined, to block the posting of materially deceptive content related to elections in California, during specified periods before and after an election. The bill would require a large online platform to label certain additional content inauthentic, fake, or false during specified periods before and after an election in California.

The bill would require a large online platform to develop procedures for California residents to report content that has not been blocked or labeled in compliance with the act. The bill would also authorize candidates for elected office, elected officials, elections officials, the Attorney General, and a district attorney or city attorney to seek injunctive relief against a large online platform for noncompliance with the act, as specified, and would assign precedence to such actions when they are filed in court.

The bill would exempt from its provisions a broadcasting station and a regularly published online newspaper, magazine, or other periodical of general circulation that satisfy specified requirements. The bill would also exempt content that is satire or parody.

The bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 35 of the Code of Civil Procedure proposed by AB 2839 to be operative only if this bill and AB 2839 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

[AB 2839, Pellerin. Elections: deceptive media in advertisements.](#) (Chapter 262)

An act to amend Section 35 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and to add Section 20012 to the Elections Code, relating to elections, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

Existing law prohibits certain distribution of materially deceptive audio or visual media of a candidate within 60 days of an election at which the candidate will appear on the ballot, unless the media includes a disclosure stating that the media has been manipulated, subject to specified exemptions. Existing law authorizes a candidate whose voice or likeness appears in audio or visual media distributed in violation of

these provisions to file specified actions, and it requires a court to place such proceedings on the calendar in the order of their date of filing and give the proceedings precedence.

This bill would prohibit a person, committee, or other entity from knowingly distributing an advertisement or other election communication, as defined, that contains certain materially deceptive content, as defined, with malice, as defined, subject to specified exemptions. The bill would apply this prohibition within 120 days of an election in California and, in specified cases, 60 days after an election. The bill would authorize a recipient of materially deceptive content distributed in violation of this section, candidate or committee participating in the election, or elections official, as defined, to file a civil action to enjoin the distribution of the media and to seek damages against the person, committee, or other entity that distributed it, except as specified. The bill would require a court to place such proceedings on the calendar in the order of their date of filing and give the proceedings precedence.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 35 of the Code of Civil Procedure proposed by AB 2655 to be operative only if this bill and AB 2655 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

[AB 2951, Cervantes. Voter registration: cancellation. \(Chapter 424\)](#)

An act to amend, repeal, and add Section 2201 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law requires a county elections official to cancel a person's voter registration in certain circumstances, including when a person is deemed mentally incompetent, upon proof that the person is presently imprisoned for conviction of a felony, upon the death of the person, and when a person fails to respond to an address verification mailed by the elections official and does not attempt to vote at the next two federal general elections. Existing law requires the elections official to provide notice of the intent to cancel the person's registration between 15 and 30 days before the cancellation.

This bill, until July 1, 2025, instead would require the elections official to provide notice of the intent to cancel the person's registration between 15 and 30 days before the cancellation if the cancellation was due to mental incapacity to vote, a prison commitment, or the voter has failed to respond to an address verification, as specified, and would require the elections official to provide notice within 15 days before or after cancellation of a voter's registration if the person has died.

This bill would require the Secretary of State to submit an update on January 1, 2025, and on the first of each month thereafter until July 1, 2025, to specified committees of the Legislature detailing its efforts and progress in fully implementing and achieving compliance with specified laws regarding voting rights disqualifications and restorations.

By increasing the duties on county elections officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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 the statutory provisions noted above.

[AB 3184, Berman. Elections: signature verification statements, unsigned ballot identification statements, and reports of ballot rejections. \(Chapter 437\)](#)

An act to amend Sections 2194, 3019, and 15377 of, and to add and repeal Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 15390) of Division 15 of, the Elections Code, relating to elections, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

(1) Existing law, upon receiving a vote by mail ballot, requires the elections official to compare the signature on the identification envelope with either the signature appearing on the voter's affidavit or other signature appearing on a form that is part of the voter's registration record. Existing law, if it is determined that the signatures do not compare, requires the elections official to send by first-class mail notice to the voter of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature. Existing law prohibits the elections official from rejecting a vote by mail with signatures that do not compare if the voter delivers a signature verification statement and the signature on the verification statement compares with the signature on file in the voter's record.

Existing law prohibits the elections official from rejecting a vote by mail ballot if the voter failed to sign the identification envelope, but the voter signs an unsigned identification envelope statement.

Existing law requires an elections official to include the vote by mail ballot signature verification statement, unsigned identification envelope statement, and corresponding instructions on the elections official's internet website.

This bill would instead require the elections official to include a single, combined vote by mail ballot signature verification statement and unsigned ballot identification envelope statement, along with the instructions for the completion of the statement, on the elections official's internet website. The bill would require the elections official to accept the combined statement for purposes of satisfying the above-described requirements for a signature verification statement or an unsigned identification envelope statement.

By imposing new duties on local election officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) Existing law treats information regarding voters who did not sign a vote by mail ballot identification envelope or whose signature on the vote by mail ballot identification envelope did not compare with the voter's signature on file as confidential and prohibits disclosure, except as specified.

This bill would require that information to be provided to any candidate for federal, state, or local office, to any committee for or against any initiative or referendum measure for which legal publication is made, and to any person for election, scholarly, journalistic, or political purposes, or for governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of State.

(3) Existing law requires a local elections official to report to the Secretary of State, within 31 days of the election, the number of vote by mail ballots rejected, categorized according to the reason for the rejection. Existing law requires the Secretary of State, upon receipt of this information, to publish a report containing the information for every election, including local special elections, on the Secretary of State's internet website.

This bill instead would require the Secretary of State to publish the report containing the information for every statewide election, including a recall election for a state constitutional officer, Member of the State Senate, or Member of the State Assembly, and every special election to fill a vacancy for the office of Member of the United States Senate, Member of the United States House of Representatives, Member of the State Senate, and Member of the State Assembly on the Secretary of State's internet website.

(4) Existing law requires the canvass of an election to commence no later than the Thursday following the election and to be continued daily, not including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, for not less than 6 hours each day until completed. Existing law requires the elections official to prepare a certified statement of the results of the election and submit that certified statement to the governing body within 30 days of the election, except as specified.

This bill would prohibit the elections official from certifying the results of the November 5, 2024, presidential general election prior to the 28th calendar day following the election, except under specified conditions. The bill would authorize the official canvass to be continued for fewer than 6 hours per day until completion, if the only ballots that the elections official has left to count are vote by mail ballots for which a voter has the opportunity either to verify their signature or to provide their signature, as specified, and the elections official does not need to continue the official canvass for at least 6 hours per day in order to complete the official canvass by the 28th calendar day following the election. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2025.

(5) This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 3019 of the Elections Code proposed by AB 884 to be operative only if this bill and AB 884 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

(6) 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 the statutory provisions noted above.

(7) This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

[AB 3197, Lackey. Elections. \(Chapter 120\)](#)

An act to amend Sections 100 and 13307 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law requires the gathering of a specified number of signatures by petition to nominate a candidate or qualify a measure or recall for the ballot, among other purposes. Existing law requires elections officials to verify the signatures on a petition in accordance with specified procedures.

This bill would authorize a county elections official who verifies signatures on petitions or papers that are required to be signed by voters of a county, city, school district, or special district subject to petitioning to establish and require the use of a standardized petition form for distribution within and submission to the county.

Existing law authorizes a candidate for nonpartisan elective office in a local agency to prepare a candidate's statement on a form provided by the elections official, as specified. If the elections official who is conducting the election permits electronic distribution of a candidate's statement, existing law permits the governing body of a local agency to permit a candidate for nonpartisan elective office in the local agency to prepare a candidate's statement for the purpose of electronic distribution.

This bill instead would permit a candidate for nonpartisan elective office in the local agency to prepare a candidate's statement for the purposes of electronic distribution if the elections official who is conducting the election or the county elections official who is conducting the local agency's election, including a local election consolidated with the county election, permits electronic distribution.

The bill would make additional nonsubstantive changes.

[AB 3284, Committee on Elections. Elections omnibus bill. \(Chapter 854\)](#)

An act to amend Sections 2166.7, 2227, 2269, 7204, 9170, 10703, and 21594 of, and to repeal Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 20301) of Division 20 of, the Elections Code, relating to elections.

(1) Existing law requires a county elections official, upon application of a public safety officer, to make confidential that officer's residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on the affidavit of registration, as specified.

This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to this provision.

(2) Existing law requires a county elections official, upon application of a person who performs election-related work and interacts with the public or is observed by the public doing election-related work, as specified, to make confidential that worker's residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on the affidavit of registration.

This bill would update existing provisions regarding voter registration information to include a cross-reference to the provision described above.

(3) Existing law requires the county central committee for the Democratic Party in the City and County of San Francisco to be elected from 2 Assembly districts located in the city and county, as further specified.

This bill would make a technical change to the above provision, and delete an obsolete provision regarding the June 5, 2012, statewide primary election.

(4) Existing law establishes requirements for the content and format of a county ballot label, including that the opponents of a measure must provide the list of opponents to the elections official when submitting arguments opposing the measure.

This bill would correct a statutory cross-reference in the above provision.

(5) Existing law requires a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of Representative in Congress, State Senator, or Member of the Assembly to be conducted on a Tuesday at least 126 days, but not more than 140 days, following the issuance of an election proclamation by the Governor, except as specified.

This bill would delete an obsolete provision regarding an all-mailed ballot special election that was repealed on January 1, 2021.

(6) Existing law prohibits construing the provisions of a specified chapter in the Elections Code to impose additional reporting obligations, and provides that the chapter does not apply to the expenditure of campaign funds in conjunction with any pending litigation. The other provisions of that chapter were repealed by Proposition 208, an initiative measure approved by the voters at the November 5, 1996, statewide general election.

This bill would repeal that obsolete provision.

(7) Existing law requires the County of Sacramento Citizens Redistricting Commission to adopt a redistricting plan adjusting the boundaries of supervisorial districts. Existing law requires the commission to file the plan with the county elections official and to refrain from releasing a draft map pursuant to specified deadlines.

This bill would correct statutory-cross references in the above provisions.

[SB 1174, Min. Elections: voter identification. \(Chapter 990\)](#)

An act to add Section 10005 to the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law permits the governing body of a city or district to request that the county render specified services to the city or district regarding the conduct of an election.

This bill would prohibit a local government from enacting or enforcing any charter provision, ordinance, or regulation requiring a person to present identification for the purpose of voting or submitting a ballot at any polling place, vote center, or other location where ballots are cast or submitted, as specified.

The bill would include findings that changes proposed by this bill address a matter of statewide concern rather than a municipal affair and, therefore, apply to all cities, including charter cities.

[SB 1328, Bradford. Elections. \(Chapter 605\)](#)

An act to amend Sections 2550, 13004, 13004.5, 15209, 17301, 17302, 17305, 17306, 18564, 19201, 19205, and 19281 of, to add Section 327.5 to, and to add Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 17600) to Division 17 of, the Elections Code, relating to elections, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

(1) Existing law generally requires electronic poll books, ballot manufacturers and finishers, ballot on demand systems, voting systems, and remote accessible vote by mail systems to be approved by the Secretary of State before their use in an election.

This bill would authorize the Secretary of State to impose additional conditions of approval for these purposes.

(2) Existing law requires a ballot card manufacturer, ballot card finisher, or ballot on demand system vendor to notify the Secretary of State and affected local elections officials in writing within 2 business days after discovering any flaw or defect that could adversely affect the future casting or tallying of votes.

This bill would instead require a ballot card manufacturer, ballot card finisher, or ballot on demand system vendor to provide that notice within 24 hours.

(3) Under existing law, specified election materials, including voted ballots, are required to be kept by county elections officials for 22 months for elections involving a federal office or for 6 months for all other elections. Existing law authorizes an elections official to open sealed ballot containers if it is necessary in a shredding or recycling process.

This bill would add paper cast vote records, voted conditional voter registration ballots, and conditional voter registration voter identification envelopes to the list of materials county elections officials are required to keep. The bill would also require county elections officials to keep certain electronic data for 22 months for elections involving a federal office or for 6 months for all other elections. By imposing additional duties on county elections officials, this bill would create a state-mandated local program. The bill would prohibit an elections official from opening sealed ballot containers unless it is necessary in a shredding or recycling process.

(4) Under existing law, it is a felony punishable by imprisonment for 2 to 4 years to interfere or attempt to interfere with the secrecy of voting or ballot tally software program source code or to knowingly, and without authorization, possess a key to a voting machine that has been adopted and will be used.

This bill would specify that, with respect to the secrecy of voting or ballot tally software program source code, the phrase “interferes or attempts to interfere with” includes knowingly, and without authorization, providing unauthorized access to, or breaking the chain of custody to, certified voting technology during the lifecycle of that certified voting technology, or any finished or unfinished ballot cards. The bill would also expand the crime of knowing and unauthorized possession of a key to a voting machine that has been adopted and will be used to include knowing and unauthorized possession of credentials, passwords, or access keys to a voting machine that has been adopted and will be used. By expanding the scope of an existing crime, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

The bill would authorize the destruction or secure disposal of certified voting technology at the end of lifecycle with the written approval of the Secretary of State and the manufacturer. The bill would also require specified actions to be taken for any part or component of certified voting technology for which the chain of custody has been compromised or for which security has been breached or attempted to be breached, including that the technology be removed from service immediately.

(5) Existing law prohibits a voting system from being connected to the internet and from receiving or transmitting wireless communications or wireless data transfers.

This bill would prohibit establishing a network connection to any device not directly used and necessary for voting system functions and would prohibit communication by or with any component of the voting system by wireless or modem transmission. The bill would require a voting system to be used in a configuration of parallel central election management systems separated by an air-gap, as defined.

(6) 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 with regard to certain mandates no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

With regard to any other mandates, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs so mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

[SB 1441, Allen. Examination of petitions: time limitations and reimbursement of costs. \(Chapter 479\)](#)

An act to amend Section 7924.110 of the Government Code, relating to petitions.

Existing law, the California Public Records Act, requires state and local agencies to make their records available for public inspection, except as provided. Existing law generally includes in the meaning of “public records” any writing containing information relating to the conduct of the public’s business prepared, owned, used, or retained by any state or local agency regardless of physical form or characteristics.

Under existing law, certain election petitions are not public records and are not open to inspection except by certain persons. Specifically, existing law authorizes, among other persons, the proponents of a petition found to be insufficient or their designated representative to examine the petition no later than 21 days after certification of the insufficiency.

This bill would require the examination to conclude no later than 60 days after it commenced. If the examination does not conclude within 5 business days, the bill would require that the proponents of the examination reimburse the county for any costs incurred to continue the examination, as provided. When

an examination continues beyond 5 business days, the bill would require the elections official to estimate at the beginning of each day and the proponent to deposit with the elections official a sum required by the elections official to support the examination for that day. The bill would authorize the return of any money deposited in excess of the cost of the examination and provide that money not required to be refunded be deposited in the appropriate public treasury.

By imposing new duties on county elections officials related to examination of petitions, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires local agencies, for the purpose of ensuring public access to the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies, to comply with a statutory enactment that amends or enacts laws relating to public records or open meetings and contains findings demonstrating that the enactment furthers the constitutional requirements relating to this purpose.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

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, with regard to certain mandates, no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

With regard to any other mandates, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs so mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

[SB 1450, Allen. Elections. \(Chapter 480\)](#)

An act to amend, repeal, and add Section 4005 of, and to add Section 4008 to, the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Prior law, the California Voter's Choice Act, required the Secretary of State to establish a taskforce that included certain individuals to review all-mailed ballot or vote center elections and to provide comments and recommendations to the Legislature within 6 months of each all-mailed ballot election or vote center election. The act was repealed by its own provisions on January 1, 2022.

This bill would reestablish this taskforce.

Existing law requires any county conducting an all-mailed ballot election to meet specified conditions, including that each vote center provide language assistance, that a county elections official establish a language accessibility advisory committee, and that the county elections official develop a draft plan for the administration of elections in consultation with the public. Under existing law, a voter education and outreach plan is required to include at least two direct contacts with voters to inform them of the upcoming election and to promote the toll-free voter assistance hotline. Existing law authorizes the county elections official to adopt a final plan for the administration of elections following a 14-day review and comment period. Existing law requires the Secretary of State to submit a report to the Legislature containing information about, among other things, voter turnout, voter registration, and ballot rejection rates, by

specified categories. Existing law requires a county elections official to post on the official's internet website a report that compares the cost of an all-mailed ballot election to the cost of previous elections, as specified.

This bill would require each vote center to post information regarding the availability of language assistance services, including language assistance hotlines provided by the county or Secretary of State. The bill would require a language accessibility advisory committee and a voting accessibility advisory committee to hold their first meetings before a public meeting required as part of the development of a draft plan for the administration of elections, and it would also require a county elections official, in a county with more than 500,000 registered voters, to establish a voter education and outreach advisory committee. The bill would repeal the requirement for a voter outreach and advisory committee on December 31, 2029. The bill would, after the first 6 statewide all-mailed ballot elections, authorize a county elections official to make only one direct contact with voters if the county elections official revises the plan for the administration of elections, as specified, and spends at least half the funds saved by not making a second direct contact on targeted outreach to historically underrepresented voters. The bill would require the county elections official to adopt a final plan for the administration of elections no later than 120 days before the election and following the 14-day review and comment period. The bill would require the Secretary of State to submit a final report to the Legislature containing specified information. The bill would require a county elections official to post a report within 9 months of the certification of the results of the election that compares the cost of an all-mailed ballot election with the costs of previous elections, as specified. By increasing the duties of local elections officials, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 4005 of the Elections Code proposed by AB 884 to be operative only if this bill and AB 884 are enacted and this bill is enacted 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 the statutory provisions noted above.

[SB 1493, Blakespear. Elections. \(Chapter 800\)](#)

An act to amend Section 9096 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law requires the Secretary of State to furnish copies of the state voter information guide and the full text of all measures to various persons and places, as specified.

This bill would limit the initial number of copies distributed to one copy of the state voter information guide and one copy of the full text of all measures to each person or place, as specified. The bill would also allow persons or places entitled to a copy of the voter information guide and the full text of all measures, as specified, to request and receive additional copies of those documents.

CHAPTERED BILLS – POLITICAL REFORM ACT

[AB 1170, Valencia. Political Reform Act of 1974: filing requirements. \(Chapter 211\)](#)

An act to amend Sections 81009 and 87500.3 of, and to repeal and add Section 87500 of, the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

The Political Reform Act of 1974 generally requires elected officials, candidates for elective offices, and committees formed primarily to support or oppose a candidate for public office or a ballot measure, along with other persons and entities, to file periodic campaign statements and certain reports concerning campaign finances and related matters. Existing law permits a report or statement that has been on file for at least two years to be retained by a filing officer as a copy on microfilm or other space-saving materials and, after the Secretary of State certifies an online filing and disclosure system, as an electronic copy.

This bill would permit a filing officer to retain a report or statement filed in a paper format as a copy on microfilm or other space-saving materials or as an electronic copy, as specified, without a two-year waiting period. The bill would also permit a filing officer to retain a report or statement as an electronic copy before the Secretary of State certifies an online filing and disclosure system. Once the Secretary of State certifies an online filing and disclosure system, this bill would permit a filing officer to retain a report or statement filed in a paper format as an electronic copy, as specified, without a two-year waiting period.

The Political Reform Act of 1974 regulates conflicts of interests of public officials and requires that public officials file, with specified filing officers, periodic statements of economic interests disclosing certain information regarding income, investments, and other financial data. The Fair Political Practices Commission is the filing officer for statewide elected officers and candidates and other specified public officials. If the Commission is the filing officer, the public official generally files with their agency or another person or entity, who then makes a copy and files the original with the Commission.

This bill would revise and recast these filing requirements to make various changes, including requiring public officials and candidates for whom the Commission is the filing officer to file their original statements of economic interests electronically with the Commission. The bill would also make conforming changes to other provisions of law. The bill would require the Commission to redact the signature, personal address, and telephone number of a filer, and related information about a filer's business, tenant, or family member, as specified.

Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

Existing law makes a knowing or willful violation of the Political Reform Act of 1974 a misdemeanor and subjects offenders to criminal penalties. By expanding the scope of an existing crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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 no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

The Political Reform Act of 1974, an initiative measure, provides that the Legislature may amend the act to further the act's purposes upon a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of each house of the Legislature and compliance with specified procedural requirements.

This bill would declare that it furthers the purposes of the act.

[AB 2001, Gallagher. Political Reform Act of 1974. \(Chapter 97\)](#)

An act to amend Sections 84504.2, 84504.4, 84616, 85400, and 91011 of, and to repeal Section 82052.5 of, the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

(1) Existing law defines a "statewide election" and "campaign expenditures" for purposes of the Political Reform Act of 1974.

This bill would repeal the section of the act defining "statewide election" and would revise the definition of "campaign expenditures."

(2) Existing law requires that print advertisements paid for by a committee, other than a political party committee or a candidate controlled committee, as specified, include a disclosure with text in an Arial equivalent type.

This bill would revise the permissible text type in print advertisement disclosures to standard Arial Regular and require that the disclosure area not contain any text or image that is not required by any applicable law.

(3) Existing law requires a local government agency to post a copy of any statement, report, or other document required to be filed with the agency under the Political Reform Act of 1974, as specified, within 72 hours of receiving the filing in paper format.

This bill would additionally require the local government agency to post a copy of any statement, report, or other document, as specified, received by email or fax and to post statements, reports, or documents received after the filing deadline within 72 hours of receipt of the statement, report, or document. The bill would also require a local government agency that receives a filing that was required to be filed with a different agency or person, and not the agency that received the filing, to notify the filer of the error. By increasing the duties of local officials receiving filings under the Political Reform Act of 1974, as specified, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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 with regard to certain mandates no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

With regard to any other mandates, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs so mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

The Political Reform Act of 1974, an initiative measure, provides that the Legislature may amend the act to further the act's purposes upon a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of each house of the Legislature and compliance with specified procedural requirements.

This bill would declare that it furthers the purposes of the act.

[AB 2041, Bonta. Political Reform Act of 1974: campaign funds: security expenses. \(Chapter 372\)](#)

An act to amend Section 89519 of, and to repeal and add Section 89517.5 of, the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

The Political Reform Act of 1974 regulates the use of campaign funds held by candidates for elective office, elected officers, and campaign committees. The act authorizes a candidate or elected officer to use campaign funds to pay or reimburse the state for the costs of installing and monitoring a home or office electronic security system if specified conditions are met. These conditions include that the candidate or elected officer has received threats to physical safety that have been verified by law enforcement and that no more than \$5,000 in campaign funds be used for this purpose.

This bill would eliminate those conditions. The bill would instead authorize a candidate or elected officer to use campaign funds to pay or reimburse the state for the reasonable costs of installing and monitoring a home or office electronic security system or for another tangible item related to security, and for the reasonable costs of providing personal security to a candidate, elected officer, or the immediate family or staff of a candidate or elected officer, provided that the threat or potential threat to safety arises from the candidate's or elected officer's activities, duties, or status as a candidate or elected officer or from staff's position as staff of the candidate or elected officer. The bill would permit a maximum of \$10,000 of campaign funds to be expended for these purposes by a candidate or elected officer during their lifetime. The bill would not authorize campaign funds to be used to pay, or reimburse the state, for firearms. The bill would require the return of the security system or other item to the committee that paid for the security system or other item or reimbursement by the candidate, elected officer, immediate family, or staff, to the campaign fund account of the committee that paid for the security system or other item, and reporting of the reimbursement or expenditure on the candidate's or elected officer's campaign statement, as specified. The bill would require the candidate or elected officer to maintain detailed accounts, records, bills, and receipts relating to an expenditure or reimbursement for security, as specified. The bill would also require a candidate or elected officer to submit a form to the Fair Political Practices Commission that documents, under penalty of perjury, the threat or potential threat that necessitated the expenditure of campaign funds for security purposes.

By requiring the submission of a form under the penalty of perjury if campaign funds are used in the above manner, the bill creates a new crime and therefore establishes a state-mandated local program.

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 no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

The Political Reform Act of 1974, an initiative measure, provides that the Legislature may amend the act to further the act's purposes upon a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of each house of the Legislature and compliance with specified procedural requirements.

This bill would declare that it furthers the purposes of the act.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

[AB 2803, Valencia. Campaign expenditures: criminal convictions: fees and costs. \(Chapter 576\)](#)

An act to amend Sections 89513 and 89514 of the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

Existing law, the Political Reform Act of 1974, deems all campaign contributions to be held in trust for expenses associated with seeking or holding office, and generally authorizes expenditures associated therewith if they are reasonably related to a political, legislative, or governmental purpose. Existing law prohibits the use of campaign funds to pay or reimburse fines, penalties, judgments, or settlements, except as specified. Existing law provides that the expenditure of campaign funds for attorney's fees and other costs in connection with administrative, civil, or criminal litigation are not related to a political, legislative, or governmental purpose unless the litigation is directly related to activities of a committee that are consistent with its primary objectives or arises directly out of a candidate's or elected officer's activities, duties, or status as a candidate or elected officer, as specified.

This bill would prohibit campaign funds from being used to reimburse expenditures for attorney's fees and other costs in connection with criminal litigation if the litigation results in a conviction of the candidate or elected officer for a felony involving certain types of offenses, as specified. The bill would prohibit the use of campaign funds to pay or reimburse a candidate or elected officer for a fine, penalty, judgment, or settlement relating to a conviction for a felony involving such specified offenses. The bill would require the candidate or elected officer, if convicted, to reimburse the campaign for all funds used in connection with other legal costs and expenses related to claims of criminal acts.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 89513 of the Government Code proposed by SB 1170 to be operative only if this bill and SB 1170 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

A violation of the Political Reform Act of 1974 is punishable as a misdemeanor. By expanding the scope of an existing crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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 no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

The Political Reform Act of 1974, an initiative measure, provides that the Legislature may amend the act to further the act's purposes upon a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of each house of the Legislature and compliance with specified procedural requirements.

This bill would declare that it furthers the purposes of the act.

[SB 1027, Menjivar. Political Reform Act of 1974: disclosures. \(Chapter 180\)](#)

An act to amend Sections 84101 and 84615 of the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

The Political Reform Act of 1974 provides for the comprehensive regulation of campaign financing, including requiring the reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures and imposing other reporting and recordkeeping requirements on campaign committees. The act requires a committee that receive contributions totaling \$2,000 or more in a calendar year to file a statement of organization with the Secretary of State and, if applicable, a local filing officer.

This bill would authorize a campaign committee to redact the bank account number on a copy of a statement of organization filed with a local filing officer, and it would require the Secretary of State to redact the bank account number on a statement of organization filed with the Secretary of State before making the statement available to the public in any form.

Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

The Political Reform Act of 1974, an initiative measure, provides that the Legislature may amend the act to further the act's purposes upon a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of each house of the Legislature and compliance with specified procedural requirements.

This bill would declare that it furthers the purposes of the act.

[SB 1181, Glazer. Campaign contributions: agency officers.](#) (Chapter 785)

An act to amend Section 84308 of the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

The Political Reform Act of 1974 prohibits certain contributions of more than \$250 to an officer of an agency by any party, participant, or party or participant's agent in a proceeding while a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use is pending before the agency and for 12 months following the date a final decision is rendered in the proceeding, as specified. The act requires disclosure on the record of the proceeding, as specified, of certain contributions of more than \$250 within the preceding 12 months to an officer from a party or participant, or party's agent.

This bill would exempt a city attorney or county counsel providing legal advice to the agency who does not have the authority to make a final decision in the proceeding from the definition of "officer" for purposes of these provisions. The bill would specify that certain types of contracts, including the periodic review or renewal of development agreements and competitively bid contracts, unless there are material modifications or amendments to the agreement, are not considered a license, permit, or other entitlement for these purposes.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 84308 of the Government Code proposed by SB 1243 to be operative only if this bill and SB 1243 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

The Political Reform Act of 1974, an initiative measure, provides that the Legislature may amend the act to further the act's purposes upon a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of each house of the Legislature and compliance with specified procedural requirements.

This bill would declare that it furthers the purposes of the act.

[SB 1476, Blakespear. Political Reform Act of 1974: State Bar of California.](#) (Chapter 489)

An act to amend Sections 82011, 82048, and 87311.5 of, and to add Section 87211 to, the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

Under existing law, unless expressly provided by law, the State Bar of California is not subject to various state laws prescribing the mode of procedure for exercising the powers of state public bodies or state agencies, as specified. Existing law, the Political Reform Act of 1974, defines "public official" broadly, but it expressly excludes specified persons, including those affiliated with the State Bar of California, from that definition.

Under the act, each agency is required to adopt and promulgate a Conflict of Interest Code that requires designated employees of the agency, as defined, to file statements disclosing specified economic interests. Existing law generally requires such a code to contain specific provisions setting forth any circumstances under which designated employees or categories of designated employees must disqualify themselves from making, participating in the making, or using their official position to influence the making of any decision. However, the act specifically provides that the Conflict of Interest Code for members of the Board of Governors of, and designated employees of, the State Bar of California need not contain such a provision. The act further requires certain enumerated public officials to file their conflict of interest statements, and make specified disclosures, pursuant to specific provisions of the act.

This bill would instead expressly require include board members and designated employees of the State Bar of California within its definition of “public official.” The bill would eliminate the above-referenced exception for Conflict of Interest Codes with respect to board members and designated employees of the State Bar of California, thereby requiring these codes to contain such disqualification provisions. The bill would also specify that board members and designated employees of the State Bar of California are not enumerated public officials required to comply with specified filing and disclosure requirements; rather, they would only need to file conflict of interest statements and make specified disclosures pursuant to the requirements of their own code.

A violation of the act’s provisions is punishable as a misdemeanor. By expanding the scope of an existing crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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 no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

The Political Reform Act of 1974, an initiative measure, provides that the Legislature may amend the act to further the act’s purposes upon a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of each house of the Legislature and compliance with specified procedural requirements.

This bill would declare that it furthers the purposes of the act.

CHAPTERED BILLS – BALLOT MEASURES

[AB 440, Pellerin. Ballot measures. \(Chapter 82\)](#)

An act relating to elections, and calling elections, to take effect immediately.

(1) Existing law requires a constitutional amendment, bond measure, or other measure submitted to the people by the Legislature to appear on the ballot of the first statewide election occurring at least 131 days after the adoption of the proposal.

Pursuant to the time limit specified above, Assembly Constitutional Amendment 13 (ACA 13) of the 2023–24 Regular Session is scheduled to appear on the ballot of the statewide general election occurring on November 5, 2024.

If approved by the voters, ACA 13 would provide that an initiative measure that includes one or more provisions that amend the Constitution to increase the voter approval requirement to adopt any state or local measure is approved by the voters only if the proportion of votes cast in favor of the initiative measure is equal to or greater than the highest voter approval requirement that the initiative measure would impose. ACA 13 would specify that this requirement applies to statewide initiative measures that appear on the ballot on or after January 1, 2024. ACA 13 would also expressly authorize a local governing body to hold an advisory vote for the purpose of allowing voters within the jurisdiction to voice their opinions on an issue.

This bill would call a special election to be consolidated with the statewide general election scheduled for November 3, 2026, and would instead require the submission of ACA 13 to the people at that election.

(2) The California Constitution prohibits the Legislature from creating any debt or liability that singly or in aggregate exceeds \$300,000 except by an act that is, among other things, approved by the voters.

This bill would call a special election to be consolidated with the statewide general election scheduled for November 5, 2024. The bill would require the submission of the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 and the Kindergarten Through Grade 12 Schools and Local Community College Public Education Facilities Modernization, Repair, and Safety Bond Act of 2024 to the people for their approval at that statewide general election.

(3) Existing law specifies an order in which statewide ballot measures are required to appear and be numbered on the ballot of the November 5, 2024, statewide general election.

This bill, notwithstanding that law, would specify the order in which the statewide ballot measures proposed by the Legislature will appear on the ballot.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an act calling an election.

[SB 863, Allen. Measures proposed by the Legislature. \(Chapter 449\)](#)

An act to amend Section 9040 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law requires every constitutional amendment, bond measure, or other legislative measure submitted to the people by the Legislature to appear on the ballot of the first statewide election occurring at least 131 days after the adoption of the proposal by the Legislature.

This bill would allow the Legislature to specify, in the text of a measure that proposes an amendment or revision of the Constitution, that the constitutional amendment or revision submitted to the people will appear on the ballot at an election other than the one described above if the election specified in the measure would occur at least 131 days after adoption of the measure by the Legislature.

[SCA 1, Newman. Elections: recall of state officers.](#) (Chapter 204)

A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment to the Constitution of the State, by amending Sections 15 and 17 of Article II thereof, and by amending Section 10 of Article V thereof, relating to elections.

The California Constitution provides that voters may recall a state officer by majority vote and, in the same election, elect a successor with a plurality of the vote. The Constitution prohibits an officer who is the subject of a recall election from being a candidate for successor.

The Constitution provides that the Lieutenant Governor becomes Governor when a vacancy occurs in the office of Governor, and requires the Lieutenant Governor to act as Governor during the impeachment, absence from the state, or other temporary disability of the Governor or of a Governor-elect who fails to take office. When a recall of the Governor is initiated, the Constitution requires the Lieutenant Governor to perform the recall duties of the Governor. The Constitution requires the Governor to fill vacancies in certain judicial and executive offices by appointment, as specified.

This measure would eliminate the successor election for a recalled state officer and instead provide, in the event an officer is removed in a recall election, that the office will remain vacant until it is filled in accordance with the Constitution and statute. The measure would repeal the prohibition against the officer subject to the recall being a candidate to fill the office in a special election, but would prohibit the appointment of the officer subject to the recall election to fill the vacancy.

If the Governor is removed from office in a recall election, this measure would provide that the Lieutenant Governor will become Governor for the remainder of the unexpired term. If the Governor is removed from office by recall before the close of the nomination period for the next statewide election during the first two years of the Governor's term, the measure would provide for a special election to be held to replace the Governor for the remainder of the unexpired term, to be consolidated with the next statewide primary election and, if necessary, the subsequent statewide general election. The measure would require the Secretary of State to perform the recall duties of the Governor when a recall of the Governor is initiated. The measure would require the Controller to perform the recall duties of the Governor and Secretary of State if recalls of those two officers are initiated at the same time.

If adopted by the Legislature, the measure would appear on the ballot at the November 3, 2026, statewide general election.

CHAPTERED BILLS – REDISTRICTING

[AB 453, Cervantes. District-based elections. \(Chapter 195\)](#)

An act to amend Section 10010 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law provides for political subdivisions that encompass areas of representation within the state. With respect to these areas, public officials are generally elected by all of the voters of the political subdivision (at-large) or by districts formed within the political subdivision (district-based). Existing law requires a political subdivision that changes from an at-large method of election to a district-based election, or that establishes district-based elections, to perform various actions before a public hearing at which it votes upon an ordinance establishing district-based elections. Among these actions, the political subdivision must hold at least 2 public hearings before drawing a draft map of the proposed boundaries and at least 2 public hearings after all maps are drawn, and invite the public's input at these hearings.

This bill would require a public hearing concerning district-based elections, as described above, that is consolidated with a meeting of the governing body of the political subdivision that includes other substantive agenda items, to begin at a fixed time regardless of its order on the agenda. The bill would require the governing body to provide notice of the hearing to the public.

Because the bill would impose additional duties on local agencies, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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 the statutory provisions noted above.



**VOTE EASY.
VOTE SECURE.**

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS