

2026 NEW CALIFORNIA ELECTION LAWS



**ORANGE COUNTY
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

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 2025 to be in effect immediately and in 2026 that will impact election administration, voter registration, the California Political Reform Act, and redistricting. It includes the Legislative Counsel's Digest. More information on Chaptered Legislation can be found at the California Legislative Information Website www.leginfo.ca.gov

CHAPTERED BILLS – ELECTIONS

[AB 5, Berman. Elections: official canvass. \(Chapter 250\)](#)

An act to add Section 15307 to the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law requires elections officials to commence the canvass for an election no later than the Thursday following the election and to make the canvass open to the public. Existing law requires the canvass to be continued daily, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excepted, for not less than six hours each day until completed. Existing law requires elections officials to prepare a certified statement of the results of the election within 30 days of the election and to send the Secretary of State a complete copy of all election results within 31 days of the election. Existing law requires the Secretary of State to prepare, certify, and file a statement of the vote no later than the 38th day after the election.

This bill would require elections officials, on or before the 13th day following an election, to finish counting all ballots, with certain exceptions, including provisional ballots and ballots for which the voter must either verify or provide a signature, and release a vote count for those ballots. If an elections official will not meet that deadline, they would be required to file a notice of extension, including the reason for the extension, with the Secretary of State. By increasing the duties of 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 16, Alanis. Vote by mail ballots: processing. \(Chapter 140\)](#)

An act to amend Sections 15101 and 15104 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law requires elections officials to begin mailing ballots to every registered voter no later than 29 days before an election. Existing law authorizes a jurisdiction to begin processing vote by mail ballot return envelopes and, if the jurisdiction has the necessary computer capability, vote by mail ballots 29 days before an election.

This bill would authorize elections officials to begin processing vote by mail ballot return envelopes and vote by mail ballots on the date on which the ballots are mailed, thereby allowing elections officials to begin processing vote by mail return envelopes and ballots earlier than 29 days before an election.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 15104 of the Elections Code proposed by SB 3 to be operative only if this bill and SB 3 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

[AB 17, Alanis. Elections: precinct maps.](#) (Chapter 80)

An act to add Section 12263 to the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law requires the county elections official to divide the area under their jurisdiction into precincts and to prepare detailed maps or exterior descriptions of the precincts. If changes or alterations to precinct boundaries are made, existing law requires the elections official to prepare new maps or exterior descriptions. Existing law provides that precinct boundary changes occurring less than 125 days before an election are not effective for purposes of that election.

This bill would require the registrar of voters in each county to make available, upon request by any member of the public, a map in digital form provided free of charge that shows the effective boundaries of each precinct within the county.

By imposing new duties on local officials with respect to elections, 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, 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 94, Bennett. Recall elections: successors.](#) (Chapter 251)

An act to amend Sections 11382 and 11385 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

(1) Existing law specifies procedures for the recall election of a local officer. Under existing law, if a majority of the votes on a recall proposal for a local officer are in the affirmative, the officer is removed and the office remains vacant until it is filled according to law.

This bill would provide that when the local officer is recalled and removed, that officer may not be appointed to fill the vacancy.

(2) Existing law provides that if at a statewide recall election an officer is recalled, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes for the office shall be declared elected for the unexpired term of the recalled officer.

This bill would make clarifying changes to the above provision.

[AB 287, Lackey. Elections: polling places and vote centers.](#) (Chapter 253)

An act to amend Section 12283 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law authorizes the governing body with jurisdiction over school buildings or other public buildings, as defined, to allow its buildings to be used for polling places, or for vote centers, beginning up to 10 days

before the election and continuing through election day, or to store voting machines and other vote-tabulating devices. Once a governing body has approved the use of a building as a polling place or vote center, existing law requires the governing body to instruct the school district or other public administrator to provide the elections official a site with an adequate amount of space that will allow the precinct board or vote center to perform its duties.

This bill would require the governing body to instruct the school district or other public administrator to provide the elections official with an adequate amount of space for voting operations and storage of associated supplies.

Existing law requires the district administrator to make building parking available at no charge to the precinct or vote center board and voters, as specified.

This bill would require the district administrator to also make accessible parking spaces and parking for assisting voters curbside available, if requested by the elections official.

[AB 827, Berman. Voting: signature verification. \(Chapter 279\)](#)

An act to amend Sections 2194, 3019, 3019.7, and 15301 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

(1) Existing law requires an elections official who receives a vote by mail ballot to compare the signature on the identification envelope with the signature in the voter's registration record. If the signature does not compare, or if the identification envelope is missing the signature, the elections official must provide notice to the voter no later than 8 days before certification of the election of the voter's opportunity to verify their signature. The voter may verify their signature no later than 5 p.m. 2 days before certification of the election, including, if applicable, by providing their signature on an unsigned identification statement.

This bill would reduce those deadlines for a regularly scheduled statewide election to no later than 14 calendar days after the election for the elections official to provide notice, and no later than 5 p.m. 22 calendar days after the election for the voter to verify their signature. For an election that is not a regularly scheduled statewide election, the bill would reduce those deadlines to 8 calendar days before certification of the election for the elections official to provide notice, and no later than 5 p.m. 2 calendar days before certification of the election for the voter to verify their signature. The bill would permit an elections official to use a vote by mail ballot drop box to receive the form used by the voter to verify their signature pursuant to these provisions. The bill would require an elections official who receives a completed unsigned identification statement that is not timely submitted to compare the signatures and, if the signatures compare, add the signature to the voter's registration record for use in future elections.

(2) Existing law requires the official canvass of an election to commence no later than the Thursday following the election, as specified, and to continue daily, with the exception of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, for not less than 6 hours each day until completed.

This bill would specify that if the only ballots left to count are those for which a voter has been provided, or will be provided, the opportunity to verify or to provide their signature, and the elections official does not need to conduct the official canvas for at least 6 hours per day in order to meet the deadline for certification of the results, then the canvass may be conducted for fewer than 6 hours per day until completed.

(3) This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 2194 of the Elections Code proposed by AB 1392

to be operative only if this bill and AB 1392 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

The bill would also incorporate additional changes to Section 3019 of the Elections Code proposed by SB 3 to be operative only if this bill and SB 3 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

(4) By imposing new duties on 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, 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 930, Ward. Elections and voting procedures. (Chapter 282)

An act to amend Sections 4103, 15620, 15621, 15622, 15624, 15625, 15626, 15627, 15628, 15630, 15631, and 15632 of, and to repeal and add Section 15633 of, the Elections Code, relating to elections.

(1) Existing law provides that ballots cast in all-mailed ballot elections, as specified, are considered timely cast if they are received by the voter's elections official by mail no later than 3 days after election day and additional, specified conditions are satisfied.

This bill would extend the above deadline for mailed ballots to be timely cast to 7 days after election day.

(2) Existing law establishes requirements for the conduct of recount elections, including with respect to the order in which precincts must be recounted, procedures for special recount boards, and notices issued by elections officials with respect to the commencement and results of a recount. If the votes subject to recount were cast or tabulated by a voting system, existing law requires that the voter requesting the recount, for each set of ballots cast or tabulated by a type of voting system, select whether the recount will be conducted manually or by means of the voting system used originally. Existing law allows only one method of recount to be used for all ballots cast or tabulated by the same type of voting system.

This bill would allow a voter requesting a recount to specify the order in which votes are recounted by the batch in which ballots were scanned or, in the case of a recount that involves more than one county, the order in which counties will conduct the recount within the jurisdiction. The bill would prohibit unauthorized access to the voting system in use by the elections office and impose other protections on access to a voter's personal identifying information. The bill would require the requester to reimburse the county for the cost of each member of a recount board. The bill would require that a member of a special recount board be eligible to register to vote in California if they are required to tally any ballots as part of their role on the board. The bill would set qualifications for an official appointed to supervise a special recount board. The bill would impose specified requirements for notices issued by elections officials. The bill would, if the recount is to be conducted manually and the voting system has the capability to display ballot images, require the voter requesting the recount to select whether the recount will be conducted by use of paper ballots or the official ballot images. If more than one voter requests a recount for the same office or measure and at least one request is for the recount to be conducted by use of paper ballots, the bill would require the county elections official to conduct only a manual recount of the paper ballots, the result of which would be controlling.

(3) This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 15621 of the Elections Code proposed by Assembly Bill 1513 to be operative only if this bill and Assembly Bill 1513 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

(4) By increasing the duties of 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, 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 1072, Pellerin. Elections: ballot mistakes. (Chapter 289)

An act to add Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 13600) to Division 13 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law makes the Secretary of State the chief elections officer of the state and authorizes the Secretary of State to adopt regulations to ensure the uniform application and administration of state election laws.

This bill would require the Secretary of State, in consultation with county elections officials, to develop uniform standards and guidelines for a voter to correct mistakes made on the voter's ballot. The bill would authorize the Secretary of State to adopt regulations to ensure uniform application of the standards and guidelines.

AB 1249, Wilson. Early voting: satellite locations (Non-VCA counties). (Chapter 296)

An act to amend Section 319.5, 3016.5, 18370, 18502, 18540, and 18541 of, to add Section 3016.3 to, and to repeal Section 3018 of, the Elections Code, and to amend Section 66852 of the Education Code, relating to elections.

Existing law requires an elections official, no later than 29 days before the day of an election, to begin mailing vote by mail ballots to registered voters. Existing law permits a voter using a vote by mail ballot to vote the ballot at the office of the elections official, including satellite locations, before the close of polls on election day. Existing law requires the elections official to provide notice of a satellite location by issuing a general news release no later than 14 days before voting at the satellite location may occur. Existing law requires a vote by mail ballot voted at a satellite location pursuant to the above provisions to be placed in a vote by mail voter identification envelope for processing, except as specified.

This bill would permit a voter using a vote by mail ballot, no later than 29 days before the day of an election, to vote the ballot at the office of the elections official or a satellite location. For a statewide election, if the county does not conduct an all-mailed ballot election, as specified, the bill would require the county to provide at least one early voting location on the Saturday before the day of the election that is open for at least 6 hours. The bill would require the early voting location to permit the voter to return their vote by mail ballot, register to vote, receive and vote a provisional ballot, and receive a replacement ballot, among other requirements. The bill would repeal the above requirement that the voter use a voter identification envelope

when voting their vote by mail ballot at the satellite location. The bill would repeal the above requirement that the elections official issue a news release regarding satellite locations, and instead require the elections official to provide notice of a satellite location not later than two weeks before voting may occur at the satellite location.

By imposing new duties on 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, 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 1392, Sharp-Collins. Elections: voter registration information: elected officials and candidates. (Chapter 300)

An act to amend Sections 2194, 2227, 8040, 8600, and 10226.3 of, and to add Section 2166.9 to, the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Under existing law, the residence address, telephone number, and email address of a registered voter is confidential, except that under certain circumstances a county elections official must provide that information to any candidate for federal, state, or local office, to any committee for or against any initiative or referendum measure, and to any person for election, scholarly, journalistic, political, or governmental purposes.

This bill would exempt the residence address, telephone number, and email address of a federal, state, or local elected official or candidate from that disclosure requirement, except that the information may be disclosed for journalistic or governmental purposes under specified conditions. The bill would require the Secretary of State to provide each county elections official with a list identifying each federal and state elected official or candidate residing in the county, require the county elections official to add each local elected official or candidate to that list, and require the county elections official to make the elected official or candidate's information confidential within 5 business days. The bill would require the county elections official to exclude the elected official or candidate's confidential information when producing any list, roster, or index. The bill would require an elected official or candidate to contact their county elections official to ensure their voter registration record has been made confidential. The bill would authorize an elected official or candidate to opt out of making their residence address, telephone number, and email address confidential. By adding new duties for county elections officials, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 2194 of the Elections Code proposed by AB 827 to be operative only if this bill and AB 827 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

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, 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 1411, Sharp-Collins. Voter education and outreach plans (Non-VCA counties). **(Chapter 301)**

An act to repeal and add Section 2105 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law requires the Secretary of State to adopt regulations requiring counties to design and implement programs intended to identify and register qualified voters who are not registered to vote. Existing law further requires the Secretary of State to adopt regulations prescribing minimum requirements for those programs. If the Secretary of State finds that a county has not designed and implemented a program meeting those minimum requirements, the Secretary of State must design the program for the county and report the violation to the Attorney General.

This bill would repeal the above provisions. The bill would instead require counties that do not conduct an election as an all-mailed ballot election, as specified, to design and implement a voter education and outreach plan to identify and register qualified voters who are not registered to vote. The bill would require such plans to provide information to the public about specified topics, such as vote by mail procedures and options for military and overseas voters. The bill would require county elections officials to submit amendments to their plans to the Secretary of State, who must make the current version of each plan available on the Secretary of State's internet website. The bill would require the Secretary of State to provide county elections officials a template for their plans.

By imposing new duties on 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, 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 1512, Committee on Elections. Elections: ballot language. **(Chapter 303)**

An act to amend Sections 1004, 5020, 15122, 18333, 18513, 19608, 19724, 24906, 35762, and 72026 of the Education Code, to amend Sections 23271, 23355, 23374.5, 34876.5, 51929, 51930, 51931, and 57137 of, and to repeal and add Section 29903 of, the Government Code, to amend Sections 6463 and 6612 of, and to repeal and add Section 20104 of, the Health and Safety Code, to repeal and add Section 5105 of the Public Resources Code, to amend Sections 2965, 2973, 22740, and 22743 of the Public Utilities Code, to amend Sections 1176, 1182, 26064, and 26163 of the Streets and Highways Code, and to amend Sections 12057, 12889.2, 13417,

21929, 21931, 22171, 22173, 23224, 35520.15, 35520.19, 35884, 39931, 45276, 50976, 60385, 60414, 74099, 74101, 74467, 74833, 74850, 75063, 75065, 75444, 75936, and 76042 of, to repeal Section 42327 of, and to repeal and add Sections 21930, 22172, 25675, 25703, 45271, 48255, 75168.3, and 75393 of, the Water Code, relating to elections.

Existing law specifies the format of language printed on ballots for various ballot measures relating to local governments, including cities, counties, school districts, and other special districts.

This bill would revise these ballot language requirements. The bill would generally require the words “Yes” and “No” to be printed on separate lines of the ballot, with voting targets, to the right of or below the description of the proposal to be voted on.

AB 1513, Committee on Elections. Election procedures: certified mail and superior courts. (Chapter 304)

An act to amend Sections 12, 5200, 11000, 11001, 11002, 11003, 11004, 11221, 13113, 15621, 16442, 16462, and 16464 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

(1) Existing law requires specified notices, affidavits, and communications regarding elections to be delivered by registered mail.

This bill would instead require delivery by certified mail or, for certain communications between local officials and the Secretary of State, by electronic delivery. By imposing new duties on local officials with respect to elections, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

(2) Existing law provides procedures for the recall of enumerated elective officers, including, among others, trial court judges.

This bill would replace references to trial courts in these provisions with references to superior courts.

(3) This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 15621 of the Elections Code proposed by Assembly Bill 930 to be operative only if this bill and Assembly Bill 930 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

(4) 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 3, Cervantes. Elections: signature verification and results. (Chapter 307)

An act to amend Sections 3011, 3019, 15104, and 15306 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law requires an elections official, upon receiving a vote by mail ballot, 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 prohibits an elections official from reviewing or considering a voter's party preference, race, or ethnicity when comparing signatures. Existing law requires an elections official, if it is determined that the signatures do not compare, to notify the voter of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature, as specified. Existing law prohibits an elections official from rejecting a vote by mail ballot 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 an elections official from rejecting a vote by mail ballot with an unsigned identification envelope if, no later than 5 p.m. two days prior to the election, the voter signs the envelope at the office of the elections official or completes and submits an unsigned identification envelope statement, as specified.

This bill would additionally prohibit an elections official, when comparing signatures, from considering a voter's identifying information, including gender, name, and address, and the amount of time spent reviewing a signature. The bill would require an elections official to notify the voter when the signatures do not compare after a specified determination is made that the signatures differ. The bill would authorize a voter to work with a nongovernmental entity to complete a signature verification statement and unsigned envelope statement. The bill would require a signature verification statement and unsigned envelope statement to contain a statement that the county elections official is required to compare the voter's signature with the signatures appearing in the voter's registration record, which may include the signature appearing on the voter's driver's license or state identification card. The bill would require the Secretary of State to publish on their internet website a single, combined vote by mail ballot signature verification statement and unsigned ballot identification envelope statement. The bill would require an elections official to accept a form for a signature verification statement or unsigned ballot identification envelope statement if the form was developed by the Secretary of State or an elections official, but would prohibit an elections official from accepting a form created by any other individual, organization, or entity.

Existing law permits a member of the county grand jury, and at least one member each of the Republican county central committee, the Democratic county central committee, and of any other party with a candidate on the ballot, and any other interested organization, to observe and challenge the manner in which vote by mail ballots are handled. Existing law requires these individuals be allowed sufficiently close access to enable them to observe the vote by mail ballot return envelopes and the signatures thereon and challenge whether established procedures are being followed for, among other things, verifying signatures on the vote by mail return envelopes.

This bill would additionally allow vote by mail observers to observe and challenge the manner in which those individuals handling vote by mail ballots are following procedures for verifying signatures on signature verification statements and unsigned envelope statements.

Existing law requires elections officials, beginning no later than the Thursday following an election, to post updated information regarding an election on their internet website at least once per week until publication of the certified statement of results or until the only ballots left to count are vote by mail ballots for which a voter has the opportunity either to verify or provide their signature. Existing law requires the information at a minimum include updated results for any candidate for office or measure appearing on the ballot, the number of ballots processed and an estimated number of outstanding unprocessed ballots, according to specified categories, and the date and time when it is expected that the next results will be posted.

This bill would instead require an elections official, beginning no later than the Thursday following an election, to post updated information regarding the election on their internet website at least two times by the following Thursday and at least twice a week thereafter until publication of the certified statement of

results or until the only ballots left to count are vote by mail ballots for which a voter has the opportunity either to verify or provide their signature. The bill would revise the categories for reporting the number of ballots processed and estimated number of outstanding ballots remaining unprocessed. The bill would require the date and time when it is expected that the next results will be posted to be on the homepage of an elections official's internet website or on the stand-alone webpage for the specific election on an elections official's internet website. The bill would specify that posting a hyperlink to a separate file does not satisfy the requirements of these provisions.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 3019 of the Elections Code proposed by AB 827 to be operative only if this bill and AB 827 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 15104 of the Elections Code proposed by AB 16 to be operative only if this bill and AB 16 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

By imposing new duties on local elections officials, 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.

SB 398, Umberg. Election crimes: payment based on voting or voter registration. **(Chapter 246)**

An act to add Section 18107.5 to the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Under existing law, it is a crime for a person to receive money or other valuable consideration to assist another to register to vote by receiving the completed affidavit of registration if the person fails to sign the affidavit and include certain other information, including the name and telephone number of the person, company, or organization, if any, that has agreed to pay the money or other valuable consideration.

This bill would make it a crime, punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000, imprisonment for up to 3 years, or both, for a person to knowingly or willfully pay or offer to pay money or other valuable consideration to another person with the intent to induce the person to vote or to register to vote, or where the payment is contingent upon whether the person voted or the person's voter registration status. By creating a new 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.

[SB 621, Grove. Voter registration: military and overseas voters.](#) (Chapter 101)

An act to repeal Section 3108 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law authorizes an individual who registers to vote at least 15 days before an election day, to vote in that election by a regular ballot. Existing law permits an individual who is eligible to register to vote to complete a registration application during the 14 days immediately preceding an election or on the day of the election, and to vote by conditional ballot or regular ballot, as specified. Existing law provides that otherwise qualified military and overseas voters and voters with disabilities may complete a conditional voter registration and cast a provisional ballot or nonprovisional ballot under those provisions. Existing law also permits a military or overseas voter to register after the closing date of registration if the voter is released from service after the closing date, returns to the voter's county of residence, and is not a registered voter in that county, or if the voter is required to move under official active duty military orders after the closing date.

This bill would repeal the latter provision as obsolete due to the inclusion of military and overseas voters in the general conditional voter registration process.

[SB 851, Cervantes. Elections.](#) (Chapter 238)

An act to amend Sections 15371, 15372, 15375, 15400, 18545, 18568, 19006, 19101, 19212, 19215, 19284, and 19290 of, and to add Section 21 to, the Elections Code, relating to elections, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

(1) Existing state and federal law provides for the enforcement of laws related to elections and provides procedures to challenge the conduct of elections and election results.

This bill would require a state or local agency or political subdivision that files or is served with a court action relating to elections that contains a claim arising under federal law to provide written notice to the Secretary of State and the Attorney General within 3 days. The bill would require a state or local agency or political subdivision, at least 14 days before entering into a settlement, consent decree, or other court-approved agreement with respect to such a claim arising under federal law, to provide notice of the settlement, consent decree, or other court-approved agreement to the Secretary of State and the Attorney General. The bill would exempt records or information exchanged pursuant to this provision from the California Public Records Act.

(2) Existing law requires an elections official, upon completion of the count, to add the results of write-in votes and any paper ballots used as certified by the precinct board, and thereupon declare the vote. Existing law requires the elections official to prepare a certified statement of the results of the election and submit it to the governing body within 30 days of the election, as specified. Existing law requires the elections official to send to the Secretary of State within 31 days of the election in an electronic format a complete copy of specified election results, including the vote given for persons for electors of President and Vice President of the United States, all candidates voted for statewide office, and all statewide measures.

This bill would specify that the duties described above imposed on elections officials are ministerial and nondiscretionary.

Existing law, if the Secretary of State determines that state election laws are not being enforced, requires the Secretary of State to call the violation of those laws to the attention of the district attorney of the county or

to the Attorney General.

This bill, if an elections official fails to prepare a certified statement of the results of the election, would require the Secretary of State to call the violation to the attention of the district attorney of the county or to the Attorney General and authorize the Secretary of State to assist the county elections official in discharging their duties, consistent with those provisions.

(3) Existing law requires a governing body to declare elected or nominated the person having the highest number of votes for each office voted on at an election under its jurisdiction and to declare the results of each measure voted on at an election under its jurisdiction.

This bill would specify that these duties are ministerial and nondiscretionary.

(4) Existing law establishes a crime punishable by a fine, imprisonment, or both, for a person who hires or arranges for a person in possession of a firearm or any uniformed peace officer, private guard, or security personnel or any person who is wearing a uniform of a peace officer, 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.

This bill would apply the above penalties with respect to a uniformed law enforcement officer, including an officer or agent of a federal law enforcement agency, rather than to a uniformed peace officer. The bill would expand the scope of the crime to include the presence of any of the above persons in the immediate vicinity of or at a county elections office.

(5) Existing law makes it a crime to display a container for the purpose of collecting ballots with the intent to deceive a voter into casting a ballot in an unofficial ballot box. Existing law also makes it a crime to direct or solicit a voter to place a ballot in such a container. Existing law makes these crimes punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, by imprisonment for 16 months or two or three years, or by both fine and imprisonment.

This bill would also make it a crime to display an envelope for the purpose of collecting ballots, with the intent to deceive a voter into casting a ballot in an unofficial ballot box. The bill would make it a crime to direct or solicit a voter to place a ballot in such an envelope.

(6) Existing law provides requirements for the certification of voting systems. Existing law requires the Secretary of State to adopt and publish voting system standards that meet or exceed federal voluntary voting system guidelines prescribed by the United States Election Assistance Commission, as specified.

This bill would repeal the above requirement and instead require the Secretary of State to adopt and publish voting standards that meet the minimum requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 and that incorporate best practices in election technology.

(7) Existing law requires a vendor, jurisdiction, and applicant for certification or approval of a remote accessible vote by mail system to notify the Secretary of State and local elections officials, as applicable, if they learn of a defect, fault, or failure in the system or part of the system. Existing law requires the Secretary of State, after receiving notice, to further notify and submit a report to the United States Election Assistance Commission.

This bill would repeal the above requirements that the Secretary of State notify and submit a report to the United States Election Assistance Commission.

(8) 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.

(9) By broadening the scope of existing crimes, and by establishing new procedures for the conduct of elections, including with respect to enforcement of local election laws, disclosure of voter registration information, and ballots, this bill would establish 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.

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

CHAPTERED BILLS – POLITICAL REFORM ACT

[AB 359, Ramos. Fair Political Practices Commission. \(Chapter 257\)](#)

An act to amend Section 83123.6 of, and to repeal Section 83123.5 of, the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

The Political Reform Act of 1974 permits the Fair Political Practices Commission, upon mutual agreement between the commission and the governing body of a local government agency, to assume primary responsibility for the administration, implementation, and enforcement of a local campaign finance or government ethics law passed by the local government agency. The act authorizes the commission with respect to the local campaign finance or government ethics law to, among other things, provide advice, investigate possible violations, and bring civil actions. If such an agreement is executed, the act further requires the commission to report to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2025 with specified information, including legislative recommendations, regarding the performance of the agreement. Existing law repeals these provisions on January 1, 2026. The act authorizes the commission to enter into a similar agreement with the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino.

This bill would additionally authorize the commission to conduct audits with respect to the local campaign finance or government ethics law. The bill would delete the requirement for the commission to report to the Legislature and remove the January 1, 2026 repeal date, thereby indefinitely extending the operation of the provisions described above. The bill would repeal the provisions pertaining to the County of San Bernardino.

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 808, Addis. Campaign statements and registrations: filing online or electronically. \(Chapter 278\)](#)

An act to amend Sections 81007, 81007.5, 81009, 81010, 82006, 82015, 82018, 82022.5, 82025, 82046, 83113, 84100, 84101, 84101.5, 84102, 84103, 84104, 84106, 84108, 84200, 84200.5, 84200.8, 84200.9, 84202.3, 84202.7, 84203, 84204, 84204.5, 84205, 84207, 84209, 84211, 84212, 84213, 84214, 84215, 84218, 84219, 84222, 84223, 84224, 84226, 84252, 84300, 84302, 84303, 84306, 84502, 84504.6, 84602, 84605, 84612, 84615, 84616, 85200, 85201, 85307, 85400, 85505, 85704, 86116, 89502, 89503, 89511.5, 89517.5, 89517.6, 90001, 90002, 90004, 91010, 91011, and 91013 of, and to repeal Sections 84206 and 84603 of, the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

(1) The Political Reform Act of 1974 authorizes specified campaign disclosure reports and statements of financial interest to be filed by fax, provided that the required originals or paper copies are sent by first-class mail or by any other personal delivery within 24 hours of the applicable deadline. The act generally authorizes other reports filed by candidates for elective office, committees formed primarily to support or oppose a candidate for public office or a ballot measure, and other entities to be filed by various means, including personal delivery, guaranteed overnight delivery, facsimile transmission, and online transmission.

This bill would eliminate the option to file various statements and reports by facsimile transmission and would authorize certain reports to be filed by email.

(2) Existing law defines “campaign statement” for purposes of the act to mean an itemized report that is prepared on a form or in a manner prescribed by the Fair Political Practices Commission and that provides specified information. The act requires specified committees to file a statement of organization online or electronically with the Secretary of State.

This bill would replace the term “campaign statement” with “campaign report” and the term “statement of organization” with “registration” throughout the act. The bill would further define “campaign report” to mean an itemized report that is prepared in a manner prescribed by the commission.

(3) Under the act, if a committee is required to file a campaign statement or report disclosing an independent expenditure, a verification statement must accompany the campaign statement or report, as specified.

The bill would clarify that this provision applies to both semiannual and preelection statements disclosing an independent expenditure.

(4) Existing law requires the commission to provide a short form for filing reports for candidates and officeholders who receive contributions of less than \$2,000, and who make expenditures of less than \$2,000, in a calendar year.

This bill would repeal that provision.

(5) Existing law prohibits a candidate for elective state, county, or city office from personally loaning to the candidate’s campaign an amount for which the outstanding balance exceeds \$100,000. The act prohibits a candidate from charging interest on any such loan.

This bill would remove the \$100,000 cap on the outstanding balance of a candidate’s personal loan to their campaign.

(6) The act requires the Fair Political Practices Commission to annually publish a booklet by March 1 that sets forth the provisions of the act and includes other information that the commission deems pertinent to the interpretation and enforcement of the act.

This bill would instead require the commission to annually publish the provisions of the act by that date.

(7) The act requires the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Fair Political Practices Commission, to develop online and electronic filing processes for persons and entities that are required to file statements and reports with the Secretary of State’s office. Before making the system available for public use, the act requires the Secretary of State to certify that the system meets all statutory requirements. Once all requirements have been met, the act requires the Secretary of State to make public their availability to accept reports online or electronically and authorizes any filer to voluntarily file specified reports and statements with the Secretary of State.

This bill would delete the provision regarding the voluntary filing of reports and it would require persons who, and entities that, are required to file online or electronically to file all subsequent reports online or electronically. The bill would make other conforming changes in anticipation of reports being filed online or

electronically using the new system.

A violation of the Political Reform Act of 1974 is punishable as a misdemeanor.

By imposing new requirements on persons and entities filing reports with the new electronic filing system, the bill would expand the scope of a crime and impose a state-mandated local program.

(8) This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 84224 of the Government Code proposed by SB 760, to be operative only if this bill and SB 760 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 89517.5 of the Government Code proposed by AB 789, to be operative only if this bill and AB 789 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

(9) This bill would make its provisions contingent upon the Secretary of State certifying the above-described online electronic filing system for public use.

(10) 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.

(11) 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.

AB 953, Pacheco. Political Reform Act of 1974: contributions and expenditures by foreign nationals. (Chapter 170)

An act to amend Section 85320 of the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

The Political Reform Act of 1974 provides for the comprehensive regulation of political campaigns, lobbying, and other matters relating to governmental ethics and elections. The act prohibits a foreign government or foreign principal from making any contribution, expenditure, or independent expenditure in connection with the qualification or support of, or opposition to, a state or local ballot measure or an election for a state or local office. The act prohibits a person or committee from soliciting or accepting a contribution from a foreign government or foreign principal for the same purposes. The act makes a violation of these prohibitions a misdemeanor.

This bill would expand the prohibitions described above to apply to foreign nationals. The bill would define "foreign national" as a person who is not a citizen of the United States and who is not a lawfully admitted permanent resident. The bill would exclude from this definition a person who has been granted deferred action, and whose deferred action has not expired, under the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, as described in guidelines issued by the United States Department of Homeland Security.

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.

AB 1029, Valencia. Statements of financial interest: digital financial assets. **(Chapter 85)**

An act to amend, repeal, and add Section 82034, 87206, 87302, and 87350 of the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

The Political Reform Act of 1974 requires public officials to periodically file a statement of economic interest disclosing the person's investments, interests in real property, and income. The act defines "investment" to mean any financial interest in or security issued by a business entity, including, among other things, stocks and any partnership or other ownership interest owned by the public official or that person's immediate family, as specified. The act specifies that an asset is an investment only if its fair market value equals or exceeds \$2,000. The act requires each public agency to adopt a conflict of interest code for designated employees of the agency.

Existing law defines digital financial asset to mean a digital representation of value that is used as a medium of exchange, unit of account, or store of value, and that is not legal tender, whether or not denominated in legal tender, subject to specified exceptions.

This bill, beginning January 1, 2027, would expand the definition of "investment" for purposes of the Political Reform Act of 1974 to include a digital financial asset, and would specifically require public officials to disclose interests in their digital financial assets, as specified. The bill would also require an agency's conflict of interest code to require designated employees to disclose interests in digital financial assets, as specified.

Existing law makes a knowing or willful violation of the Political Reform Act of 1974 a misdemeanor and subjects offenders to criminal penalties. By including additional assets that must be disclosed by public officials on statements of economic interest, the bill would expand the scope of a crime and 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 1286, Boerner. Political Reform Act of 1974: prospective employment.
(Chapter 186)

An act to amend Sections 87202, 87203, and 87204 of, and to add Sections 82004.2 and 87207.5 to, the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

The Political Reform Act of 1974 requires specified public officials to file statements disclosing their investments and interests in real property on the date they assume office, and income received during the 12 months before assuming office, and to file subsequent statements at intervals specified by regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission and upon leaving office.

This bill would also require those public officials to disclose arrangements for prospective employment according to specified deadlines. The bill would define “arrangement for prospective employment” as an agreement pursuant to which a prospective employer’s offer of employment has been accepted by the prospective employee.

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 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.

A violation of the Political Reform Act of 1974 is punishable as a misdemeanor. By creating new disclosure requirements and therefore creating new crimes under the act, 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.

AB 1511, Committee on Elections. Political Reform Act of 1974: refunding and transferring contributions: voter information guide. **(Chapter 249)**

An act to amend Sections 81001, 81002, 84101, 84217, 85318, 85600, 85601, 88000, 88001, 88002, 88002.5, 88003, 88004, 88005, 88006, and 88007 of the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

(1) Existing law requires the Secretary of State to prepare a state voter information guide that includes, among other things, a complete copy of each state measure, the Voter Bill of Rights, and information on candidates for the office of United States Senator and the offices of President and Vice President of the United States, as specified. Existing law requires county elections officials to prepare a county voter information guide that contains, among other things, a substantial facsimile of the official ballot.

This bill would conform provisions in the Political Reform Act of 1974 that currently refer to the ballot

pamphlet or sample ballot to instead refer to the state voter information guide or county voter information guide, respectively.

(2) The Political Reform Act of 1974 authorizes a candidate for elective state, county, or city office to raise contributions for a general election before the primary election, and for a special general election before a special primary election, for the same office under specified conditions. If the candidate is defeated in the primary election or special primary election, or otherwise withdraws from the general election or special general election, the act requires the candidate to refund the general election or special general election funds, as specified.

Existing law, for purposes of these provisions, specifies that a candidate who does not file a declaration of candidacy to qualify for a primary election or special primary election is not required to refund the general election or special general election contributions, and that such a candidate may transfer these funds to a committee for the same or a different office as specified.

This bill would instead provide that a candidate is not required to refund the general election or special general election contributions and may transfer these funds, as specified above, if the candidate's name has not been listed on the ballot at a primary election or special primary election, and the candidate has not qualified to have write-in votes cast on their behalf, as specified.

(3) This bill would also correct a cross-reference to federal law.

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 42, Umberg. Political Reform Act of 1974: public campaign financing: California Fair Elections Act of 2026. (Chapter 245)

An act to amend Sections 85300 and 85320 of the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

Existing law, the Political Reform Act of 1974, prohibits a public officer from expending, and a candidate from accepting, public moneys for the purpose of seeking elective office.

This bill would remove prohibitions imposed on a public officer or candidate to expend or accept public funds, as defined, for the purpose of seeking elective office unless the funds are earmarked by a state or local entity for education, transportation, or public safety. The bill would require candidates to abide by specified expenditure limits and meet strict criteria, as defined, to qualify for public funds. The bill would prohibit public funds from being used to pay legal defense fees or fines or to repay personal loans to their campaign. The bill would permit a statute, ordinance, or charter to establish standards to increase the expenditure limits for each qualified, voluntarily participating candidate pursuant to a specified formula. The bill would provide that the Fair Political Practices Commission is not responsible for administering or enforcing a system of public funding of candidates established by a local governmental agency.

Existing law prohibits a foreign government or foreign principal, as defined, from making a contribution,

expenditure, or independent expenditure in connection with the qualification or support of, or opposition to, any state or local ballot measure or in connection with the election of a candidate to state or local office. Under existing law, a person who violates this prohibition is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine equal to the amount contributed or expended.

This bill would instead require that a person guilty of that misdemeanor, in addition to other penalties, be fined an amount at least equal to the amount contributed or expended, but not exceeding a maximum amount of 3 times the amount contributed or expended.

The Political Reform Act of 1974, an initiative measure, provides that the act may be amended by a statute that becomes effective upon approval of the voters.

This bill would require the Secretary of State to submit the provisions of the bill, as specified, to the voters for approval at the November 3, 2026, statewide general election. This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 85320 of the Government Code proposed by AB 953 to be operative pursuant to specified conditions.

SB 760, Allen. Behested payments: public appeal for payment. (Chapter 551)

An act to amend Section 84224 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 imposing reporting requirements on elected officials and campaign committees. Under the act, a behested payment is a payment that is made at the behest of a committee, an elected officer, or a member of the Public Utilities Commission, under specified circumstances, that is made principally for personal, charitable, legislative, or governmental purposes. The act requires officers and members of the Public Utilities Commission to report behested payments within 30 days of the payment or payments exceeding \$5,000 in the aggregate from the same source in the same calendar year in which they are made.

This bill would exempt a behesting officer or member of the Public Utilities Commission from these reporting obligations if they make a public appeal for payment unless the officer or member of the Public Utilities Commission, or a member of their immediate family, campaign staff, or officeholder staff, holds a position with the payee organization, other than a governmental organization, as specified.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 84224 of the Government Code proposed by AB 808, to be operative only if this bill and AB 808 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 852, Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments. Political Reform Act of 1974: Citizens Redistricting Commission. (Chapter 331)

An act to amend Sections 8252.5, 81012, 84309, and 87500 of the Government Code, relating to state and local government.

(1) The Political Reform Act of 1974 provides for the comprehensive regulation of political campaigns, lobbying, and other matters relating to governmental ethics and elections. The act is an initiative measure that authorizes the Legislature to amend its provisions by enactment of a bill by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of each house if that bill furthers the act's purposes and, at least 8 days before passage, or at least 12 days before passage if the previous form of the bill did not amend the act, the bill in its final form has been delivered to the Fair Political Practices Commission for distribution to the news media and every person who has requested a copy from the commission. The act requires the Legislative Counsel, through a specified electronic system, to allow the public to sign up to receive an email alert any time a bill that would amend the act is, among other things, introduced, amended, referred to the floor or committee, or voted on.

This bill would eliminate the requirement that a bill amending the act must be delivered to the commission for distribution to the news media and every person who has requested a copy, instead requiring an otherwise proper amendment of the act to be printed, distributed to the Members of the Legislature, and published on the internet. The bill would declare that it furthers the purposes of the act.

The act also regulates conflicts of interest of public officials and requires that public officials file periodic statements of economic interest that disclose certain information regarding income, investments, and other financial data. The act provides that the Fair Political Practices Commission is the filing officer for statewide elected officers and candidates and other specified public officials, and requires those officers, candidates, and officials to file their statements of economic interest using the commission's electronic filing system.

This bill would add public officials who manage public investments to the list of individuals for whom the commission is the filing officer for statements of economic interest and would require those officials to file their statements of economic interest using the commission's electronic filing system.

The act also prohibits the receipt, delivery, or attempted delivery of a contribution in the State Capitol, any state office building, or any office for which the state pays the majority of the rent other than a legislative district office.

This bill would expand that prohibition to apply to local government office buildings and offices for which the state or a local government pays rent. The bill would also eliminate the exception for legislative district offices.

A violation of the Political Reform Act of 1974 is punishable as a misdemeanor. By establishing new requirements for the filing of statements of economic interests and by expanding the scope of restrictions on contributions, this bill would expand the scope of existing crimes, and therefore would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) The Voters FIRST Act, an initiative measure approved by the electors as Proposition 11 at the November 4, 2008, statewide general election, requires the Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw district lines for the election of members of the State Senate, Assembly, Congress, and the State Board of Equalization. The act requires new members of the commission to be chosen in each year ending in 0 according to a specified selection process. Under existing law, any vacancy on the commission that occurs prior to December 31 of a

year ending in 2 must be filled by the commission within 30 days and any vacancy that occurs on or after December 31 of a year ending in 2 must be filled within 90 days, as specified.

This bill would eliminate the requirement for the commission to fill a vacancy that occurs on or after December 31 of a year ending in 2 within 90 days and would instead authorize the commission to fill that vacancy.

The Voters FIRST Act authorizes the Legislature to amend the statutory provisions of the act by a statute that (1) is approved by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of each house of the Legislature and signed by the Governor, (2) furthers the act's purposes, and (3) complies with specified procedural requirements.

(3) This bill would declare that it furthers the purposes of the Voters FIRST Act and the purposes of the Political Reform Act of 1974.

(4) 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.

CHAPTERED BILLS – REDISTRICTING

[AB 604, Aguiar-Curry. Redistricting: congressional districts. \(Chapter 96\)](#)

An act to add and repeal Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 21400) of Division 21 of the Elections Code, relating to redistricting, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

The California Constitution requires the Citizens Redistricting Commission to adjust the boundary lines of the congressional, State Senate, Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts in the year following the year in which the national decennial census is taken and requires the districts be redrawn in conformance with specified standards.

This bill would specify the elements that define the congressional districts if ACA 8 of the 2025–26 Regular Session is adopted by the voters. These provisions would become operative only if specified provisions of that constitutional amendment become operative, and would remain in effect only until a new map of congressional districts is certified by the Citizens Redistricting Commission as described above.

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

[SB 162, Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review. Elections. \(Chapter 115\)](#)

An act to amend Section 4 of Chapter 97 of the Statutes of 2025, relating to elections, and making an appropriation therefor, to take effect immediately, bill related to the budget.

A special election will be held throughout the state on November 4, 2025. Existing law authorizes consolidation of a local election for the submission of any question, proposition, or office to be filled, which was called by a district, city, or other political subdivision on or before August 8, 2025, and scheduled to be held on November 4, 2025, with the statewide special election. Existing law prohibits a county elections official from certifying the results of the statewide special election before the 28th calendar day following the election.

This bill would also prohibit a county elections official from certifying the results of a local election called by a district, city, or other political subdivision on or before August 8, 2025, and scheduled to be held on November 4, 2025, before the 28th calendar day following the election.

Existing law requires the Secretary of State to report on the final costs of the statewide special election to the Director of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee no later than April 1, 2026.

This bill would appropriate \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Secretary of State for purposes of that report.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as a bill providing for appropriations related to the Budget Bill.

SB 280, Cervantes. Elections. (Chapter 97)

An act to add and repeal Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 8160) of Part 1 of Division 8 of the Elections Code, relating to elections, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

(1) Existing law authorizes a candidate for elective office to submit a petition containing a specified number of signatures in lieu of all or part of the fee for filing nomination papers. Existing law requires the Secretary of State to make forms for securing signatures available to each candidate commencing 60 days before the first day for circulating nomination papers, except as specified, and requires candidates to file in-lieu-filing-fee petitions at least 30 days before the close of the nomination period.

This bill, for the June 2, 2026, statewide direct primary election, would require the Secretary of State to make those forms available beginning December 19, 2025. This bill would require the Secretary of State to prepare a calendar of key election dates and deadlines and requirements for the nomination of candidates by the date that the in-lieu-filing-fee petition forms are made available.

(2) Existing law requires each county elections official to provide the Secretary of State with specified information regarding the number of voters and their party preferences in the county and each supervisorial, Congressional, Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization district in the county on the 135th day before each direct primary election, with respect to all voters who are registered voters on the 154th day before the primary election. Existing law requires the Secretary of State to compile a statewide list of this information within 30 days after receiving it from each county elections official.

This bill would require the Secretary of State to determine, by December 19, 2025, whether it is feasible to include in the statewide list described above the number of voters by party preference in each congressional district with respect to all voters who are registered voters on the 154th day before the June 2, 2026, statewide direct primary election. If the Secretary of State determines it is not feasible, the bill would not require that information to be included in the information provided by the counties and the compiled statewide list. The bill would require the Secretary of State to prepare a supplemental statewide list showing that information on a date specified by the Secretary of State, but not later than the 88th day before the June 2, 2026, statewide direct primary election.

(3) Existing law authorizes a candidate for elective office to designate that certain specified words appear below the candidate's name on the ballot, including, among others, the word "incumbent."

This bill, for the June 2, 2026, statewide direct primary election, would prohibit a candidate for the office of Representative in Congress from choosing the word "incumbent" as a designation to appear on the ballot. The bill would make conforming changes relating to the deadline for a person to file nomination documents for an office if a current holder of the office does not file nomination documents. These provisions would become operative only if ACA 8 of the 2025–26 Regular Session is approved by the voters and another state adopts a new congressional district map that takes effect after August 1, 2025.

(4) The bill would repeal the provisions described in paragraphs (1) to (3) above on January 1, 2027.

(5) Existing law requires a constitutional amendment 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.

This bill would call a special election to be held throughout the state on November 4, 2025, and,

notwithstanding the 131-day requirement, would require the submission of ACA 8 of the 2025–26 Regular Session to the voters at that special election. The bill would authorize a local election called on or before August 8, 2025, and scheduled to be held on November 4, 2025, to be consolidated with the statewide special election. The bill would require that the impartial analysis prepared by the Legislative Analyst for the state voter information guide for the special election include specified content regarding 2021 and 2025 congressional district maps.

The bill would specify the procedures under which the special election would be conducted. Counties that conduct all-mailed ballot elections using vote centers would be required to maintain at least one vote center for every 30,000 registered voters from November 1, 2025, to November 4, 2025, and at least one vote center for every 60,000 registered voters from October 25, 2025, through October 31, 2025. Other counties would be authorized to consolidate polling places at a maximum ratio of one for every 10,000 registered voters.

The bill would appropriate an amount from the General Fund to the Controller for the actual and reasonably necessary costs for counties to conduct the special election, as determined by the Director of Finance. The bill would also appropriate an amount from the General Fund to the Secretary of State for the actual and reasonably necessary costs for the Secretary of State to administer the special election, as determined by the Director of Finance.

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

[ACA 8, Rivas. Congressional redistricting.](#) (Chapter 156)

A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment to the Constitution of the State, by adding Section 4 to Article XXI thereof, relating to redistricting.

The California Constitution establishes the Citizens Redistricting Commission, which is required to adjust the boundary lines of congressional, Senate, Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts in the year following the year in which the national census is taken at the beginning of each decade.

This measure, which would include a legislative finding that it is in response to redistricting in Texas in 2025, would, notwithstanding the authority of the Citizens Redistricting Commission, require the state to temporarily use the congressional districts reflected in AB 604 of the 2025–26 Regular Session for every congressional election until the new congressional boundary lines are drawn by the commission in 2031.



VOTE EASY.
VOTE SECURE.

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS