

SAN MATEO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA VOTER'S CHOICE ACT
ELECTION ADMINISTRATION PLAN-DRAFT
JANUARY 2024-JANUARY 2028



OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER
REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS DIVISION
40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402
phone 650.312.5222 fax 650.312.5348
email registrar@smcacre.org web www.smcacre.org
@smcvote

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OFFICE OF
**ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-
RECORDER & ELECTIONS**
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER &
ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

August 2, 2023

Dear Fellow Voters,

I am pleased to submit to you San Mateo County's California Voter's Choice Act (VCA) draft Election Administration Plan (EAP) for the period January 2024 through January 2028. The EAP is a requirement of the VCA providing the public detailed information on the administration of elections under the law.

San Mateo County's draft EAP is the culmination of extensive community input and the many years of experience accumulated since the adoption of the County's first EAP in September 2018. Our EAP incorporates the County's Voter Education Outreach Plan which details the County's noteworthy efforts to increase accessibility for all voters, particularly persons with disabilities and language minorities.

San Mateo County is proud to be a leader in Vote by Mail elections in the State of California. We were one of the first five counties in the state to adopt and embrace the VCA in 2018 fundamentally changing how elections are conducted today and in the future for all California voters.

Our Voter Education and Outreach Program is a model for other counties to follow. Our Voter Education and Outreach Program has been recognized locally and nationally for embracing diversity, equity and inclusion. The County's Voter Education and Outreach Plan expands on our many successes, reaching out to more voters in each election. Through the innovative use of Community Based Organizations (CBO) we continue to successfully target and contact historically underrepresented groups, including those with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, youth, seniors, the incarcerated, the formerly incarcerated and the unhoused.

A special acknowledgement and thank you goes to our Citizen Advisory Committees: the Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC), Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC), and Voter Education and Outreach Committee (VEOC) for their tireless efforts to represent and outreach to voters with disabilities, language minorities, seniors and youth.

As a San Mateo County resident, your input is essential for the successful development of our EAP and our Voter Education and Outreach Plan. Your feedback is welcome. Please contact us through our [online form](#), or email to registrar@smcacre.org, fax to 650.312.5348, mail to or in-person at the Registration & Elections Division, 40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402, phone/text 650.312.5222 or tollfree call to 888.762.8683. We hope you will take advantage of one of the many ways to provide feedback to the development of our EAP.

We look forward to receiving your suggestions. Thank you for participating in the development of our EAP and our Voter Education and Outreach Plan.

Sincerely,

Mark Church

40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402

P 650.312.5222 **F** 650.312.5348 **email** registrar@smcacre.org **web** www.smcacre.org

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San Mateo County California Voter’s Choice Act

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San Mateo County Election Administration Plan

Overview

Senate Bill 450, also known as the California Voter’s Choice Act (VCA), was signed into law on September 29, 2016, authorizing 14 counties, including San Mateo, to conduct any election as an All-Mailed Ballot - Vote Center election commencing in 2018. This legislation was part of a broad collection of election reforms designed to increase voter participation, increase voter engagement and expand voting options, fundamentally changing how elections will be conducted in San Mateo County and participating jurisdictions.

San Mateo County has been at the forefront of conducting All-Mailed Ballot Elections in the State of California, with over 74% of our registered voters in 2016 choosing to be permanent Vote by Mail voters. The passage of the VCA was influenced by San Mateo County’s successful November 3, 2015 All-Mailed Ballot Election, conducted under the authority of Assembly Bill 2028. Many of the recommendations and methodologies contained in our AB 2028 Report to the State Legislature and the Secretary of State were incorporated into the VCA.

Following the successful adoption of the VCA in 2016 by the State Legislature, 93% of ballots cast in the June 5, 2018 Statewide Primary Election and 88% of ballots cast in the November 6, 2018 Statewide General Election in San Mateo County were returned in the mail or by using a secure Ballot Drop Box location. Voters have continued to favor casting their ballots using these methods in subsequent elections, as shown in the following table:

Election	Vote by Mail Returns
March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election	85.85%
November 3, 2020 Presidential General Election	91.3%
September 14, 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election	95.4%
June 7, 2022 Statewide Direct Primary Election	Approximately 96%
November 8, 2022 Statewide General Election	Approximately 93%

The County’s Chief Elections Officer is required under the VCA to prepare a Draft Elections Administration Plan (EAP) and, after public comment, an Amended Draft EAP for the administration of elections under the law. Upon conclusion of a subsequent comment period, the County’s Final EAP will be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval. This EAP will be a collaborative effort prepared in consultation with our community partners and stakeholders.

In an effort to continually improve the VCA elections model, the law requires the Chief Elections Officer to hold additional public hearings within two years of conducting the first election and every four years thereafter, to consider revisions of the EAP.

In the pages that follow, the EAP provides a brief overview of the Vote by Mail ballot process, the proposed locations of the County’s Vote Centers and Ballot Drop Box locations, and elections technology that will be deployed at Vote Centers. Our Voter Education and Outreach Plan is incorporated in the EAP.

Note: This Election Administration Plan is an update to our January 2020 – January 2024 EAP.

Vote by Mail Ballots

Under the VCA model, all registered voters will be mailed a ballot beginning 29 days before the election, with a postage-paid envelope to return the ballot. Voters may request a Vote by Mail ballot in Chinese, Filipino or Spanish, or a reference ballot in Burmese, Hindi, Japanese or Korean. Voters may

take advantage of San Mateo County's Remote Accessible Vote by Mail (RAVBM) System, which allows them to access and mark their ballot in a screen-readable format on a personal computer (internet access and printer are also required).

Vote Center and Ballot Drop Box Locations

The VCA establishes detailed criteria and formulas for the location of Vote Centers and Ballot Drop Box locations throughout the County. The law requires that Vote Centers and Ballot Drop Box locations be accessible to voters with disabilities, located near population centers, have easy access to public transportation and be near low-income and language minority communities. The ten additional criteria used can be found in CA EC 4005 (10) (B) in the Appendix.

Proposed Vote Center and Ballot Drop Box locations were selected in consultation with San Mateo County's Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC), Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) and Voter Education and Outreach Advisory Committee (VEOAC).¹ Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping software, U.S. Census Data and The Center for Inclusive Democracy's² Vote Center Siting Tool were also utilized to ensure locations are in optimal proximity to voters. In addition to these VCA considerations, potential Vote Center locations must have the necessary space for voting equipment and be available for the required operational days of the election.

A list of proposed Vote Center and Ballot Drop Box locations, along with a map, are included in the Appendix. The VEOAC has asked the Elections Division that where possible to select Vote Center and Ballot Drop Box locations that do not co-exist in buildings with law enforcement, but many other locations do not have the security, space or calendar availability to house centers or drop boxes. We continue to seek facilities where all citizens feel welcome.

The public is invited to provide feedback on the proposed Vote Center and Ballot Drop Box locations, as well as suggestions for alternative and/or additional locations. Opportunities to provide direct input during two Public Comment Periods. There will also be a Comment Form on smcacre.org.

Written comments may be mailed or personally delivered to the Registration & Elections Division, 40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402. Comments may also be submitted by email to registrar@smcacre.org. The facsimile number is 650.312.5348. Public Comments may be sent via text or phone call at 650.312.5222. The tollfree multilingual (English, Spanish, Chinese and Filipino) phone number is 888.762.8683.

Interested members of the public should consider attending and/or joining one of the citizen advisory committees. These advisory committees cover Voting Accessibility, Language Accessibility and Voter Education and Outreach. The committees provide input on election topics, including proposed Vote Center and Drop Box locations, to the Chief Elections Officer throughout the year. Meeting dates are posted on the Election website's Events Calendar and may also be obtained by contacting the Elections Office.

Vote Center and/or Ballot Drop Box locations are subject to change.

Vote Centers: Vote Centers operate like polling places, allowing voters to cast their ballots in person, by using an accessible Ballot Marking Tablet to print selections made or by marking paper ballots printed by Vote Center staff using a Mobile Ballot Printer. Unlike polling places, however, voters can cast their ballots at any Vote Center countywide. Voters will also be able to register to vote or update their registration at any Vote Center. Voters who have not registered before the close of registration (15 days prior to the election) will be able to complete a Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) at any

¹ More information on the committees can be found on pages 39 to 43.

² The Center for Inclusive Democracy is part of the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy and was formerly known as the California Civic Engagement Project

Vote Center and cast a provisional ballot on the same day, through Election Day. The CVR option is now available to military and overseas voters, and voters with disabilities via a certified Remote Accessible Vote by Mail (RAVBM) System.³

Vote Centers will have a secure virtual private network (VPN) connection to the County's Election Management System (EMS), allowing Vote Center staff to verify, in real time, the voting status of each voter. The County's EMS is connected to the centralized State voter registration database VoteCal. Computers at Vote Centers will not have access to other websites or to email for security purposes. This secure system has been successfully deployed since the June 5, 2018 Statewide Direct Primary Election.

For the November 5, 2019 Consolidated Municipal, School and Special District Election, the Elections Division performed a pilot program with Tenex electronic pollbooks (e-Pollbooks) at four of eighteen Vote Centers to check voters in. The pilot demonstrated that the e-Pollbooks were easy for voters and staff to use. Additionally, the e-Pollbooks' ability to push current wait times at Vote Centers to the Elections Division's website, smcacre.org, allowed voters to make informed decisions about their preferred location. The Tenex e-Pollbooks were used at all Vote Centers during the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election. Voters filled out a paper check-in form in place of signing the e-Pollbook as more information about the risks of COVID-19 became available; the Elections Division did not want to risk spreading the virus by having many voters use the same screen. In light of the ongoing risk of COVID-19, we continued this practice in 2022 and plan to do so for the March 2024 election and perhaps longer. If we move to using only the e-Pollbook, if a voter cannot sign the screen with a stylus or their finger, Vote Centers will have paper check-in forms available as an option.

All Vote Centers meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for accessibility (permanently or with temporary solutions) to the building and to the room used as a Vote Center. Vote Center locations throughout the County will vary in size. Depending on the room configurations and specifications unique to each Vote Center, the precise number of Ballot Marking Stations in each Vote Center may vary. Each Vote Center will have a specific layout to ensure stations are placed in such a way as to maximize accessibility and voter privacy. Layouts will be designed to meet accessibility requirements and will be adjusted to best utilize the differing shapes and sizes of each location. If a voter finds any accessibility barrier at a Vote Center, we ask them to alert the Vote Center Lead on-site or contact the Elections Division immediately at 650.312.5222 or registrar@smcacre.org. If a voter does not feel the issue is addressed, they may contact Disability Rights California at 888.569.7955 (or TTY call: 800.719.5798) or the Secretary of State's Voter Hotline at 800.345.8683 (additional hotlines for languages other than English are available at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/voting-california/voter-hotlines).

Regardless of the number of Ballot Marking Tablet (BMT) Stations deployed to a Vote Center, at least three will have a handheld keypad to operate the BMT, also known as an Audio Tactile Interface (ATI), for voters who find it difficult to operate the touchscreen. The ATI is braille-embossed and has large buttons in several shapes and colors. Instructions are displayed on the screen and followed by audio. To assist voters with visual impairments, headphones will also be available for these three Ballot Marking Tablet Stations. Ballot Marking Tablets are programmed to be read, or listened to, in English, Filipino, Spanish or Chinese. The ATI units are compatible with several assistive devices for voters with disabilities such as sip-and-puff systems, paddles and head-pointers (these assistive devices are supplied by the voter). For some people with disabilities, the BMT may make private and independent voting possible. For others, the ATI features may be needed to make private and independent voting possible for people with a variety of disabilities.

Vote Center Representatives (VCRs) are trained to assist voters with options to change text size and contrast on the Ballot Marking Tablet and use of the ATI, including adjusting volume and reading speed

³ California Senate Bill 504 (Becker 2021-2022) was approved by the Governor on 3/31/2022.

on the ATI. An instruction sheet on the use of the ATI is under development. One will be available in each voting booth with the interface.

Security and contingency plans are in place to prevent disruption of voting and to ensure that the election is properly conducted. When Vote Centers are not in operation, the sites and equipment will be secured through tested and established security protocols such as tamper-evident seals and secure storage facilities. Three sample Vote Center layout diagrams, for a small, medium and large room, are provided in the Appendix.

Vote Center Formula: The County will continue its practice of opening regional Vote Centers 29 days before the election. Additional Vote Centers will open 10 days before the election, and all Vote Centers will be fully operational beginning on the third day before the election.

The VCA has established the following formula for determining the quantity of Vote Centers throughout the County. The formula is based on the estimated number registered voters participating in the election. These numbers are based on the projected 450,000 registered voters in San Mateo County for the November 5, 2024 Presidential General Election:

Days before Election Day	Number of Registered Voters Per Vote Center	Vote Centers Accessible to the Public
10	50,000	9
3	10,000	45

We are currently planning to open 48 Vote Centers for the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election. All Vote Centers will be open at least eight hours per day starting 10 days before Election Day, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. including weekends and holidays. Vote Centers will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

There will also be variations of the Vote Center (they are not called Vote Centers because they do not meet the four-day requirement of the VCA). Three “Pop-up” voting set-ups, transported by van, will be deployed to East Palo Alto, Pescadero and La Honda for the day before Election Day and Election Day. The last two address geographically remote areas where a fixed site is not needed for the small population. Voting equipment will be set up inside the La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District office and the La Honda Fire Brigade Station. These Pop-ups have been well-received in previous elections.

We also have a Mobile Vote Center, which is a modular or prefab building, delivered by a semi-trailer truck to large parking areas such as the ones at shopping malls. We install three ballot marking tablet stations with ATIs inside the portable building and with an attached canopy outside, set up two paper ballot voting booths outside.

Curbside Drop-Off and Drive-Thru Voting: All Vote Centers will have volunteers and staff to accept sealed ballot envelopes from voters in their cars on Election Day. The curbside drop-off allows voters to drop their ballot off more quickly than having to open the Drop Box door. It also provides another option for people with difficulty walking, or other physical limitation, to drop their ballot off in an Official Drop Box.

At the San Mateo County Expo Center, we are reviewing an option previously used for voters to receive a paper ballot to vote their cars for “drive-through voting.”

Ballot Drop Boxes: At least one Ballot Drop Box is required for every 15,000 registered voters in the County. Using the estimated number of 450,000 registered voters for the November 5, 2024 Presidential General Election, this would project a total of 30 Ballot Drop Boxes. We plan to go above and beyond these requirements by opening 50 Ballot Drop Boxes. These boxes will be available no less than 28 days

before Election Day and open during regular business hours. A Ballot Drop Box outside the Elections Division, at 40 Tower Road, San Mateo, and at numerous additional sites⁴, will be open twenty-four hours a day. To prevent physical damage and unauthorized entry, all unstaffed Drop Box located outdoors is constructed of durable material able to withstand vandalism, removal and inclement weather. The opening slot will not be large enough to allow ballots to be tampered with or removed.

Each of the city/town halls in San Mateo County will have a locked ballot box for receiving ballots during their regular business hours. Locked ballot boxes have been successfully deployed at several libraries, and the Elections Division will continue to work with libraries to preserve this practice. The Elections Division will work with locations (such as libraries) to post information at their entrances and on our website on Election Day to provide alternative drop box sites for any that are not open at 7 a.m. or close before 8 p.m.

Voters may also drop off voted ballots at a Vote Center, Post Office or USPS exterior mailbox. Alternatively, voters who receive residential mail service may have their delivery person pick up their ballot at home.

Vote by Mail (VBM) ballots, including those printed using the Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM) system, can be received by the Elections Division until seven days after Election Day only if they are postmarked on or before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Ballots delivered directly to the Elections Division or cast into a drop box or at a Vote Center, must be received no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Voting Technology

The County's voting technology is comprised of two main components, voter registration and voting tabulation. These two systems are completely separated. The voting tabulation system is a closed system and does not have any connection to the internet.

The Elections Division implemented the first update to the County's voting technology since 2006 during the November 5, 2019 Consolidated Municipal, School and Special District Election. Dominion's Democracy Suite provided voters with a faster, more intuitive and more accessible voting experience.

Paramount to the selection of the new voting system was ensuring that every vote is counted accurately. The security of our voting system was our highest concern, and this system provides state-of-the-art solutions above and beyond the requirements of the law. The California Secretary of State's Office of Voting Systems Technology Assessment (OVSTA) applies one of the most exhaustive voting system testing and certification programs in the nation. Prior to being certified for use, all voting systems undergo end-to-end testing, including functional testing, source code review, red team security testing with experts trying to "break into" the coding system, accessibility testing and volume testing.

Vote Centers also provide voters with the option to mark a paper ballot using Dominion's Mobile Ballot Printing solution. Each Vote Center will be deployed with no less than two Mobile Ballot Printers and will allow staff to print voters their specific ballot style for their precinct regardless of where they reside in the County. This technology reduces the Vote Center footprint by minimizing the purchase and printing of extra ballots that are needed to accommodate different ballot styles. Voters who mark a paper ballot will then deposit their ballot into a ballot box.

Every removable Ballot Drop Box and every ballot pick-up bag has a Global Positioning System tracking unit inside. Every 10 minutes, each unit, whether standing in place or being transported to the Elections office, sends its location to the Elections Division for security. The unit can also be "pinged" for its location at any time. The purpose is to protect the ballots and to protect the integrity of every

⁴ See Proposed Ballot Drop Box Locations in the Appendix.

election.

The San Mateo County Registration & Elections Division received an Honorable Mention recognition for “Innovative Cybersecurity and Election Security for Vote-by-Mail/Vote Center Election Environment (in 2021)” from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission for its use of GPS technology for ballot security.

Ballot are returned to the Elections Division, where central high-speed scanners count paper ballots and tabulate votes. As ballots are reviewed during the canvass period, the system creates a complete digital audit trail (as well as paper trail) documenting how each mark on each ballot was adjudicated and tallied.

The Elections Division has worked with its website vendor, Interpersonal Frequency, to provide a streamlined experience that gives voters the ability to look up their registration, ballot status, nearest Drop Box or Vote Center, the ability to see their districts and the ability to opt-in to the greener electronic Sample Ballot & Official Voter Information Pamphlet.⁵

Election night results are available online in user-friendly formats. The Results Portal is an interactive reporting system that includes:

- results reporting – users can filter by contest,
- voter turnout – mapped by precinct and
- reports – in CSV and PDF formats with Vote totals for each precinct, contest, and candidate.

Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity is a responsibility that cannot be performed by one entity alone given the broad reaches of today’s sophisticated cybersecurity threats.

The Elections Division’s systems are protected in a multi-layered cyber and physical infrastructure environment. Our election systems and infrastructure are protected with the highest levels of security that bring together federal, state, local and private sector resources to bolster our cybersecurity defenses. Plans incorporate preventative and rapid-response measures to ensure continuation of election services in the event of disruption. Current security and contingency plans are posted on our website here: www.smcacre.org/post/san-mateo-county-election-contingency-plan.

The Elections Division has established a Cyber Security Defense Team (CSDT), which includes ISD (County’s Information Services Department) and our external vendors, who work collaboratively daily to provide the highest level of cyber defenses to the voters of San Mateo County. We serve as members of the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC) and the Multi-State Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC). These partnerships provide immediate and accurate updates of cyber incidents and mitigative measures that can be implemented to neutralize all forms of cyberattacks.

The Elections Division’s website vendor, Interpersonal Frequency, and hosting provider, Pantheon, along with Drupal, the County’s website platform vendor, are also members of EI-ISAC and MS-ISAC. These systems are FEDRAMP certified, meeting the highest federal security standards, and are used by the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, NASA, Department of Homeland Security and other high-level federal security agencies. They are among the securest systems in the nation.

The Elections Division has implemented several proactive measures to enhance its cybersecurity defenses. The San Mateo County Elections Division was one of the first in the state to retain the

⁵ Ninety days prior to each statewide election, we advertise a landing page www.smcvote.org, to lead voters to the most frequently used areas of our site at www.smcacre.org/elections. Information can be found in the Appendix.

services of an independent cybersecurity consultant to conduct an extensive security audit and “trusted hack” of the County’s voter registration system. Also, in coordination with the California Secretary of State’s VoteSure initiative, voters can report suspicious content relating to election misinformation for investigation through the Elections Division website, www.smcacre.org.

County Network Security

The Elections Division’s voting tabulation system and voter registration database servers are located inside the County network, behind the County firewall which is constantly monitored and patched. The County subscribes to the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Cyber Hygiene Service whereby DHS and Elections security vendors perform regular vulnerability scans of the County’s network and the internet. All users must have a unique login and password to sign into the County network. User Passwords must be changed on a regular basis per County security standards. All remote users entering the County network must use a VPN connection to access the network. Multi-Factor Authentication is utilized by Election employees who have the capability to update election website contents or social media platforms.

At the County, there are multiple security systems to help protect the internal users from malware and phishing. We scan all inbound emails and evaluate potential suspicious emails that could negatively impact the computer environment. We have 3rd party products that monitor all internet traffic, block known phishing sites and may block other types of malicious links so that malware cannot be downloaded inside the County network.

All computers and file servers connected to the San Mateo County network must have the most recent version of anti-virus software (that has been tested and approved by ISD) installed and actively running on these devices and configured for daily virus definition file updates. Similarly, all computers and file servers must be configured to receive updates and patches. Internal vulnerability assessments are also conducted. All laptops must be protected with full disk encryption. All databases are secured in multiple locations and regularly replicated.

Elections Facility Security

Security begins by having all visitors sign in at the front counter, and they are escorted at all times by a staff member.

The Elections Division facilities have security systems with cameras. Access to the voting equipment warehouse, the Vote by Mail area and voter registration database servers is restricted with secured fencing and available only to approved staff with card-key access. There is role-based access control for every staff member, limiting access to physical areas of the building based on work duties. The voter registration servers are located behind locked doors with very limited access. The card keys also create audit trails. In addition, the Elections Division, as part of the Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder-Elections Department, has implemented a Disaster Recovery capability at a secured location in the event of a disaster occurring at the Elections Division building.

Voter Election Data

With the implementation of the VCA model, the County will maintain, in an electronic format, a continuously updated index of voters who have done any of the following at a Vote Center:

- registered to vote or updated their registration,
- received and voted a provisional or replacement ballot and
- voted a ballot using equipment at a Vote Center.

Beginning no later than 10 days before the election this information will be available pursuant to the terms of Section 7 of the VCA.

The Vote by Mail/Vote Center model increases requests for information about whether registered voters have voted early or returned a Vote by Mail (VBM) ballot during the early voting period. This

information is often requested during each election cycle by campaigns and other entities to contact voters about the upcoming election.

To fulfill these requests, the Elections Division will provide electronic access to a Countywide Vote by Mail - Early Voting Cumulative Vote Report to candidates and campaigns daily, beginning at least 10 days prior to the election. Candidates and campaigns can subscribe to receive free access to updates. Campaigns wanting VBM data tailored to their area will pay the Elections Division's regular data fees.

"I Voted" Sticker

One of the most popular items requested by the voting public during the election period is our "I Voted" sticker, which recognizes that the voter has participated in the election. "I Voted" stickers are so popular that many of our permanent VBM voters were dropping their ballots off at Vote Centers just to obtain their stickers.

The Elections Division included the "I Voted" sticker in the 2020 Official Ballot package mailed to all registered voters, and we plan to continue this practice. The sticker will also be available at Vote Centers for in-person voters.

The Elections Division also created a digital "I Voted" sticker that can be copied and pasted on the voter's social media pages and included in their online digital signatures. This allows voters to proudly let the world know that they are active voters and have voted in the election. A separate digital sticker recognizes the years a person has been registered to vote. A distinctive banner was developed, indicating the number of consecutive years voters have been registered in San Mateo County. These digital stickers are accessible via the [My Election Info](#) page at www.smcvote.org.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) 2020 Clearinghouse Awards recognized San Mateo County for designing the nation's most creative and original "I Voted" sticker and featuring print and digital versions.

Vote by Mail Ballot Return Envelope

San Mateo County redesigned its Vote by Mail Official Ballot return envelope in 2020 with guidelines from the Center for Civic Design and recommendations by the Secretary of State. The redesign provided increased accessibility and enhanced cost and administrative efficiencies. The Elections Division also coordinated with USPS on the design of the return envelope to ensure compliance with mailing regulations.

Voters find two small holes in the return envelope in the signature area. This change was recommended by the Center for Civic Design to serve as guides for voters with visual impairments or low literacy voters to sign in the correct area. Two holes help visually impaired voters to tactilely identify the location of the signature space and the correct orientation of the envelope.

Assembly Bill 2608 (2021-2022), signed into law in August 2022, amended Elections Code section 3011 to modify what is to be included on the VBM ballot return envelope. The previously required statement on the envelope that the voter had not applied or intended to apply for a VBM ballot in another jurisdiction has been modified to a statement that "the voter has neither voted nor intends to vote a ballot from any other jurisdiction for the same election."

In addition, the space on the ballot return envelope for the voter to insert the relationship of the individual returning their VBM ballot on their behalf is no longer required.

We are working on a revision of our ballot return envelope in preparation for the March 2024 election.

Election Facility Accessibility and Site Improvements

With the changes to the County's election model, changes have been required at 40 Tower Road, the main office of the Elections Division, to improve accessibility. Over a half century old, this facility was constructed well before the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the natural wear and tear over the decades have created further issues.

The VAAC assists the Elections Division with insight on county-wide voting accessibility matters affecting seniors and individuals with disabilities. They review all proposed physical changes to the Elections office to help assure they are the best solution for access for voters with disabilities.

Current projects include, but are not limited to, installation of a limited use/limited application elevator at the lower entrance to the facility and working with SamTrans to provide public transportation to the main entrance of the facility in addition to stopping at the intersection of Tower Road and Polhemus Road, approximately one half-mile away from the Elections Division facility.

Fiscal Impact

The VCA model incurred numerous startup expenses, which increased election expenditures during the initial implementation period.

Creating multiple secure connections between Vote Centers and the County's voter registration database required new equipment, setup, testing, and support. We anticipate that future costs will be offset by a reduction in the number of voting stations leased or purchased, as well as decreased labor and capital expenses. For instance, the Elections Division leased 500 of Dominion's Ballot Marking Tablets and printers to replace the previous 1,600-plus Hart InterCivic eSlate voting machines. Future elections should require less outreach and voter education, as voters will be more familiar with the VCA election model.

To some extent, expenditures will remain higher than was the case in polling place elections. Vote Centers are open for longer periods of time and staffed by County employees paid at higher hourly rates than poll workers, who received a stipend. Each of these county employees must pass through the full county onboarding process and background check, adding overhead costs. VCRs also require expanded training to manage the greater complexity and technology requirements of Vote Centers. Additionally, each Vote Center must have multilingual staff members, who are paid at a higher rate.

Another legislative change which impacted election costs in 2018 was Senate Bill 415 (SB 415), the California Voter Participation Rights Act. Under SB 415, jurisdictions which previously held their elections in odd-numbered year were required to transition to even-numbered year elections by 2022. This change will permanently and substantially increase the size of even-numbered year elections, resulting in larger sample ballot pamphlets, longer and more complex official ballots, more ballot styles and larger staff requirements. However, with the end of regularly scheduled odd-year elections, and the savings from consolidation of costs in even years, the long-term effects of this legislation are yet unknown but could be positive.

A further change to elections administration in San Mateo County has been the shift to district-based elections. For the voters, these changes have been largely positive, as single member districts provide greater opportunity for diversity in representation, especially for moderately sized, geographically concentrated groups. At the same time, the implementation and maintenance of the district system has added a new layer of complexity to the administration of elections. More districts mean more candidates and more ballot styles, with upfront costs with regards to the mapping and re-precincting required for implementation.

Two final pieces of consequential legislation were AB 1436, establishing conditional voter registration, and AB 1461, the California New Motor Voter Program. These pieces of legislation had the desired effect in increased voter registration and the total number of voters turning out at the polls. At the same

time, the influx of new voters added costs to the administration of elections, especially in the printing, mailing and processing of paper ballots. In the medium- to long-term future, it is expected that the VCA model will mitigate many of the additional costs associated with these legislative mandates.

Election Costs Comparison

Elections	Actual Costs	Turnout
June 2014 Election (Polling Place)	\$2,431,369	27%
November 2014 Election (Polling Place)	\$3,005,804	46%
November 2015 (All-Mailed Ballot Election Pilot)	\$2,127,772	29%
June 2016 Election (Polling Place)	\$4,250,903	52%
November 2016 Election (Polling Place)	\$4,674,126	82%
November 2017 Election (Polling Place)	\$1,535,998	27%
June 2018 (VCA elections begin)	\$5,154,184 ⁶	44%
November 2018	\$7,341,919	72%
March 2020	\$5,061,716	55%
November 2020	\$8,273,946	86%
September 2021	\$2,690,759	66%
June 2022	\$5,960,572	38%
November 2022	\$8,080,649	58%

Elections	Outreach Costs	In-Kind Outreach Labor Costs & Estimates
June 2018	\$449,268	\$139,558
November 2018	\$403,096	\$56,106
March 2020	\$477,000	\$100,000
November 2020	\$486,305	\$148,206
September 2021	\$285,929	\$150,000
June 2022	\$573,479	\$150,000
November 2022	\$676,914	\$150,000

⁶ June 2018 and November 2018 election costs include department labor (in-kind contribution to Voter Education and Outreach).

Elections	Estimated Costs	Outreach Costs & Estimates	In-Kind Outreach Labor Costs & Estimates
March 2024	\$6,098,183	\$500,000	\$150,000
November 2024	\$4,822,761	\$500,000	\$150,000

Summary

The California Voter’s Choice Act is landmark legislation that has fundamentally changed the way elections are conducted in San Mateo County. The successful implementation of this new method of conducting elections provided numerous benefits and opportunities to the County’s voters. School districts, municipalities and special districts will eventually benefit through increased efficiencies and reduced billable costs resulting from the Mailed Ballot/Vote Center election model. The VCA election model has had the positive effect of increasing voter participation, providing greater accessibility to voters with disabilities and limited English proficiency, improving our voting systems and technology and strengthening our elections security infrastructure.

San Mateo County looks forward to continuing our tradition of excellence and innovation under the California Voter’s Choice Act.

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— SAN MATEO COUNTY —
CALIFORNIA VOTER'S CHOICE ACT

VOTER EDUCATION
AND
OUTREACH PLAN



OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS DIVISION

40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402

phone 650.312.5222 **fax** 650.312.5348

email registrar@smcacre.org **web** www.smcacre.org

  @smcvote

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Voter Education & Outreach Plan

Background

The County of San Mateo is committed to advancing racial equity, creating a place where all residents can participate in decisions that impact their lives. By educating all communities about civic activities, access to fully participate in public processes will be easier, promoting inclusiveness for all.

In September 2017, Mark Church, San Mateo County Chief Elections Officer, recommended to the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) the adoption of the California Voter's Choice Act (VCA) fundamentally changing the method of voting in the County to an All-Mail Ballot Election model. The adoption of the VCA was a major step in the advancement of equity through community engagement and inclusive democracy. VCA programs and efforts were designed and aimed to serve communities with the lowest voter registration and lowest voter turnout.

In September 2021, the County's Chief Equity Officer provided a breakdown of the latest demographics to the Board, "About 64% of San Mateo County's residents are people of color, and about 35% of the county's residents are foreign-born. Twenty-one percent of the immigrant population is undocumented, and 46% speak a language other than English at home."

At the same meeting, the BOS adopted Resolution No. 21-672, to advance and improve San Mateo County's racial equity efforts and confirming its commitment to increase racial equity through all County policies and programs; to enhance educational efforts aimed at understanding, addressing, and combating racism in all forms; to promote fairness and justice for our most impacted communities; and, to support collective liberation of all people in San Mateo County.

The Registration & Elections Division will continue to do its part to help build a multiracial democracy in San Mateo County, promoting acceptance and belonging for all.

Voter Turnout

The VCA expanded the use of Vote by Mail ballots by mailing all registered voters their ballot while keeping multiple in-person voting locations. The VCA also provided voters with official ballot drop boxes in their communities and at vote centers. For some voters, the option to use a drop box managed by the Elections Division may have been a convincing factor to use their Vote by Mail ballot. For others, the Secretary of State's addition of a ballot tracking system, called Where's My Ballot, has also been well-received by many new Vote by Mail voters. The system allows voters to see when their ballot is in transit to their mailbox, when it is received by the Elections Division and when it is counted.

Following the November 8, 2022 election, the Elections Division reviewed turnout throughout the County. Total voter turnout was 58.29%. Nearly 93% of the ballots cast were Vote by Mail.

The following 21 precincts comprise the precincts with the lowest voter turnout. In South San Mateo County, there were ten precincts with turnout between 32% and 41% of registered voters. In North San Mateo County, there were eleven precincts with turnout between 36.1% and 41.9% of registered voters.

Chart 1. South County Precincts with Lowest Turnout, November 8, 2022 Statewide General Election

Precinct	City	Registered Voters	Votes Cast	Turnout (%)	Vote Centers	Vote by Mail	% VC	%VBM
40002	East Palo Alto	2,615	837	32.0%	136	701	16.2%	83.8%
47505	Unincorporated (Fair Oaks)	1,692	546	32.3%	47	499	8.6%	91.4%
40001	East Palo Alto	2,494	864	34.6%	104	760	12.0%	88.0%
40011	East Palo Alto	862	301	34.9%	47	254	15.6%	84.4%
47507	Unincorporated (Fair Oaks)	162	61	37.7%	8	53	13.1%	86.9%
40007	East Palo Alto	2,477	936	37.8%	104	832	11.1%	88.9%
40014	East Palo Alto	3,019	1,141	37.8%	140	1,001	12.3%	87.7%
46005	Redwood City	1,846	732	39.7%	62	670	8.5%	91.5%
44003	Menlo Park	2,604	1,044	40.1%	137	907	13.1%	86.9%
47501	Unincorporated (Fair Oaks)	1,860	762	41.0%	64	698	8.4%	91.6%
		19,631	7,224		849	6,375		

Chart 2. North County Precincts with Lowest Turnout, November 8, 2022 Statewide General Election

Precinct	City	Registered Voters	Votes Cast	Turnout (%)	Vote Centers	Vote by Mail	% VC	%VBM
57104	Unincorporated (Broadmoor)	230	83	36.1%	9	74	10.8%	89.2%
18064	South San Francisco	238	89	37.4%	8	81	9.0%	91.0%
18010	South San Francisco	1,933	768	39.7%	65	703	8.5%	91.5%
56009	Daly City	3,580	1,431	40.0%	125	1,306	8.7%	91.3%
56005	Daly City	3,222	1,292	40.1%	117	1,175	9.1%	90.9%
12004	San Bruno	2,255	911	40.4%	94	817	10.3%	89.7%
56028	Daly City	1,752	715	40.8%	40	675	5.6%	94.4%
56001	Daly City	2,938	1,208	41.1%	96	1,112	7.9%	92.1%
56038	Daly City	3,547	1,484	41.8%	105	1,379	7.1%	92.9%
12001	San Bruno	2,595	1,086	41.8%	82	1,004	7.6%	92.4%
18059	South San Francisco	296	124	41.9%	17	107	13.7%	86.3%
		22,586	9,191		758	8433		

The Elections Division will continue to target voter education and outreach efforts in these lower turnout precincts in the South and North portions of the County. In addition, an integral part of our ongoing countywide outreach strategy will focus on reaching voters with specific needs, including:

- individuals with limited English proficiency,
- individuals with disabilities,
- unhoused and housing unstable individuals,
- young people between 18 and 25 years old,
- our incarcerated residents and
- residents who have returned to the community following the completion of a prison sentence.

Voter education and outreach will incorporate various strategies, including instructional videos in English, Spanish, Chinese and Filipino, fifteen- and thirty-second public service announcements for television (with captions for deaf and hard of hearing and audio for those visually impaired) and radio, household mailers and demonstrations throughout the County. This will be combined with a campaign using direct mail, press releases to news media (including student newspapers), social media such as Facebook, @smcvote on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), public access media and/or community television stations and paid advertising. The campaign will promote the “More Days, More Ways” theme and our year-round toll-free tri-lingual accessible assistance hotline, 888.SMC.VOTE (888.762.8683), to inform voters about accessibility options and multilingual services.

Messaging for the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election

There are five main messages:

1. More Days, More Ways to Vote!
 - a. The voting period is February 5 – March 5, 2024
 - i. Accessible Vote Centers, with multilingual services, are open daily from February 5 – March 5.
 - ii. Accessible Vote Centers, with multilingual services, are open on the Presidents’ Day holiday.
 - b. Vote by Mail, Use an Official Drop Box, Visit a Vote Center or use the RAVBM System.
 - i. Voting by mail is safe & secure.
You can track your ballot to know it’s been received.
 - ii. If you prefer, use one of the Elections Division’s Drop Boxes.
 1. Secure boxes are inside or outside many libraries and City Halls.
 2. There are also drive-up boxes.
 3. You can drop your ballot off at any Vote Center.
 - iii. Vote in person at any Vote Center – use an accessible Ballot Marking Tablet or ask for a paper ballot.
 1. Help is available in several languages.
 2. Same-day voter registration available.
2. If you registered as No Party Preference (NPP), your ballot will not include any presidential candidates.⁷
 - a. Voters registered as NPP will receive a form in the mail from the Registration & Elections Division to request a ballot for a party which has an open primary.
 - i. There will be a postage-paid envelope with the form.

⁷ Unless [AB 292](#) passes. AB 292 increases the options that No Party Preference voters have in a Presidential Primary.

- b. If you wish to receive a ballot from a party with a closed primary, you will need to re-register in that party.
 - i. You can change your party again after the election.
- 3. The two candidates who get the most votes, regardless of party preference, move on to the General Election in November for voter-nominated offices. These offices include U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, State Senator and State Assemblymember.
 - a. The exception is U.S. President, where the candidate of each party who receives the most votes move on to the General Election.
- 4. In County contests, if one candidate receives 50% plus 1 vote, they win the contest. This office will not appear on the General Election ballot in November.
 - a. Examples of these offices: Board of Supervisors Districts 1, 4 & 5.
- 5. The Elections Division is hiring many temporary workers to help prepare for the 2024 elections.

Messaging for the November 5, 2024 Presidential General Election

There are two main messages:

- 1. Continue to use More Days, More Ways to Vote messages
 - a. The voting period is October 7 – November 5, 2024.
 - i. Accessible Vote Centers, with multilingual services, are open daily from October 25 – November 5.
 - ii. Accessible Vote Centers, with multilingual services, are open on the Indigenous People’s Day holiday.
 - b. Vote by Mail, Use an Official Drop Box, Visit a Vote Center or use the RAVBM System.
 - i. Voting by mail is safe & secure.
 - 1. You can track your ballot to know it’s been received.
 - ii. If you prefer, use one of the Elections Division’s Drop Boxes – inside buildings, outside or drive-up as well as in Vote Centers.
 - iii. Vote in person at any Vote Center – use an accessible Ballot Marking Tablet or ask for a paper ballot. Help is available in several languages.
 - 1. Same-day voter registration is available.
- 2. Continue to use hiring message - The Elections Division is hiring many temporary workers to help prepare for the November 5, 2024 election.

Messaging for the June 2, 2026 Statewide Primary Election

- 1. Continue to use More Days, More Ways messages Continue to use More Days, More Ways to Vote messages
 - a. The voting period is May 4 – June 2, 2026.
 - i. Accessible Vote Centers, with multilingual services, are open on the Memorial Day holiday.
 - ii. Accessible Vote Centers, with multilingual services, are open daily from May 30 – June 2.
 - b. Vote by Mail, Use an Official Drop Box, Visit a Vote Center or use the RAVBM System
 - i. Voting by mail is safe & secure.
 - 1. You can track your ballot to know it’s been received.
 - ii. If you prefer, use one of the Elections Division’s Drop Boxes – inside buildings, outside or drive-up as well as in Vote Centers.
 - iii. Vote in person at any Vote Center.

1. Use an accessible Ballot Marking Tablet or ask for a paper ballot.
 2. Help is available in several languages.
 3. Same-day voter registration available.
2. Only the top two vote-getters, regardless of their political party, move on to the General Election in November for voter-nominated offices.
 - a. These offices include U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, State Senator and State Assemblymember.
 3. In County contests, if one candidate receives 50% plus 1 vote, they win the contest. This office will not appear on the General Election ballot in November.
 - a. Examples of these offices: Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder, Board of Supervisors Districts 2 & 3.
 4. Continue to use hiring message - The Elections Division is hiring many temporary workers to help prepare for the 2026 elections.

Messaging for the November 3, 2026 Statewide General Election

1. Continue to use More Days, More Ways messages
 - a. The voting period is October 5 – November 3, 2026
 - i. Accessible Vote Centers, with multilingual services, are open on the Indigenous People’s Day holiday.
 - ii. Accessible Vote Centers, with multilingual services, are open daily from October 5 – November 3.

Continue to use hiring message - The Elections Division is hiring many temporary workers to help prepare for the November 3, 2026 election.

There may be changes, and new messages will need to be prepared.

Voter Education on More Days to Vote

Voters were told in ads and on the news to return their ballots by mail early for the 2020 Presidential General Election due to the pandemic, and they did. Yet since then, voters have returned to historic patterns of dropping off their ballots and voting in person on Election Day.

Since June 2018, before each major election, the Registration & Elections Division has mailed at least two large postcards to all registered voters to offer “More Days, More Ways to Vote.”⁸ The postcards show the dates to vote (which have included weekends and holidays) and various voting options – in-person, by mail, use of an official drop box (the option for all voters to use the RAVBM System from home was added prior to the September 2021 recall election). Yet, most ballots are returned during the last few days before the deadline, and in-person voting rises significantly on Election Day.

After a review of mailings sent by local candidates in the November 2022 election, we can see that the candidates now understand the idea of a voting period. Almost every mailer told voters to vote by November 8 or vote from or between October 12 to November 8.

From informal conversations with the Election Day voters, it appears some voters do not know that there are more days to vote in person. A small number of voters say it is their tradition to vote in person on Election Day, but the majority say they might have come in sooner if they had known that they could vote earlier.

⁸ Two direct contacts with each voter is required by the California Voter’s Choice Act.

While voting on Election Day is one option, it appears that there is a need for continued education by the Elections Division and our community partners on the many other days available to vote.⁹ Whether it is the convenience of voting any day of the week during the 10-days before Election Day, the desire to end calls from candidates or the comfort in knowing that transportation delays or a last minute change to their work schedule on Election Day will not affect their ability to vote.

Signature Verification

State Senate Bill 503 (Becker) on Voting: ballots and signature verification was approved by the Governor on September 27, 2021 and provides procedures to ensure that election officials count valid mail and provisional ballots and do not improperly reject them during the signature comparison process.

The mail-ballot elements of SB 503:

- Create a presumption that the signature on a ballot envelope belongs to the voter;
- Specify that an exact match is not required to determine the signature is valid;
- Prohibit election officials from rejecting a ballot unless two officials determine beyond a reasonable doubt that a voter's signature differs in multiple, significant, and obvious respects from the signatures in the voter's registration records;
- Prohibit election officials from reviewing or considering a voter's party preference, race, or ethnicity, when comparing signatures and
- Require election officials to send a timely notice to a voter of the opportunity to verify their signature if election officials are unable to determine that a signature compares.

The San Mateo County Registration & Elections Division Signature Verification Procedures have mirrored the procedures mandated by SB 503 for several years. Senator Becker visited our office on July 1, 2021, and we demonstrated our verification process.

These robust signature verification procedures have been important to the County even before the implementation of the VCA elections process, as we had a high rate of VBM voters.

Among the reasons for rejection:

- 1) The signature is missing, or
- 2) It did not match the signature on file from a voter registration form or driver's license image.

Missing signatures often come from the envelopes of new voters, even though "Sign Your Envelope" is printed on the back of the envelope and on the envelope sealing flap and is featured as one of the "3 Easy Steps to Vote by Mail" on an information page wrapped around the ballot. A non-matching signature may be from a younger voter, still developing their signature, or from an older voter, who may have difficulty holding the pen at the same angle as they held it previously.

A non-matching signature may also come from a family member with good intentions, signing another family member's envelope. For example, a parent may ask the student how they wish to vote, fill out the ballot for them and then sign their child's name on the return envelope. This demonstrates the need to educate high school seniors, college students and their parents about providing a mailing address (or one-time mailing address form) as well as a residence address on voter registration forms so the student can receive their ballot directly.

A third cause for rejection is that the ballot is mailed too late. If a ballot is postmarked by Election Day, USPS has seven days to deliver the ballot, but ballots postmarked after Election Day do not count.

⁹ "Rejected Mail Ballots Are Showing Racial Disparities", The New York Times, February 2, 2022. Mike Baker.

The Elections Division and our community partners must continue to educate voters on the importance of their signature on the ballot return envelope as well as the postmark deadline, with targeted efforts among communities with higher rejection rates.

Answering the Question, “Why Vote?”

Voter education needs to provide the community with positive reasons to vote. With the advent of the 2018 California Motor Voter Program, voter registration is reasonably high, but the common reasons to vote are not part of voter registration at the DMV. DMV registrants voted at lower rates than online registrants in the 2020 General Election.¹⁰ The people casting votes in the County do not fully represent the population’s diversity.

Studies and surveys often cite that those eligible voters who are not participating in elections lack trust in the government and feel that their vote will not make a difference. Negative political advertising often amplifies this lack of trust. But not voting perpetuates a lack of inclusion.

A list of reasons to vote will be developed by the Elections Division as a resource to organizations providing voter education.

Who or What is on the Ballot Matters

One of the motivating factors to vote is who is running for office or how important an initiative on the ballot is to a large cross-section of the population. The Registration & Elections Division can never guarantee an exciting candidate or proposition. Instead, the Elections Division, and its partners, can remind the public that voting increases the likelihood that their state and local elected representatives make decisions that positively affect their daily lives and give voice to the interests of their community.

For example, if a school board changes the regular school calendar to a year-round school calendar, it could mean a big change in a family’s plans for childcare. Or, if a citizen is concerned about a lack of affordable housing, they may be interested in voting on housing measures or candidates prioritizing it.

Voters with Disabilities

The Elections Division has a long-standing commitment to increasing accessibility to the democratic process. We accept, respect and include people of all abilities. A Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee was formed in 2015 (in cooperation with the San Mateo County Commission on Disabilities) with members representing agencies and organizations on matters affecting individuals with disabilities across San Mateo County.

County data shows that 4.3% of our population¹¹ under the age of 65 have a disability. This percentage rate jumps to nearly 30% for the population over 65.

Our toll-free phone number, 888.SMC.VOTE (888.762.8683) and our general email address are listed on a dedicated section of our web page, Assistance for Voters with Disabilities, to answer questions or facilitate scheduling an appointment. Our staff have been trained in working with a Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) call, which allows people with hearing or speech disabilities to place and receive telephone calls.

Voters with disabilities have many accessible voting options in San Mateo County. The Election Division website, www.smcacre.org includes details on the voting options available for people with disabilities, including Ballot Marking Tablets, both at a Vote Center and at home, curbside voting, home ballot delivery, the Remote Accessible Vote by Mail (RAVBM) System or transportation to a Vote Center if needed.

¹⁰ California’s New Motor Voter Law: What has been the reform’s impact on the make-up of the state’s registered electorate?, April 27, 2023. Center for Inclusive Democracy, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy.

¹¹ 765,417 residents per 2020 U.S. Census

Every voter will receive a Vote by Mail ballot in the mail beginning 29 days before Election Day. Information to request a replacement ballot is provided with the ballot, in the Sample Ballot & Official Voter Information Pamphlet and on our [website](#). A request for a replacement ballot must be received no later than seven days prior to Election Day in order for the replacement ballot to be received by the voter in time to vote. To receive a replacement ballot during the week prior to Election Day and on Election Day itself, a voter must go in person or through an authorized representative to a Vote Center to get a replacement ballot or may use the RAVBM system described above.

While all Vote Centers have accessible routes, we realize not all voters will be able to walk from the parking lot into a Vote Center and also there are those who have health or disability related reasons for not entering a vote center, we have a curbside voting option. To facilitate curbside voting, each Vote Center will have an 11" x 17" informational sign saying "Tap button for voting assistance" in four languages. The button activates a bell with a tap or light touch from a vehicle's window. (There is also a phone number on the sign in case there is a problem with the bell.) The VCRs will hear the bell and then provide a clipboard and pen with a check-in form for the voter(s). A voter may ask to provide the information verbally to the VCR to fill-in the form.

Depending on the voter's preference, either two staff or one staff member and the voter's assistant will:

1. Create a Vote by Mail packet-to-go for the voter, which can be mailed, deposited in a Drop Box or brought back to any Vote Center.

2. Bring a paper ballot to the voter inside a secrecy folder and, after the voter has marked their ballot, the team assisting will deposit the voted ballot in a ballot box.

For additional secrecy, a Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) ballot can be issued so the voter can seal their voted ballot inside the envelope and drop it into a ballot box. Staff would need to label the outside of the CVR envelope as a valid ballot with the date and their initials.

If the voter asks to see the ballot deposited directly into the ballot box, staff shall request the Vote Center Lead to send two staff to bring out a sealed ballot box to the car.

If a voter requires a BMT to vote independently, two people (either two staff or one staff member and the voter's assistant) can roll a mobile BMT and printer to their vehicle at our 29-Day, 11-Day and up to 11 of our 4-Day Vote Centers. The ballot will be cast following the return instructions above. If there is not a mobile BMT and printer at the Vote Center, an Elections Division field tech team will bring the complete set-up to the center.

Voters with disabilities may also use their personal computer to download and mark their ballot through the RAVBM System throughout the 29-day voting period. To access this service, voters may request a link to the RAVBM ballot through the postcard on the back cover of their Sample Ballot & Official Voter Information Pamphlet. Voters may also access a RAVBM ballot through the My Election Info page on the [Elections Division website](#) or by contacting the Elections Division by phone, email or fax. A link to the voter's ballot will be provided. The ballot is marked on the computer, then printed and mailed to the Elections office.

The Elections Division will share information about the availability of the RAVBM System with its media partners through a press release prior to each election. In addition, we include a link to the video "[Accessible Vote by Mail for Voters with Disabilities](#)," published by Disability Rights California, on www.smcacre.org. The Elections Division will also promote the availability of the RAVBM System through social media platforms and traditional printed materials.

If a replacement Vote by Mail ballot is needed, voters may email the Elections Division at registrar@smcacre.org or print and sign a fillable form at www.smcacre.org. This information will be

provided to the media in a press release; it is also on the instruction sheet sent with the ballot in the Vote by Mail ballot package. Additionally, voters can request a replacement Vote by Mail ballot via the postage-paid postcard included on the back of their Sample Ballot & Official Voter Information Pamphlet.

The Elections Division will hold a voter education workshop prior to each statewide election to increase awareness of the accessible options and increase participation of eligible voters with disabilities. VAAC members will assist in selecting the workshop venue and date. The workshop will include, but not be limited to, education about the VCA voting model, the accessibility of the voting equipment, ballot drop-off information and options for obtaining a RAVBM or a replacement ballot.

All VCRs receive training in disability etiquette and customer service. The principles contained within our disability sensitivity awareness training are to be courteous, offer help and provide the voter the opportunity to clarify the support required.

Through site visits, the Elections Division has confirmed or will confirm that all facilities used as Vote Centers are accessible to voters with disabilities under ADA Title II and in compliance with guidelines set by the California Secretary of State. The VCA's fifteen criteria for Vote Center and Drop Box locations provide for disability access to be beyond minimum requirements, helping with our work on equity and inclusion.

We also check the accessibility of our indoor and outdoor Ballot Drop Box locations, making changes if needed. For example, specific populations, such as older adults, have been particularly vulnerable to COVID. We have been able to accommodate requests for Ballot Drop Boxes specifically for residents of The Sequoias, a Continuing Care Retirement Community in Portola Valley and the Coastsider's Senior Housing in Half Moon Bay.

Voters with Limited English Proficiency

As part of our outreach efforts, the Elections Division will continue to expand outreach to voters who prefer to vote in a language other than English, with assistance from the Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC). Civic Engagement Grants (funded by the Elections Division and awarded through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation) have provided funding to community-based organizations (CBOs) with existing ties to residents with limited English proficiency to work with the Registration & Elections Division on voter education and outreach.

These CBOs have long-established neighborhood ties and are recognized in their community as "trusted messengers." This term could be defined as people community members regard as credible sources of information – credible because they have previously provided accurate information and/or because they understand a community's concerns because they live in the same community or one very similar.

The Elections Division will endeavor to recruit a Spanish-speaking, Chinese-speaking and Filipino-speaking election worker for each Vote Center to provide language assistance. If a Vote Center is in, or within 5 miles of a precinct with other language requirements, the County will attempt to recruit an election worker fluent in the language.

We will invite voters with limited English proficiency to self-identify as needing language access services upon arrival at a Vote Center using, for example, "I speak" cards, translated signs indicating bilingual VCR language skills and name tags that bilingual VCRs wear to indicate the languages they speak. While the use of in-person language assistance is preferred, we continue to explore options for remote assistance. Alternative methods may include calling an Elections Division staff member, a VCR at a different Vote Center or a LAAC member to speak to a voter (each Vote Center will be issued a mobile phone). When we cannot assist someone in this way, we will use the Secretary of State's Focus Language International contracted telephone translation vendor, the County's vendor, Certified Languages International or contact AT&T USA Direct Language Line Services for pay-as-you-go

translation service.

During each statewide election, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus (ALC) conducts a nonpartisan poll monitoring program in several Northern and Central counties. ALC selected individual locations to visit based on factors such as site-specific language requirements, proximity to immigrant and limited English speaking (LEP) communities and anticipated usage among lower-propensity voters and voters with disabilities.

ALC monitors visited 42 Vote Centers in San Mateo County during the November 8, 2022 Statewide General Election. Monitors completed detailed questionnaires, and ALC spent several months analyzing them. The final result is a Poll Observation Report, providing helpful information for each county. ALC reported that their observers found “election officials and poll workers in San Mateo County served voters effectively.”

Though noted as minor issues, ALC found missing required signage at one location and items available only in English and Spanish at two other Vote Centers. All but two vote centers had clear, multilingual signage about facsimile ballots being available. *Note:* A facsimile ballot, available in Burmese, Hindi, Japanese or Korean, is an exact duplicate of an English Official Ballot, except that it is not printed on official ballot paper and cannot be used to cast a vote or be tabulated by machine. A facsimile ballot is used by voters who may need additional language assistance to understand their official ballot that is not printed in their native language. Every Vote Center should have the facsimile ballot binders in a conspicuous location as well as a second binder held by the VCRs.

More pressing to the Elections Division, ALC found that 11 bilingual VCRs (out of 78) were not wearing their badges to indicate the languages they spoke. ALC recommends we remind our VCRs about the language badge and signage requirements as well as emphasize this in the VCR training and procedure manual. Best practices on assisting with limited English proficiency, including tools and translation services available, have been a part of training, and we will further underscore the importance of service to these voters.

ALC also worked with Disability Rights California to develop survey questions on accessibility in 2022. The ALC monitors generally had positive feedback about our Vote Centers but flagged accessibility-related concerns or areas for improvement at a handful of them. These concerns included an elevator that was difficult to operate, doors at another center that were not propped open (required when the door is not equipped with an ADA compliant automatic opener) and a lack of auxiliary aids such as magnifying glasses and signature guides. The Elections Division takes all of ALC’s findings and recommendations seriously, and we will engage in the necessary actions to prevent the same issues in 2024 and beyond.

Required Workshops

The Elections Division seeks opportunities to present voter education for the required languages as stipulated in state and federal guidelines. Under the federal Voting Rights Act, the U.S. Census Bureau identifies the federally required language groups for county jurisdictions based on finding 5% of the voting age citizens speak a single language and are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process. At the time of preparing this plan, these languages are Spanish, Chinese and Filipino in San Mateo County.

California Elections Code section 14201 further requires that counties provide a translated facsimile ballot and related instructions in precincts where 3% or more of the voting-age residents are members of a single-language minority and lack sufficient skills in English to vote without assistance. At the time of preparing this plan, these languages are Korean, Japanese, Hindi and Burmese..

These workshops will be held prior to statewide elections and will provide an opportunity for the County’s language communities to receive information about materials and assistance available in the

specified language, in addition to clarifying the process of the VCA voting model.

For Japanese, Korean, Hindi and Burmese, in 2024, we will pilot a postcard mailing about the Voting Essentials workshop in these languages to all voters who have checked one of these language boxes on their voter registration form. These voters automatically receive a facsimile ballot for each election.

As of May 2023, we have received requests a total of 618 requests for facsimile (or reference) ballots:

Chart 3: Facsimile Ballot Requests

Language	Registered Voters
Burmese	16
Hindi	47
Japanese	154
Korean	401

In addition to voter self-identification of language, we have reviewed demographic data from the U.S. Census and Claritas (a data marketing firm) to determine if there are specific geographic areas where each of the seven languages are predominant. Spanish is widely spoken in parts of several cities along the San Francisco Bay, including East Palo Alto, Redwood City and San Mateo, and on the coast in Half Moon Bay.

Members of our Language Accessibility Advisory Committee have informed us that the local Burmese and Filipino communities can be found in Daly City. Chinese, Hindi, Japanese and Korean speakers can be found throughout the county. Data shows our Asian and Pacific Islander language speakers are found more in north and mid-county. North county communities include Daly City, Brisbane, San Bruno and South San Francisco; mid-peninsula communities include Foster City and Millbrae.

In order to reach potential voters and voters with limited English proficiency, we will advertise the workshops in the appropriate language in newspapers, online and with flyers distributed to businesses, organizations, churches, schools and government offices throughout the county. We will also provide public service announcement scripts to language-appropriate radio and TV stations. The workshops will be virtual meetings unless we have located events or meetings during the period suggested by the Secretary of State for the workshops (January 10, 2024 – February 7, 2024). They will be recorded and posted to our website, smcacre.org.

LAAC members and CBOs will assist in developing content and selecting the dates and locations for the workshops. In addition to the messaging on pages 17- 19 of this Voter Education and Outreach Plan, there will be detailed information on the multilingual assistance available at Vote Centers, including how to obtain and use a facsimile ballot. Finally, we will incorporate strong reasons to vote and information on voting (in the language of the community) as one way to advance inclusion and equity in our communities.

The Elections Division plans to provide at least ten day’s advance notice to any workshop. Upon completing the workshop, attendees, at a minimum, should be aware that they have four choices on how to vote, 29 days to vote and can obtain a facsimile ballot in their language.

Youth

In April 2023, Registration & Elections Division staff contacted all San Mateo County high schools to make them aware of the High School Voter Education Weeks. We also provided social media posts from the Secretary of State for their use.

Staff were invited to Aragon and Terra Nova High Schools to have voter registration tables during the High School Voter Education weeks. Staff also worked with the San Mateo County Youth

Commission's Civic Engagement Committee on voter registration drive planning. One drive was held on May 8 at Menlo-Atherton High School, in conjunction with the school's annual Awareness Week. A second drive was being planned in May at Burlingame High School.

We will continue to contact high schools about the annual April and September High School Voter Education Weeks in the future. We will also continue our popular Student Democracy Program to engage students in the elections process.

Elections Division staff have also made inroads into the local community colleges with the Secretary of State's Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act (SCVEA), which requires each community college and state university campus to:

- Distribute emails to all students with specified voting- and election-related dates,
- Post social media reminders of voter-related dates and
- Designate a Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator to develop an Action Plan.

In March and April 2023, staff met with the:

- Student Senate and SparkPoint, a support service program, at Cañada College,
- Dean of Creative Arts & Social Science, Director of Marketing, Political Science Instructor and the Students Life & Leadership Assistant, College of San Mateo and
- Student Life and Leadership Development team, Skyline College.

We will continue to discuss possible activities to take place throughout 2023 and 2024.

Menlo College, a private college, is not required to develop a Student Civic and Voter Engagement Plan, but the school created one in 2022 and plans to do so again for the 2024 elections.

Unhoused or Housing Unstable Voters

In advance of the June 7, 2022, the Elections Division contacted homeless shelters to provide information about voter registration and the election. A two-person outreach team also drove to several sites where tents and RVs could be found to speak to individuals. This included Pacifica, San Mateo and Redwood City. Voter registration forms and election information were distributed in English and Spanish, with other languages available if needed.

For the November 8, 2022 election, the Elections Division developed a half-sheet flyer providing information on voting without a permanent residential address. The flyer was distributed to homeless shelters and available to CBOs to give out. Additionally, while at a Daly City event, a CBO showed the flyer to a Daly City Police Officer, who asked for several copies because she regularly speaks to unhoused people in her community. Because of this interest, we will contact other local police and sheriff's departments to see if they would like to receive copies of this flyer as well.

In 2023, San Mateo County opened a Navigation Center in Redwood City to provide 240 temporary living spaces for individuals and couples without stable housing. The Elections Division and/or our CBOs look forward to providing voter registration and voting information to these residents.

Sheriff's Office

In March 2023, we provided our Sheriff's Office contact with information on how members of their staff could become confidential voters if a life-threatening circumstance exists to any officer or a member of the officer's family. As confidential voters, their home address would not be available to campaigns, scholarly researchers, journalists or for government purposes. Additionally, we offered to explain the process in person to their staff. We will also provide this information to the Judicial Offices and local police departments.

County Inmates

The Chief Elections Officer and Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder Mark Church will meet with the recently elected Sheriff to provide information on the voting rights of inmates (referred to as the justice-involved or IP for incarcerated person) and our voting outreach program for the inmates. We look forward to working together more closely.

Current Process: Three months in advance of each statewide election, we will confirm that our last Deputy/coordinator will continue to manage registration and voting at the Maguire and Maple Street Correctional Facilities. If there is a new coordinator, this lead time allows us to provide the new representative with training.

Eight weeks prior to the election, we will provide a guide to registering and voting while in custody, updated for each election, in English and Spanish per the coordinator, for distribution. The Deputy/coordinator will post information and make announcements asking inmates if they would like to register and/or vote. Anyone who requests the information will be given a registration form over the following six weeks.

On the close of registration, two weeks prior to Election Day, the Deputy/coordinator will hand-deliver all registration forms to the Registration & Elections Division. We will process all in-county voter registrations and forward any registrations that need to go to another county.

After we confirm an inmate is eligible to vote, we will assemble a package for each voter which will then be given to the Deputy/coordinator for delivery. In addition to the ballot, we provide a State Voter Information Guide, a local Official Sample Ballot & Voter Information Pamphlet and a copy of the Easy Voter Guide from the League of Women Voters of California for each voter. (These three items cannot be provided before the inmate is registered to vote. We need to receive their language preference as well as precinct for ballot and local information pamphlet before providing these documents.) Once an inmate completes his/her ballot, they turn it in for mailing.

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children has contacted the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office about providing voter education and registration in the local facilities. We support this as an option. The Elections Division can also provide registration and election education to inmates in advance of the March 5, 2024 election.

Changes will need to be made to the current inmate voting program if Assembly Bill 544 Voting: county jails (2023-2024 session) is passed. This bill would require the establishment of a polling location at each county jail facility for elections held on or after November 1, 2024.

The Service League, Fixin' San Mateo County, the League of Women Voters and several CBOs have expressed interest in growing the voter base at the jails. Initial ideas include a one-day pop-up voting set-up at Maguire and Maple Street Correctional facilities and/or a ballot box at each for Election Day.

Right to Vote for the Formerly Incarcerated

In the November 3, 2020 election, California voters passed a constitutional amendment to allow people on parole for a felony conviction, or justice-involved, to vote. Proponents of the amendment argued that distinctions between forms of supervision – probation, community supervision and parole – confused otherwise eligible voters. Proponents also referred to the Supreme Court of California's ruling in *People v. Nuckles* (2013), which states that the objective of parole was to "assist in the parolee's transition from imprisonment to discharge and reintegration into society."¹²

¹² 56 CAL. 4TH 601 (CAL. 2013)

Beginning in March 2023, the Secretary of State's office began providing counties with a list of the justice-involved people in their county who have recently been released from prison. In most cases, the list includes their new address. Each county now mails a letter to the formerly incarcerated person informing them that their right to vote has been restored and includes a voter registration form.

The Registration & Elections Division has provided flyers about the state constitutional amendment to the County Probation and the Corrections Divisions, private defenders, the Division of Adult Parole Operations and homeless shelters.

Youth Offenders

The Registration & Elections Division received permission from San Mateo County's Probation Department in April 2023 to provide an educational session on voter registration and voting to the girls in the Camp Kemp program, a specialized unit in the Youth Services Center, in May 2023.

Our Camp Kemp contact has also helped us to find an appropriate contact who can provide permission to do the same for the boys and girls at the Youth Services Center.

Advisory Committees

The Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) members have provided valuable input while testing voting equipment and determining what ADA upgrades the Elections Division needs to make to its office. The Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) provides expertise and advice on language accessibility by voters with limited English proficiency.

A third committee, the Voter Education and Outreach Advisory Committee (VEOAC), formed almost organically in 2018. Representatives from several non-partisan organizations, such as the League of Women Voters, San Francisco Peninsula People Power and Thrive Alliance of Non-Profits for San Mateo County, already met informally to plan outreach for upcoming elections. The Elections Division partnered with these representatives to form the VEOAC as a more formal setting for these groups and others to offer their expertise in community outreach.

One of the VEOAC's major contributions came during the 2020 presidential elections, as we faced several challenges with education and outreach resulting from the emerging COVID-19 pandemic. The VEOAC recommended contracting with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation to leverage the use of public grants, funded by the County, to contract with CBOs as trusted messengers to deliver election materials and information to hard-to-reach communities.

In February 2022, the Elections Division was recognized by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors with the County's Diversity and Inclusion Award for establishing citizen advisory committees whose primary goal is to substantially increase voter participation and engagement amongst communities that traditionally have experienced low voter turnout in local, state and federal elections.

The Elections Division has given more than \$600,000 in grants to more than 50 CBOs for five elections between 2020 and 2023. The division has included a funding request in the 2023-2024 budget meetings with the County Executive and the BOS to continue to fund grants for CBOs for the 2024 elections.

Advisory Committee Members

Additional members of the community and representatives from more CBOs need to join our advisory committees and attend the meetings to further expand voter education and outreach.

The Elections Division is reviewing a model used by the County's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) Department to provide greater community participation. In 2006, BHRS created a policy (06-02) to provide a stipend to consumers/clients and family members who participate in BHRS

committees, consultations, focus groups, program review and hiring panels. This policy allowed BHRS to seek out the involvement of the greatest possible number of culturally diverse participants to contribute to the planning, development, provision and evaluation of client services.

The County's Community Engagement Committee "Best Practices for Community Engagement" includes information on community compensation, which states that "compensation plays a crucial role in engagement efforts to cultivate meaningful participation. It not only recognizes the value of lived experience, but also the limited time and resources of marginalized communities."

Engaging the community, specifically those most impacted by inequities, is critical to ensuring equity in the future.

Staff Recruitment

The Elections Division sees a great need for outreach to meet our staffing goals for future elections. Supervisors met with the County Human Resources Talent Acquisition team (HR) in January 2023 to begin drafting an action plan for the recruitment of temporary staff.

The plan integrates the County's best practices for inclusive hiring. Best practices include the addition of job postings translated into Spanish, Chinese and Filipino to encourage diverse candidates, posting jobs on diverse recruitment sites and adding an equity interview question. It is important that the people we hire bring cultural awareness to their jobs.

We plan to hire approximately 350 temporary staff and bring on 115 volunteers for the 2024 elections. We expect to reduce these numbers by 35% for midterm elections in 2026. The County has a standing agreement with Robert Half Talent Solutions for temporary staff as a back-up support system.

The Elections Division has long strived for a diverse staff to support the need for bilingual staff members in several languages, both at an expected 47 to 50 Vote Centers (including one- and two-day pop-ups and the mobile Vote Center) and as part of the phone bank. Additionally, proofreaders are needed for Spanish, Chinese and Filipino election materials.

Our Vote Center unit has stayed in communication with staff from the November 2022 election who expressed interest in working in 2024. By continually engaging these former staff members, we expect to re-hire up to 80 Vote Center Leads and VCRs.

The first jobs for the 2024 elections opened for applications in mid-June 2023. HR will be using social media in addition to County job website listings at jobs.smcgov.org/all-jobs to spread awareness of open positions. The Elections Division is reviewing other options, including Trabajos, a large Spanish-English language job board. Trabajos postings will automatically be posted to many other job sites, including Indeed, ZipRecruiter, Google for jobs and Facebook.

Jobs openings are shared with all members of the citizen advisory committees and organizations that have previously received grants. The job openings will be distributed to career centers at the three County community colleges. We will provide public service announcement scripts to radio and TV stations. Staff also plan to have a table at several Farmers' Markets to meet potential employees.

We are also reviewing our direct contact postcards to voters to see if we can include a brief message on election job opportunities on them. The San Mateo County Employees' Retirement Association (SamCERA) has approximately 3,200 members living in the county and nearby counties. We have received permission to send postcards to this group about our job opportunities.

HR arranged for Elections unit leads to observe a virtual hiring event for the Library System in March 2023. This model will be very helpful for the Vote by Mail unit to evaluate and hire staff quickly

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— SAN MATEO COUNTY —
CALIFORNIA VOTER'S CHOICE ACT

APPENDIX



OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS DIVISION

40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402

phone 650.312.5222 **fax** 650.312.5348

email registrar@smcacre.org **web** www.smcacre.org

  @smcvote

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— SAN MATEO COUNTY —
CALIFORNIA VOTER'S CHOICE ACT

**PROPOSED VOTE CENTER
AND
BALLOT DROP BOX
LOCATIONS**



OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

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Proposed Vote Center Locations

Open 29 Days before Election through Election Day

Redwood City	Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder
San Mateo	County Registration & Elections Division
South San Francisco	Main Library (New building expected to be completed)

Open 10 Days before Election through Election Day

Burlingame	Community Center
Daly City	Pacelli Event Center
East Palo Alto	Lewis and Joan Platt East Palo Alto Family YMCA
Half Moon Bay	Library
Pacifica	St. Peter's Church
San Carlos	Library

Open 3 Days before Election through Election Day

Atherton	Menlo College
Belmont	City Hall
Belmont	Notre Dame de Namur University
Brisbane	City Hall
Burlingame	St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Colma	Town Hall
Daly City	Bayshore Community Center
Daly City	Gellert Park Clubhouse
Daly City	Lincoln Park Community Center
Daly City	War Memorial Community Center
Foster City	Community Center
Foster City	William E. Walker Recreation Center
Hillsborough	Town Hall
Menlo Park	Arrillaga Family Recreation Center
Menlo Park	Belle Haven Library
Millbrae	Community Center
Moss Beach	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Pacifica	True Jesus Church
Portola Valley	Portola Valley Town Center
Redwood City	American Legion Post 105
Redwood City	City Hall
Redwood City	Community Activities Building
Redwood Shores	County Office of Education
San Bruno	City Hall
San Bruno	Courtyard by Marriott
San Carlos	Mahany Hall
San Mateo	Beresford Recreation Center
San Mateo	County Health Department Administration
San Mateo	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center
San Mateo	Expo Center
San Mateo	Main Library
South San Francisco	Alice Peña Bulos Community Center
South San Francisco	Municipal Services Building
Woodside	Woodside Village Church
Mobile Vote Center	Tanforan or Serramonte Shopping Center; Hillsdale Shopping Center
Pop-up Voting Service:	La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District and La Honda Fire Brigade

Proposed Ballot Drop Box Locations

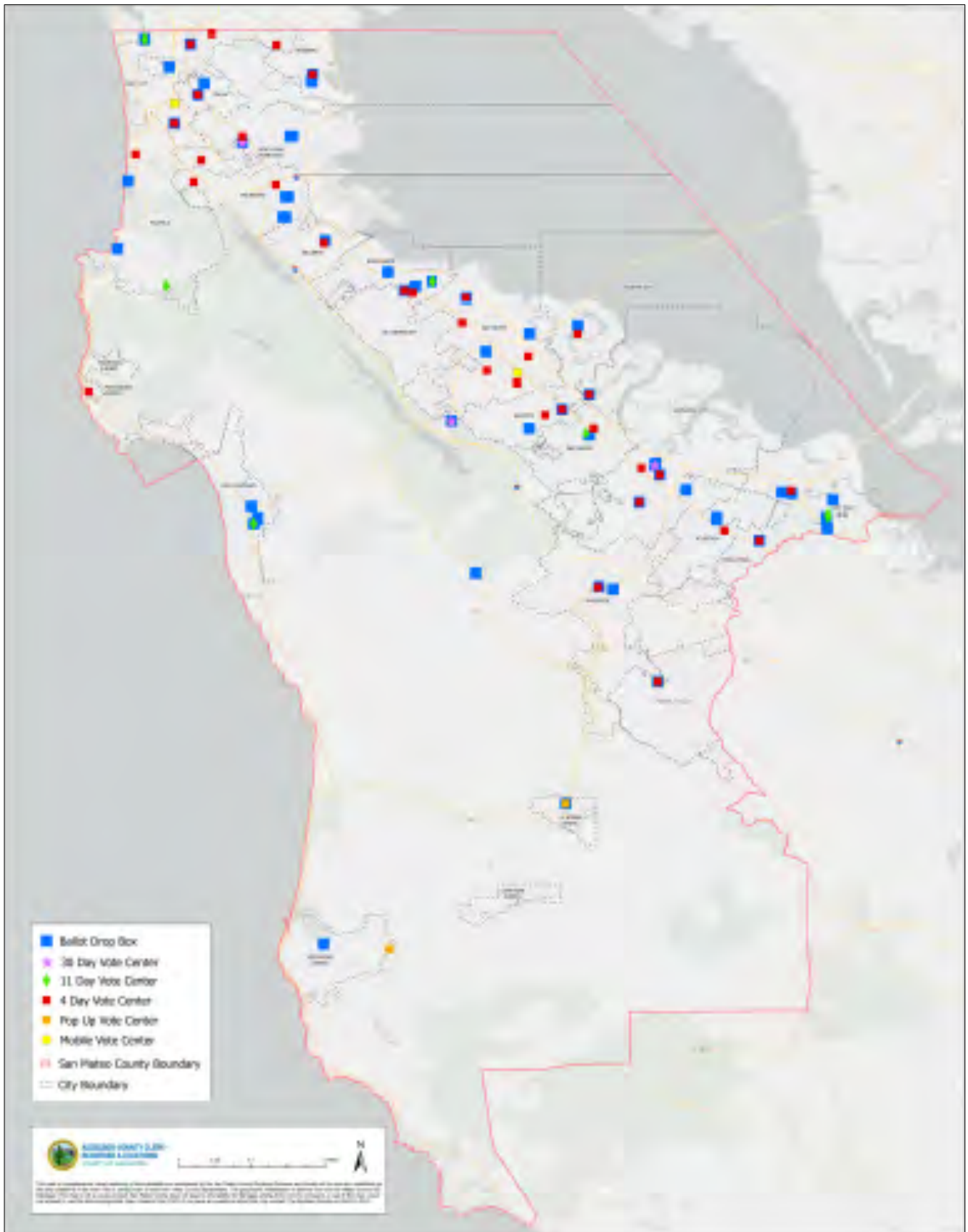
Atherton	Town Hall	80 Fair Oaks Lane
Belmont (outside)	City Hall	One Twin Pines Lane
Belmont (outside)	Library	1110 Alameda de las Pulgas
Brisbane	City Hall	50 Park Place
Burlingame	City Hall	501 Primrose Road
Burlingame (outside)	Community Center	850 Burlingame Avenue
Burlingame (outside)	Broadway and Chula Vista Avenues	1160 Broadway Avenue
Colma (outside)	Town Hall	1198 El Camino Real
Colma (outside)	Community Center	1520 Hillside Boulevard
Daly City (outside)	City Hall	333 90th Street
Daly City	Library	40 Wembly Drive
Daly City (outside)	Pacelli Event Center	145 Lake Merced Boulevard
Daly City (outside)	John Daly Library	134 Hillside Boulevard
East Palo Alto (outside)	City Hall	2415 University Avenue
East Palo Alto	Ravenswood School District	2120 Euclid Avenue
East Palo Alto	University Circle	1900 University Avenue
Foster City (outside)	City Hall	610 Foster City Boulevard
Half Moon Bay (outside)	City Hall	501 Main Street
Half Moon Bay	Library	620 Correas Street
Half Moon Bay	New Leaf Community Market	150 San Mateo Road
Hillsborough (outside)	Town Hall	1600 Floribunda Avenue
La Honda (outside)	Fire Brigade	8945 La Honda Road
Menlo Park (outside)	Boys & Girls Club	401 Pierce Road
Menlo Park (outside)	Belle Haven Child Development Center	410 Ivy Drive
Menlo Park (outside)	City Hall	701 Laurel Street
Millbrae (outside)	City Hall	621 Magnolia Avenue
Pacifica (outside)	Community Center	540 Crespi Drive
Pacifica (outside)	Council Chambers	2212 Beach Boulevard
Pescadero (outside)	Cal Fire Station 59	1200 Pescadero Creek Road
Portola Valley (outside)	Town Center	765 Portola Road
Redwood City (outside)	Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder	Middlefield Road (at Bradford Street)
Redwood City	Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder	555 County Center, 1st Floor
Redwood City (outside)	City Hall	1017 Middlefield Road
Redwood City (outside)	Community Activities Building	1400 Roosevelt Avenue
Redwood City	County Office of Education	101 Twin Dolphin Drive
Redwood City (outside)	County Government - Uncovered Parking Lot	Winslow Street near Brewster Street
Redwood City	North Fair Oaks Library	2510 Middlefield Road

Proposed Ballot Drop Box Locations *continued*

San Bruno (outside)	City Hall	567 El Camino Real
San Bruno (outside)	Senior Center	1555 Crystal Springs Road
San Carlos (outside)	City Hall Dog Park	1401 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos	Library	600 Elm Street
San Mateo (outside)	City Hall	330 West 20th Avenue
San Mateo (outside)	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center	725 Monte Diablo Avenue
San Mateo (outside)	Marina Branch Library	1530 Susan Court
San Mateo (outside)	Registration & Elections Division	40 Tower Road
South San Francisco (outside)	City Hall & City Hall Parking Lot	400 Grand Avenue
South San Francisco (outside)	Main Library	1010 El Camino Real
Woodside	Library	3140 Woodside Road
Woodside (outside)	Town Hall	2955 Woodside Road
Woodside (outside)	Kings Mountain Fire Brigade 56	13889 Skyline Boulevard

Hours for indoor Drop Boxes may follow the locations' normal operating hours, unless the location also serves as a Vote Center, in which case the hours will follow the Vote Center's operating hours.

Vote Center & Ballot Drop Box Locations Map



— SAN MATEO COUNTY —
CALIFORNIA VOTER'S CHOICE ACT

STANDARD
VOTE CENTER LAYOUTS




OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS DIVISION

40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402

phone 650.312.5222 **fax** 650.312.5348









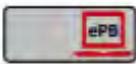
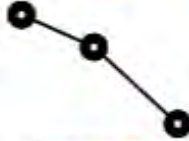
















email registrar@smcacre.org **web** www.smcacre.org

  @smcvote

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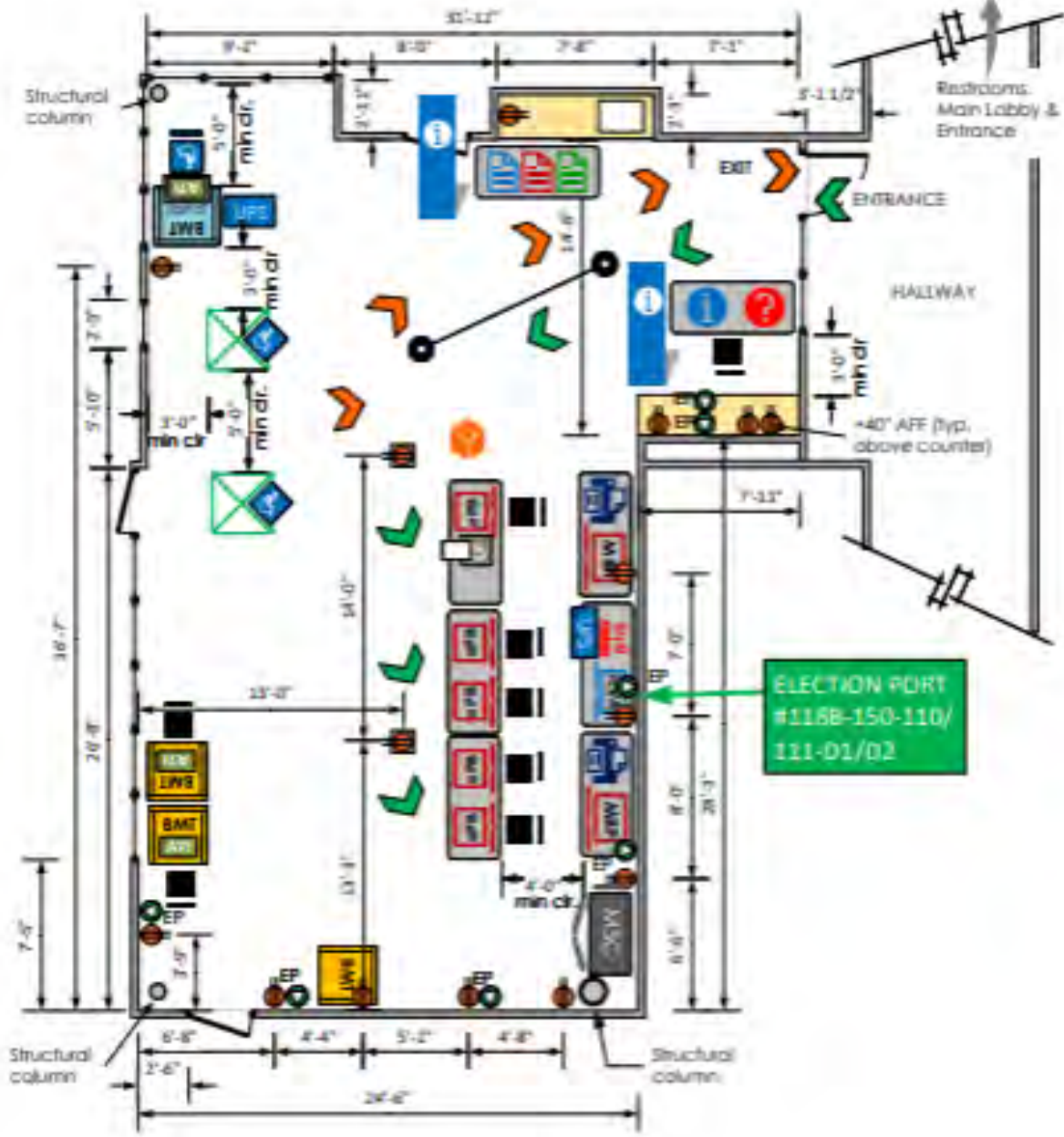
Vote Center Layout Legend

Updated: 4-25-23

	Table 30"x72"		Mobile Supply Cabinet (MSC)
	Black Folding Chair		Indoor or Curbside Dropbox Secured w Red Strap
	ADA Chair		Orange Ballot Box
	Mobile Ballot Printer (MBP) and Laptop Station		Signage Pillar
	ePollbook (ePB) with ePB Printer		Stanchions X2 Minimum Maximum belt length 10 feet
	Label Printer (x1) per set of ePB		Voter Info - Greeting Table
	Image Cast Voter Activation (ICVA) Laptop with Cradlepoint and Universal Power Supply (UPS)- under table for Cradlepoint		Language Table
	Paper Booth (PB) / PB ADA and Black Chair		Ethernet Port Wall and Floor Outlet
	Multi-Paper Voting Booth		Duplex / Quadplex Wall Outlet
	Ballot Marking Tablet (BMT) and Booth / with ATI and Black or ADA Chair		Duplex / Quadplex Floor Outlet
	ADA BMT Booth and ADA Curbside Mobile Cart (BMT with ATI, UPS and ADA Chair)		ADA Push Button to Activate Door
			Fire Pull
			Fire Extinguisher
			Fire Ext. Cabinet
			Automatic External Defibrillator

NOTE: KEEP ALL EMERGENCY AND ADA ACCESSIBLE PATHS CLEAR FROM OBSTRUCTION

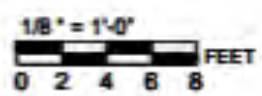
Standard Vote Center Layout - Small



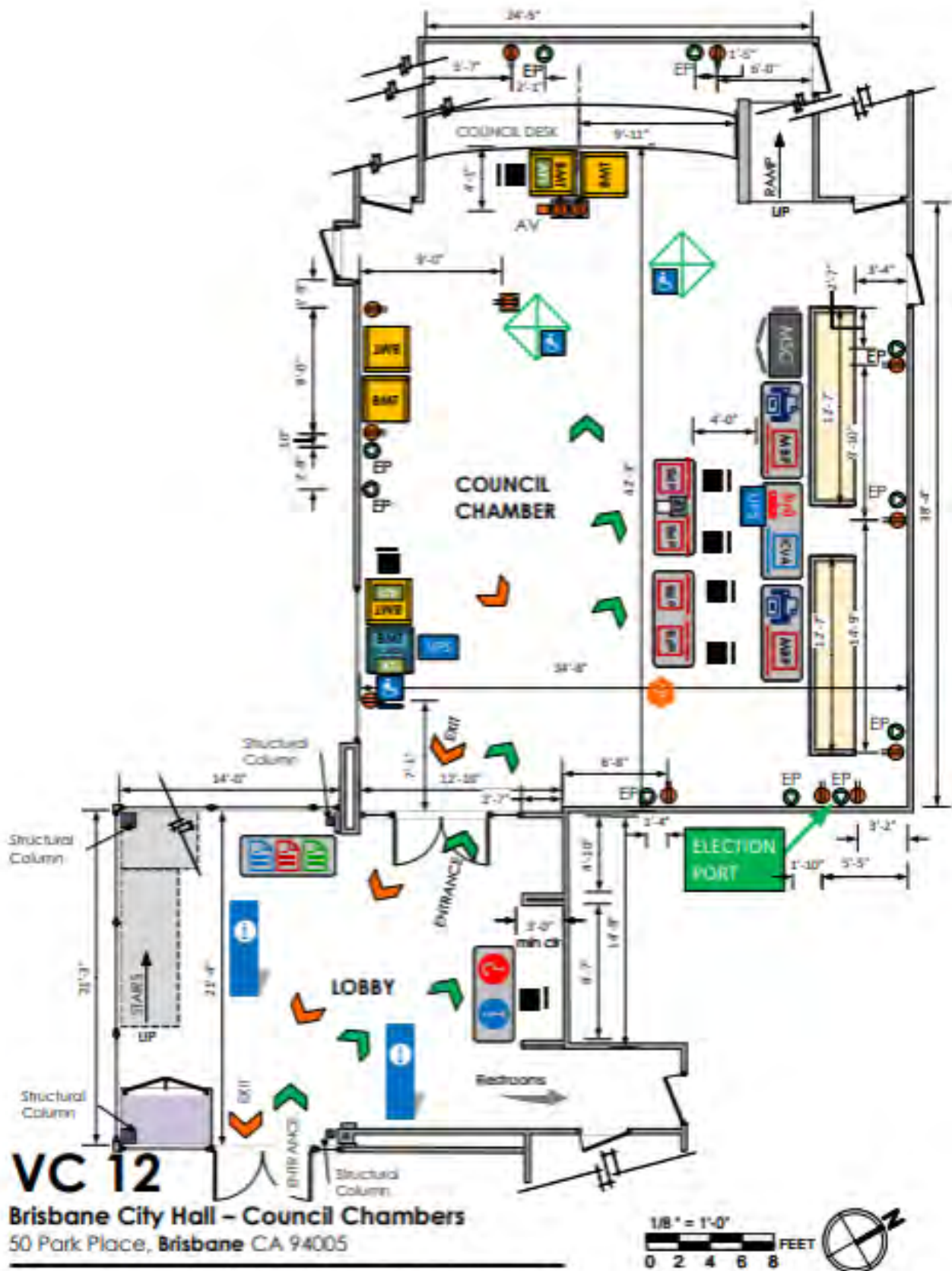
VC 04

Burlingame Community Center – Steam Lab
 850 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame CA 94010

© 8-24-22 (2N) / Updates: 10-19-22 (RFM) (ROOM: 1184 sqft)
 Rep: © 2023 GENERAL ELECTRIC



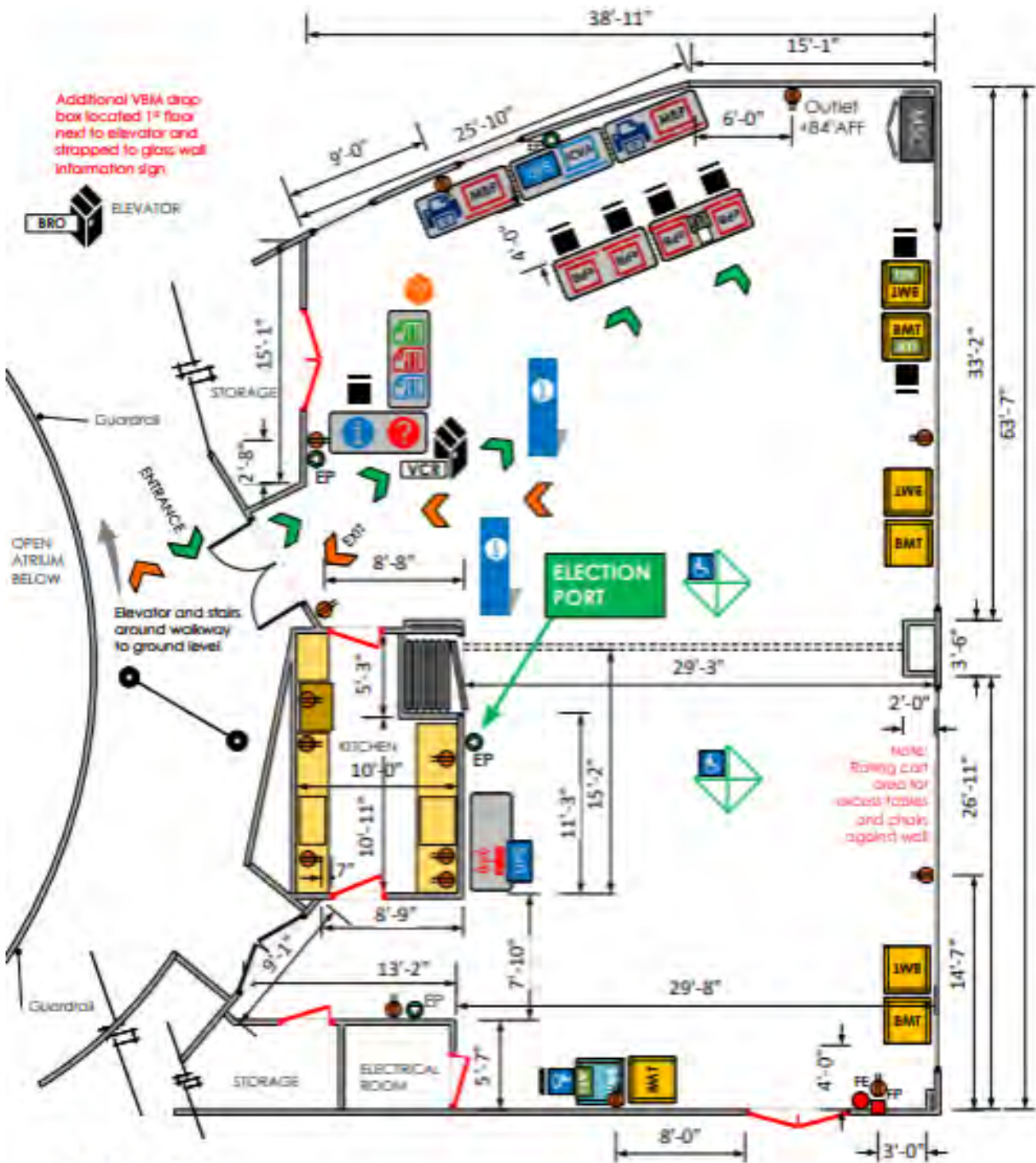
Standard Vote Center Layout - Medium



VC 12
Brisbane City Hall - Council Chambers
 50 Park Place, Brisbane CA 94005

© 7-14-22 (RFM) / Updates: 10-13-22 (RFM) (SOB: sjs vgl) (WOC: ... vgl)
 Rev. 8 2022 STANDARD SOLUTIONS

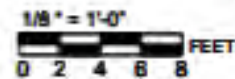
Standard Vote Center Layout - Large



VC 09

San Carlos Library – Community Room
 610 Elm Street, San Carlos CA 94070

© 6-17-22 RFM / Updates: 1-20-23 RFM
 Nov. 8, 2022 GENERAL ELECTION



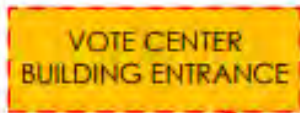
Vote Center Site Layout Legend

© 2-21-23 / Updated: 5-4-23



Feather Flag with spike base or "X" stand with circular sandbag(s)
"Vote Here" or "Vote Here Today"

"Ballot Drop Box Here"
(Serviced by BRO)



Vote Center Building Entrance



A-Frame Directional Sign
"Vote Here"



Permanent Outdoor Drop Box



Indoor Drop Box
(Serviced by BRO)



Vote Center Curbside Drop Box with canopy, "Ballot Drop Box Here" hanging banner and (x2) chairs
(Serviced by VCR)



ADA Accessible Parking Sign
(Location TBD per approval)



"NO ELECTIONEERING" Sign and Cone

(100 feet from VC Entrance and/or Drop Box)



ADA Curbside Doorbell with circular sandbag



Same as above with available ADA Curbside Cart



"NO ELECTIONEERING" Zone

Within the immediate vicinity of a person in line to cast their ballot or within 100 feet of the entrance of a polling place, curbside voting or drop box.

Zone area to be verified by VCR

NOTE: KEEP ALL EMERGENCY AND ADA ACCESSIBLE PATHS CLEAR FROM OBSTRUCTION

Vote Center Site Layout - Small



VC

Burlingame Community Center – Steam Lab
 850 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame CA 94010

© 02-22-23 RFM / Updates: 5-1-23 RFM

Election

NOTE: KEEP ALL EMERGENCY AND ADA ACCESSIBLE PATHS CLEAR FROM OBSTRUCTION



NO ELECTIONEERING
 100'-00"

Within the immediate vicinity of a person in line to cast their ballot or within 100 feet of the entrance of a polling place, curbside voting or drop box.

Vote Center Site Layout - Medium



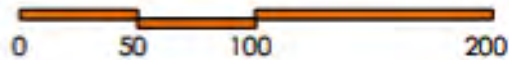
VC

Brisbane City Hall – Council Chambers
 50 Park Place, Brisbane CA 94005

© 3-13-23 RFM / Updates: 4-25-23

Election

NOTE: KEEP ALL EMERGENCY AND ADA ACCESSIBLE PATHS CLEAR FROM OBSTRUCTION

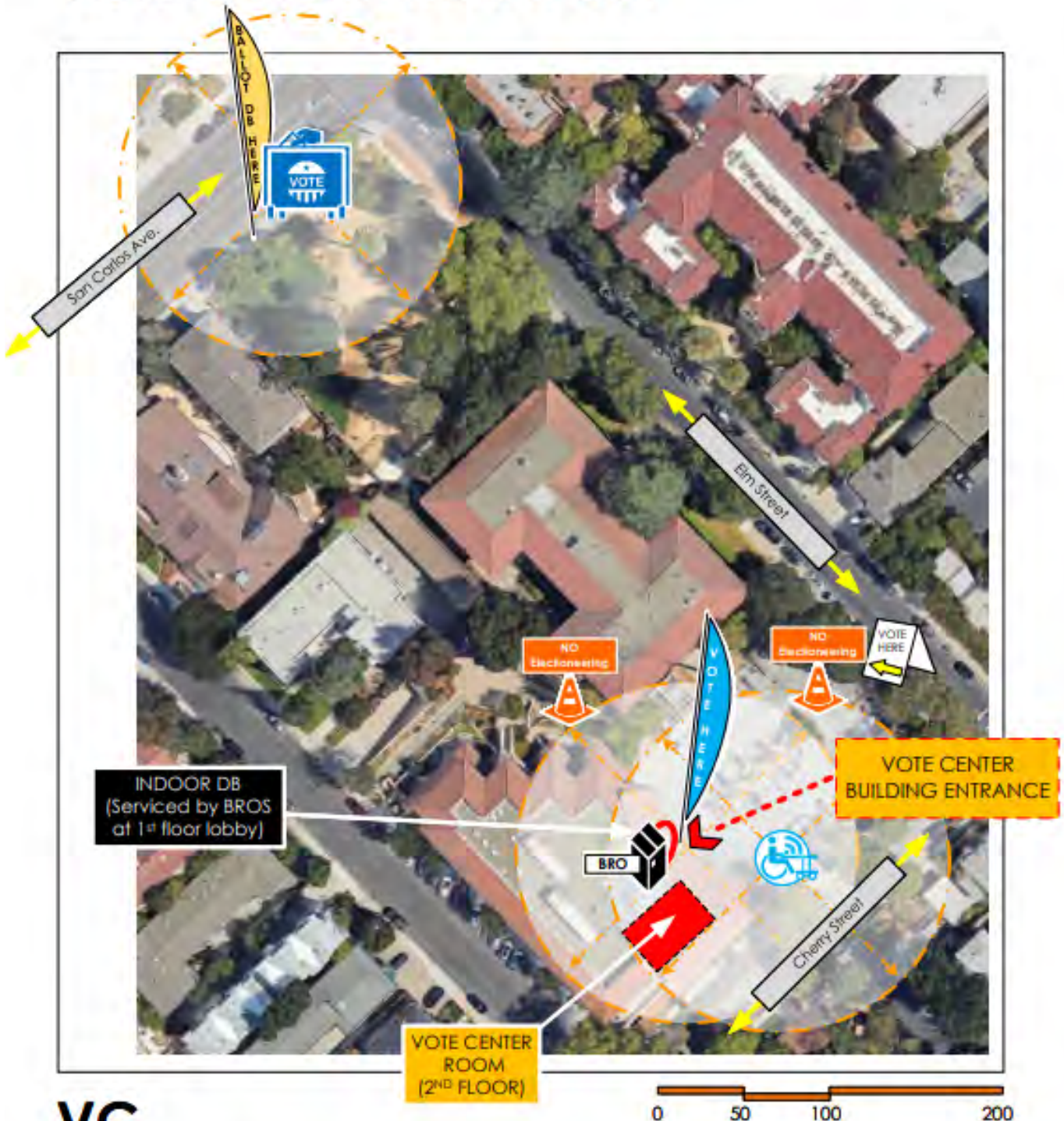


NO ELECTIONEERING

100'-00"

Within the immediate vicinity of a person in line to cast their ballot or within 100 feet of the entrance of a polling place, curbside voting or drop box.

Vote Center Site Layout - Large



VC

San Carlos Library – Community Room
 610 Elm Street, San Carlos CA 94070

© 3-9-23 RFM / Updates: 5-18-23 RFM

March 05, 2024 Presidential Primary Election

NOTE: KEEP ALL EMERGENCY AND ADA ACCESSIBLE PATHS CLEAR FROM OBSTRUCTION

NO ELECTIONEERING
100'-00"
 Within the immediate vicinity of a person in line to cast their ballot or within 100 feet of the entrance of a polling place, curbside voting or drop box.

— SAN MATEO COUNTY —
CALIFORNIA VOTER'S CHOICE ACT

ADVISORY COMMITTEES



OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS DIVISION

40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402

phone 650.312.5222 **fax** 650.312.5348

email registrar@smcacre.org **web** www.smcacre.org

  @smcvote

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OFFICE OF
**ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-
RECORDER & ELECTIONS**
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER &
ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

San Mateo County Registration & Elections Division established a Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) to advise, assist, and provide recommendations to the Chief Elections Officer regarding the implementation of federal and state laws relating to access to the electoral process by older adults and persons with disabilities. It is the mission of the VAAC to ensure that all persons can vote independently and privately.

Meetings are open to the public. Information is posted on our Events calendar at www.smcacre.org. If you are interested in becoming a member of the committee, please contact the Registration & Elections Division.

Language Accessibility Advisory Committee

The San Mateo County Chief Elections Officer established the Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) to advise and assist the Chief Elections Officer on matters relating to language accessibility to the electoral process by voters with limited English proficiency. It is the mission of the LAAC to assist the Chief Elections Officer to enhance language accessibility opportunities and compliance with all federal, state, and local laws.

Voter Education & Outreach Advisory Committee

The San Mateo County Chief Elections Officer established the Voter Education and Outreach Advisory Committee (VEOAC) to advise and assist on matters relating to voter education and outreach for the June 5, 2018 Direct Primary Election and the November 6, 2018 General Election. It is the mission of VEOAC to assist the Chief Elections Officer in enhancing education and outreach opportunities and compliance with all federal, state and local laws. All San Mateo County voters and organizations working on behalf of San Mateo County residents are welcome.

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— SAN MATEO COUNTY —
CALIFORNIA VOTER'S CHOICE ACT

CITY ELECTION
OFFICIALS



OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS DIVISION

40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402

phone 650.312.5222 **fax** 650.312.5348

email registrar@smcacre.org **web** www.smcacre.org

  @smcvote

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City Election Officials

Atherton

Mr. Anthony Suber
91 Ashfield Road
Atherton, CA 94027
650.752.0529
asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us

Brisbane

Ms. Ingrid Padilla
50 Park Place
Brisbane, CA 94005
415.508.2113
cityclerk@ci.brisbane.ca.us

Colma

Ms. Caitlin Corley
1198 El Camino Real
Colma, CA 94014
650.997.8311
caitlin.corley@colma.ca.gov

East Palo Alto

Mr. James Colin
2415 University Avenue
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
650.853.3118
jcolin@cityofepa.org

Half Moon Bay

Ms. Jessica Blair
501 Main Street
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
650.726.8271
jblair@hmbcity.com

Menlo Park

Ms. Judi Herren
701 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025
650.330.6621
jaherren@menlopark.org

Pacifica

Ms. Sarah Coffey
540 Crespi Drive
Pacifica, CA 94044
650.738.7307
coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us

Belmont

Ms. Jozi Plut
One Twin Pines Lane, Suite 375
Belmont, CA 94002
650.595.7414
jplut@belmont.gov

Burlingame

Ms. Meaghan Hassel-Shearer
501 Primrose Road
Burlingame, CA 94010
650.558.7203
mhasselshearer@burlingame.org

Daly City

Hon. Annette Hipona
333 90th Street
Daly City, CA 94015
650.991.8078
ahipona@dalycity.org

Foster City

Ms. Priscilla Schaus
610 Foster City Boulevard
Foster City, CA 94404
650.286.3253
clerk@fostercity.org

Hillsborough

Ms. Lisa Natusch
1600 Floribunda Avenue
Hillsborough, CA 94010
650.375.7412
lnatusch@hillsborough.net

Millbrae

Ms. Elaine Tran
621 Magnolia Avenue
Millbrae, CA 94030
650.259.2414
etran@ci.millbrae.ca.us

Portola Valley

Ms. Jennifer Torres
765 Portola Road
Portola Valley, CA 94028
jtorres@portolavalley.net

Redwood City

Ms. Yessika Dominguez, Assistant City Clerk
1017 Middlefield Road
Redwood City, CA 94063
650.780.7220
paguilar@redwoodcity.org

San Carlos

Ms. Crystal Mui
600 Elm Street
San Carlos, CA 94070
650.802.4222
cmui@cityofsancarlos.org

South San Francisco

Hon. Govea Acosta
400 Grand Avenue
P.O. Box 711
South San Francisco, CA 94083
650.877.8518
rosa.acosta@ssf.net

San Bruno

Ms. Lupita Huerta
567 El Camino Real
San Bruno, CA 94066
650.616.7070
cityclerksoffice@sanbruno.ca.gov

San Mateo

Ms. Patrice Olds
330 West 20th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403
650.522.7042
polds@cityofsanmateo.org

Woodside

Ms. Jennifer Li
2955 Woodside Road
P.O. Box 620005
Woodside, CA 94062
650.851.6790
jli@woodsidetown.org

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— SAN MATEO COUNTY —
CALIFORNIA VOTER'S CHOICE ACT

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS DIVISION

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  @smcvote

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If you would like to be partner with the Registration & Elections Division, please contact us at 650.312.5222 or email registrar@smcacre.org.

Community Partners Supervisory District 1

AbilityPath (formerly Gatepath)

American Association of University Women (AAUW) - North Peninsula

Boys & Girls Clubs North San Mateo County

Burlingame Chamber of Commerce

CALL Primrose

Community Learning Center

El Concilio of San Mateo County

The Latino Commission

Generation Voter

Millbrae Chamber of Commerce

Millbrae Community Center

Millbrae Library

National Diversity Coalition

PARCA

San Bruno Chamber of Commerce

San Bruno Senior Center

San Mateo County Republican Party

South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

South San Francisco Community Learning Center

Community Partners Supervisory District 2

American Association of University Women (AAUW) - San Mateo

Belmont Chamber of Commerce

Belmont Library

Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities

Challenge School, Mandarin Bilingual

College of San Mateo Disability Resource Center (DRC)

CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse)

CSM Democrats

CSM Republicans

Foster City Chamber of Commerce

Foster City Library

Foster City Parks and Recreation Department: Senior Wing

Fred Finch Youth & Family Services

Human Investment Project, Inc. (HIP)

JACL: San Mateo Japanese American Community Center

League of Women Voters North and Central San Mateo County

Mid-Peninsula Boys & Girls Club, Inc.

NAACP San Mateo Branch #1068

NAMI San Mateo County

Newcomers' Club of San Mateo County

North Peninsula Mandarin School

Organization of Chinese Americans San Mateo

Peninsula Bridge

Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center

Community Partners

Supervisory District 2 (continued)

Peninsula Jewish Community Center

St. James A.M.E. Zion Church

Samaritan House

San Mateo Adult School

San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce

San Mateo Buddhist Temple

San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee

San Mateo County Green Party

San Mateo County Health System, Aging and Adult Services

San Mateo County Libertarian Party

San Mateo County Union Community Alliance

San Mateo Elks Veterans Committee

Self-Help for the Elderly

Taulama for Tongans

Twin Pines Senior Center

Community Partners Supervisory District 3

Ayudando Latinos A Soñar (or ALAS)
American Association of University Women - Half Moon Bay
American Association of University Women (AAUW) - Mid-Peninsula
American Association of University Women (AAUW) – Pacifica
Atherton Library
Boys & Girls Clubs – Coastside
Coastside Adult Day Health Center
Coastside Child Development Center
Coastside Hope & Moonridge Learning Center
Indivisible Coastside
Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce
Half Moon Bay Library
Healthy Cities Tutoring
La Costa Adult School
La Honda Indivisible
League of Women Voters- South SMC
Multicultural Services and Community Involvement, Menlo College
Pacifica Chamber of Commerce
Pacifica Resource Center
Pacifica School Volunteers
Pacifica Senior Services
Pacifians Care
Pacifica-Sanchez Library
Pacifica-Sharp Park Library

Community Partners Supervisory District 3 (continued)

Paratransit Coordinating Council

Peninsula Outreach Program

Peninsula Volunteers, Inc.

Pescadero SURJ

Pie Ranch

Portola Valley Library

Puente/Pescadero Office

San Carlos Adult Community Center

San Carlos Chamber of Commerce

San Carlos Library

San Carlos Together, Inc.

San Mateo County Democratic Party

Second Harvest Food Bank

Senior Coastsiders: Senior Center

South Coast Childrens' Services, Inc.

StarVista

Woodside Library

Community Partners Supervisory District 4

American Association of University Women - Menlo Atherton

Belle Haven Action

Boys & Girls Clubs - Peninsula

Canada College Disability Resource Center

Center for Excellence in Nonprofits

Child Care Coordinating Council

Commission on the Status Women

Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto

Compass High School

David E. Lewis Community Reentry Center

East Palo Alto Community Alliance and Neighborhood

East Palo Alto Library

East Palo Alto Senior Center

Fair Oaks Adult Activity Center

Fair Oaks Community Center

Fair Oaks Community Center - Hispanic Community

Fair Oaks Health Center

International Institute of the Bay Area

JobTrain

Kainos Home and Training Center, Inc.

Latino Leadership Council

Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County

Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce

Menlo Park Senior Center

Mental Health Association of San Mateo County

Community Partners Supervisory District 4 (continued)

My New Red Shoes

Nuestra Casa

One East Palo Alto Neighborhood Improvement Initiative

One New Heartbeat, Inc.

Palo Alto VA Medical Center (Menlo Park)

Peninsula Family Service:

Fair Oaks Adult Activity Center

Peninsula Vet Center

Ravenswood Family Health Network

Redwood City Veterans Memorial Senior Center

Redwood City Chamber of Commerce

Rosalie Rendu Center

Saint Francis Center

Sequoia Adult School

Service League of San Mateo County

SparkPoint at Canada College

SV Links

Thrive Alliance

WeVote Redwood City

Community Partners Supervisory District 5

ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.
Black Student Union, Skyline College
Skyline College
Brisbane Chamber of Commerce
Brisbane Library
Brisbane Village Helping Hands
Daly City Community Service Center
Daly City Partnership
Daly City Public Library Associates
Daly City Youth Health Center
Daly City-Colma Chamber of Commerce
Doelger Senior Center
Filipino-American Democratic Club – San Mateo County
Jefferson Adult Education
Kababayan Learning Community at Skyline College
Lincoln Park Community Center
Liwanag Kultural Center
Migrante - N. San Mateo County
National Asian American Coalition
North Peninsula Food Pantry & Dining Center of Daly City
Pilipino Bayanihan Resource Center
Skyline College EOPS & CARE
South San Francisco Adult School
SparkPoint at Skyline College
VA Outpatient Clinic

Community Partners Throughout County/Out of County

ACLU Mid-Peninsula Chapter (SF office address)

ACLU North Peninsula Chapter (SF office address)

All of Us or None (Legal Services for Prisoners with Children)

American Muslim Fund

APAPA Peninsula Chapter

Asian Law Caucus

Building Skills Partnership

Center for Inclusive Democracy (formerly California Civic Engagement Project)

Council on American-Islamic Relations

Disability Rights California

Filipino American Democratic Caucus

Filipino Community Center

Fixin' San Mateo County

Goodwill SF/SMC/Marin Corporate Offices

Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired

MapLight

Northern California NIAC

One Myanmar Community

Peace and Freedom Party

Peninsula Clergy Network

Recovery Survival Network

Rural California Public Broadcasting

San Francisco Independent Living Resource Center

San Francisco Peninsula People Power

Senior Center Without Walls

Community Partners
Throughout County/Out of County (continued)

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

SIREN

South Asians for America

State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Together We Will SF Bay Area

Vista Center for the Blind

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— SAN MATEO COUNTY —
CALIFORNIA VOTER'S CHOICE ACT

COMMUNITY EVENTS



OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS DIVISION

40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402

phone 650.312.5222 **fax** 650.312.5348

email registrar@smcacre.org **web** www.smcacre.org

  @smcvote

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If you would like the Registration & Elections Division to attend your event, please contact us at 650.312.5222 or registrar@smcacre.org.

Community Events 2023 - 2024 Calendar

Fall 2023	Various Farmer's Markets – Daly City, Half Moon Bay, Pacifica, others
September 2023	National Voter Registration Day
September 2023	High School Voter Education Weeks
January 2024	Senior Showcase Health Fair, Millbrae
March 2024	District 5 Together Community Event, Daly City
March 2024	Holi Festival, Foster City
March 2024	OYE Annual Latinx Youth Conference, Redwood City
April 2024	New Year Water Festival Thingyan, Half Moon Bay
April 2024	Children's Day/Book Day, San Bruno
May 2024	Community Benefits & Resource Fair, San Mateo
May 2024	Japanese Cemetery Community Clean-Up Day, Colma
May 2024	Shine Festival, Daly City
May 2024	Festa do Santo Cristo dos Milagres, South San Francisco
June 2024	Community Day in the Park, San Bruno
June 2024	Veteran's Resource Fair, San Mateo
June 2024	Pride Initiative, San Mateo
July 4, 2024	4th of July Family Festival, Redwood City
July 2024	Commission on Disabilities Inclusion Festival, Redwood City
August 2024	Community Blockfest, East Palo Alto
August 2024	Obon Festival, San Mateo
September 2024	Immigrant Inclusion Summit, Redwood City
September 2024	Ravenswood Community Health & Wellness Fair, East Palo Alto
September 2024	Autumn Moon Festival, San Mateo
September 2024	Latinx Heritage Month Celebration, Daly City
September 2024	National Voter Registration Day (NVRD)
October 2024	Japanese Culture Festival, Millbrae
October 2024	Transition to Independence Fair, South San Francisco
October 2024	Annual Kasayahan Sa, Daly City
October 2024	Back to School Health Fair, East Palo Alto
October 2024	Citizenship Day, San Mateo and Millbrae

Upcoming Community Events subject to change – view Events calendar at www.smcacre.org

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— SAN MATEO COUNTY —
CALIFORNIA VOTER'S CHOICE ACT

MEDIA PARTNERS



OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS DIVISION

40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402

phone 650.312.5222 **fax** 650.312.5348

email registrar@smcacre.org **web** www.smcacre.org

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Media Partners

Online

Coastside Buzz
Facebook.com/County of San Mateo
Indiawest.com
Instagram.com/smcvote
Pacifica Riptide
Patch News – San Mateo County communities
Redwood City Pulse
SFKorean.com
Twitter.com/smcvote
YouTube – County of San Mateo
YouTube – San Mateo County Registration & Elections Division

Television

ABS-CBN (Filipino)
KEMO (Spanish)
Crossings TV (Cantonese & Mandarin Chinese, Filipino, Japanese and Korean)
Effectv-Comcast (English & Spanish)
TV Japan (Japanese)
KEMS (Korean)
KTSF (Chinese)
Sing Tao (Chinese closed circuit)
Telemundo (Spanish)
Univision (Spanish)

Radio

FilAm Radio (Filipino)
KHMB Radio (English)
KPDO (English)
Radio Sound of Hope (Chinese)
Sing Tao Radio (Chinese)
Univision (KBRG & KSOL; Spanish)
Vake Talifolau (Radio Tonga)

Newspapers

Alianza News (Spanish)
Asian Journal (English/Filipino)
BaySpo (Japanese)
China Press (Chinese)
East Palo Alto Today (English)
El Mensajero (Spanish)
El Observador (Spanish)
El Reportero (Spanish)
Embarcadero Publishing (The Almanac; English)
Filipino American Post (Filipino)
Half Moon Bay Review (English)

Media Partners (continued)

Newspapers (continued)	J Weekly (Japanese)
	Korea Times (Korean)
	La Opinion (Spanish)
	La Raza (Spanish)
	News for Chinese (Chinese)
	Nichi Bei (Japanese)
	Pacifica Tribune (English)
	Philippines News Today (Filipino)
	San Francisco Chronicle (English)
	San Francisco Examiner (English)
	Sing Tao Daily (Chinese)
	Sun Reporter (English)
	The Skyline View (Skyline College; English)
World Journal (Chinese)	
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Digital Television	ABP News (Hindi)
	Television Korea 24 (Also called TVK24)
	Uchannel TV (Chinese)
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Magazine	Climate (English)

— SAN MATEO COUNTY —
CALIFORNIA VOTER'S CHOICE ACT

WEBSITE RESOURCES



OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS DIVISION

40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402

phone 650.312.5222 fax 650.312.5348

email registrar@smcacre.org web www.smcacre.org

  @smcvote

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Your Online Election Resource: www.smcvote.org

MORE DAYS, MORE WAYS TO VOTE



Vote by Mail

Every registered voter will receive a ballot in the mail. You can mail your ballot back in the postage-paid envelope.

[Learn More](#) →



Ballot Drop Box Locations

Drop off your ballot at any of our Ballot Drop Boxes located throughout the County.

[Learn More](#) →



Vote Center Locations

Drop off your ballot or vote at any of our Vote Centers located throughout the County.

[Learn More](#) →



Remote Accessible Vote by Mail System

Mark your ballot and print it from any computer with internet access if you are a registered voter. Mail or take your voted ballot to a Ballot Drop Box or Vote Center.

[Learn More](#) →

Ballots will begin mailing by February 5.

Drop off your voted ballot or vote in person at any of our Vote Centers.

Dates Open	Number of Vote Centers	Business Hours
February 5 to 23	Three Vote Centers in North, Central and South County will be open	Weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
February 24 to March 1	Nine Vote Centers will be open	Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
March 2 to 4	Forty-five Vote Centers will be open	Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
March 5	All forty-five Vote Centers will be open	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

[Election Information](#) →

[Register to Vote](#) →

[My Election Info / Check Voter Registration Status / Get Your Digital Sticker](#) →

[Crossover Voting for No Party Preference Voters](#) →

[Where's My Ballot? / Track My Ballot](#) →

[Find My Vote Center & Ballot Drop Box Locations](#) →

[Sign Up for Go Green!](#) →

[FAQs including Accessible Voting Options / Language Assistance / More](#) →

My Election Info

- Confirm your registration status and political party.
- View/print a PDF and accessible versions of your Sample Ballot & Official Voter Information Pamphlet
- Track and confirm that your Vote by Mail ballot was mailed to you and/or received by our office.
- Get your digital "I Voted" sticker and proudly share on your social media pages. A separate digital sticker will recognize the years you have been registered to vote.

Find My Vote Center & Ballot Drop Box Locations

Find the hours and locations of our Vote Centers and Ballot Drop Boxes.

Election Night & Post Election Results

A button for results will be added to the landing page shortly before Election Day.

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— SAN MATEO COUNTY —
CALIFORNIA VOTER'S CHOICE ACT

**EXAMPLE:
DIRECT VOTER CONTACT
POSTCARDS**



OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS DIVISION

40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402

phone 650.312.5222 **fax** 650.312.5348

email registrar@smcacre.org **web** www.smcacre.org

  @smcvote

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Example: Direct Voter Contact Postcard 1



OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER
REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS DIVISION

November 8, 2022
Statewide General Election

MORE DAYS, MORE WAYS TO VOTE!

Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet

Commencing September 29, 2022, the **Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet** will be mailed to every registered voter in San Mateo County and available online: smcvote.org. The pamphlet provides important information on the **November 8, 2022** Statewide General Election and the many voting options available to voters.

"Where's My Ballot?" enables voters to track their ballots from the moment they are mailed by our office to the time they are returned. Sign up at smcvote.org to receive text alerts, email notifications and updates.



Voting by Mail is Safe, Easy and Convenient. All registered voters will be mailed an **Official Ballot**, with a postage-paid return envelope by October 10, 2022. Return your ballot in the mail, to a Ballot Drop Box or at a Vote Center.



Ballot Drop Box Locations. There will be 50 Ballot Drop Box locations strategically placed throughout the County. View locations at smcvote.org.



Vote Centers. There will be 45 Vote Centers located throughout the County for in-person voting and voter services. For Vote Center locations and hours, visit smcvote.org.



Curbside Ballot Drop-Off will be available at 14 Vote Centers on Election Day, allowing voters to safely deliver their ballots to Vote Centers without leaving their vehicles.



Remote Accessible Vote by Mail (RAVBM) System. Vote using the RAVBM System anywhere you have a **computer, printer and internet connection**. Use your computer to mark your selection, print your ballot and return by Election Day. View instructions at smcvote.org.

SMC-VOTE-2022-001

Visit smcvote.org or   [@smcvote](https://www.instagram.com/smcvote)
Call or Text: 650.312.5222

Postcards sent in English, Spanish, Chinese and Filipino based on voter's language preference selected on their voter registration form.

Example: Direct Voter Contact Postcard 2



OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER
REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS DIVISION

November 8, 2022 Statewide General Election

MORE DAYS, MORE WAYS TO VOTE!

Ballots for the November 8, 2022 Statewide General Election will be mailed to all registered voters by October 10, 2022. Voting by mail is safe, secure and convenient. Voters may vote from the safety and convenience of their homes, vote in person at one of our 45 Vote Centers or use our Remote Accessible Vote by Mail Ballot System. San Mateo County deploys the highest level of voting technology and cybersecurity practices to protect the integrity of elections. For information on new voter services and our extensive volunteer programs, please visit smcvote.org or call **650.312.5222**.

Ways to vote:

 Vote by Mail	 Ballot Drop Off	 Vote in Person	 Remote Accessible Vote by Mail Ballot System
---	--	---	---



October 11 to 28 Three Vote Centers in North, Central and South County will be open weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

October 29 to November 4 Nine Vote Centers will be open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

November 5 to 7 Forty-five Vote Centers will be open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

November 8 All forty-five Vote Centers will be open, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Important: Redistricting: Every 10 years, following each U.S. Census, political districts are redrawn to reflect population and demographic shifts. New district maps can be found on our website, smcvote.org

Visit smcvote.org or   [@smcvote](https://twitter.com/smcvote)
Call or Text: 650.312.5222

Example: Direct Voter Contact Postcard 3



OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER
REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS DIVISION

November 8, 2022 Statewide General Election

There is still time to **return your ballot!** You can mail your ballot in the postage-paid envelope, drop it off at a secure Ballot Drop Box or return it at any Vote Center by 8 p.m. on November 8.

If you choose to return your voted ballot by mail, it must be postmarked by Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, and received no later than November 15, 2022 to be accepted.



Didn't get a ballot? Need a new one? Need to update your address or know someone who needs to register? **Visit a Vote Center or contact our office by phone or email for assistance.**

Vote Centers offer language assistance, accessible voting equipment, curbside voting and other voter services. Forty-five Vote Centers will be open daily from November 5 to November 7 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Election Day, November 8 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sign up to receive automated alerts on the status of your ballot at smcvote.org.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office should you have any questions or need any assistance. We are here to help!

Don't Delay. Vote Today!

Visit smcvote.org or   [@smcvote](https://www.instagram.com/smcvote)
Call or Text: 650.312.5222

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— SAN MATEO COUNTY — CALIFORNIA VOTER'S CHOICE ACT

MAPS



OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS DIVISION

40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402

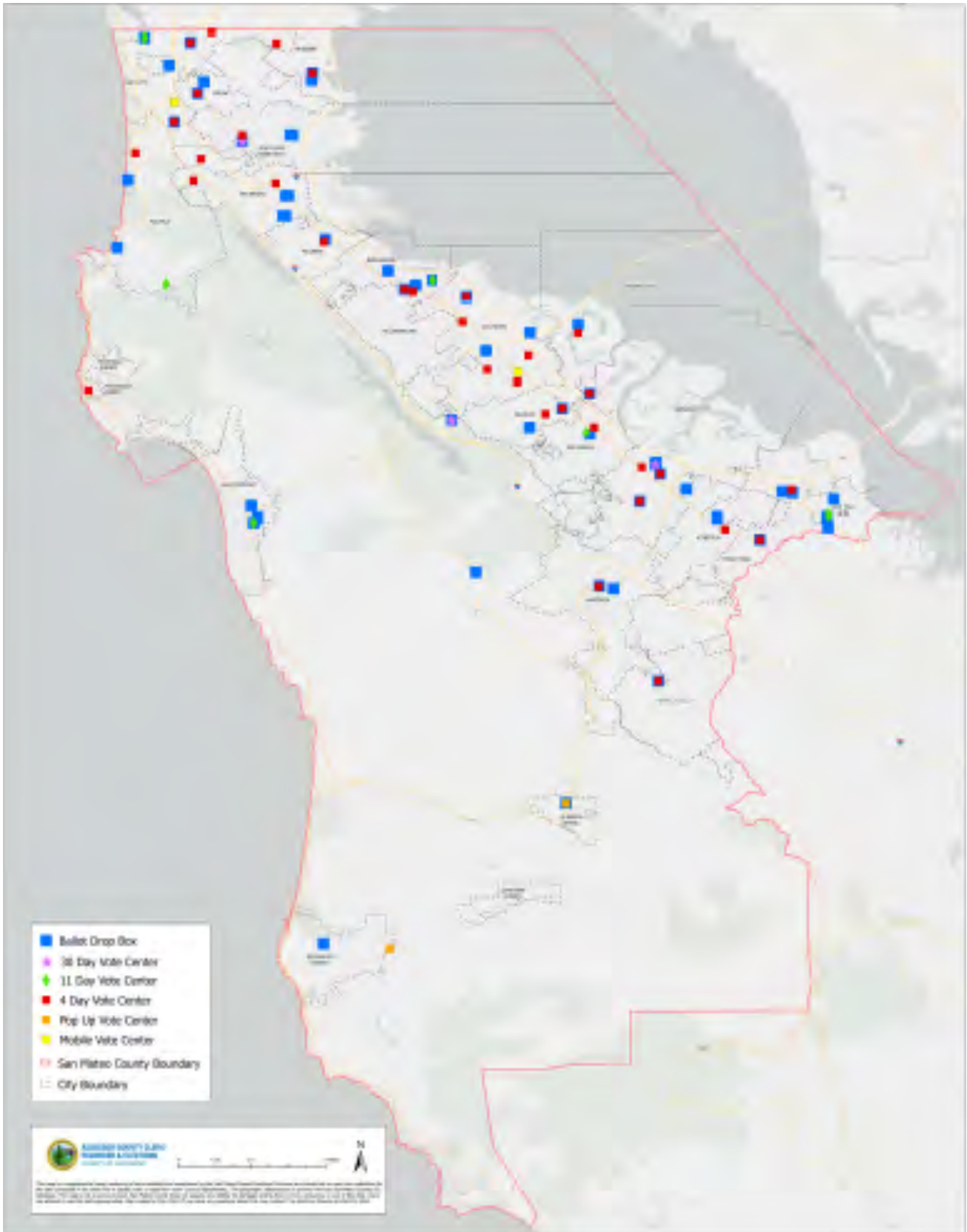
phone 650.312.5222 **fax** 650.312.5348

email registrar@smcacre.org **web** www.smcacre.org

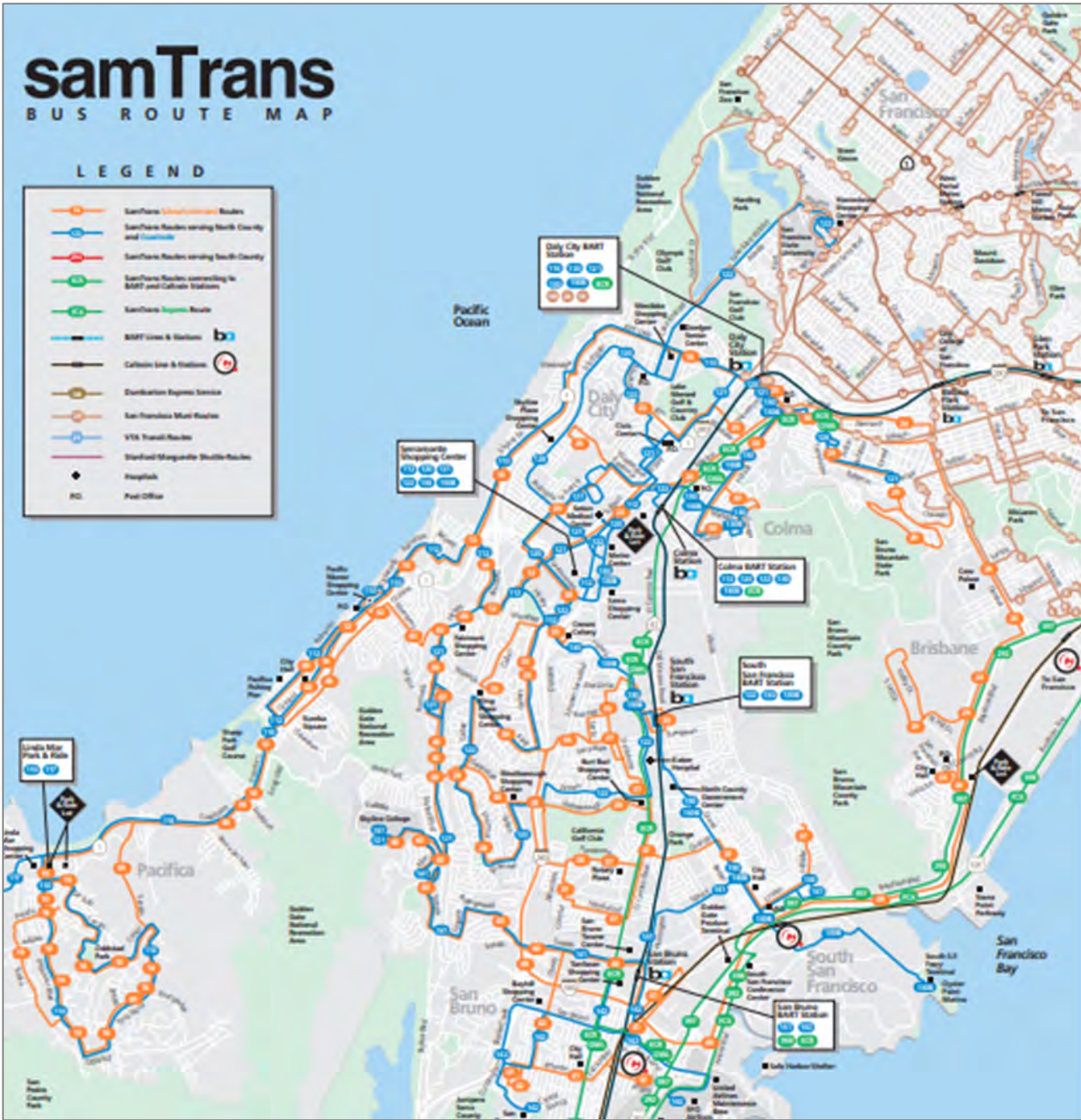
  @smcvote

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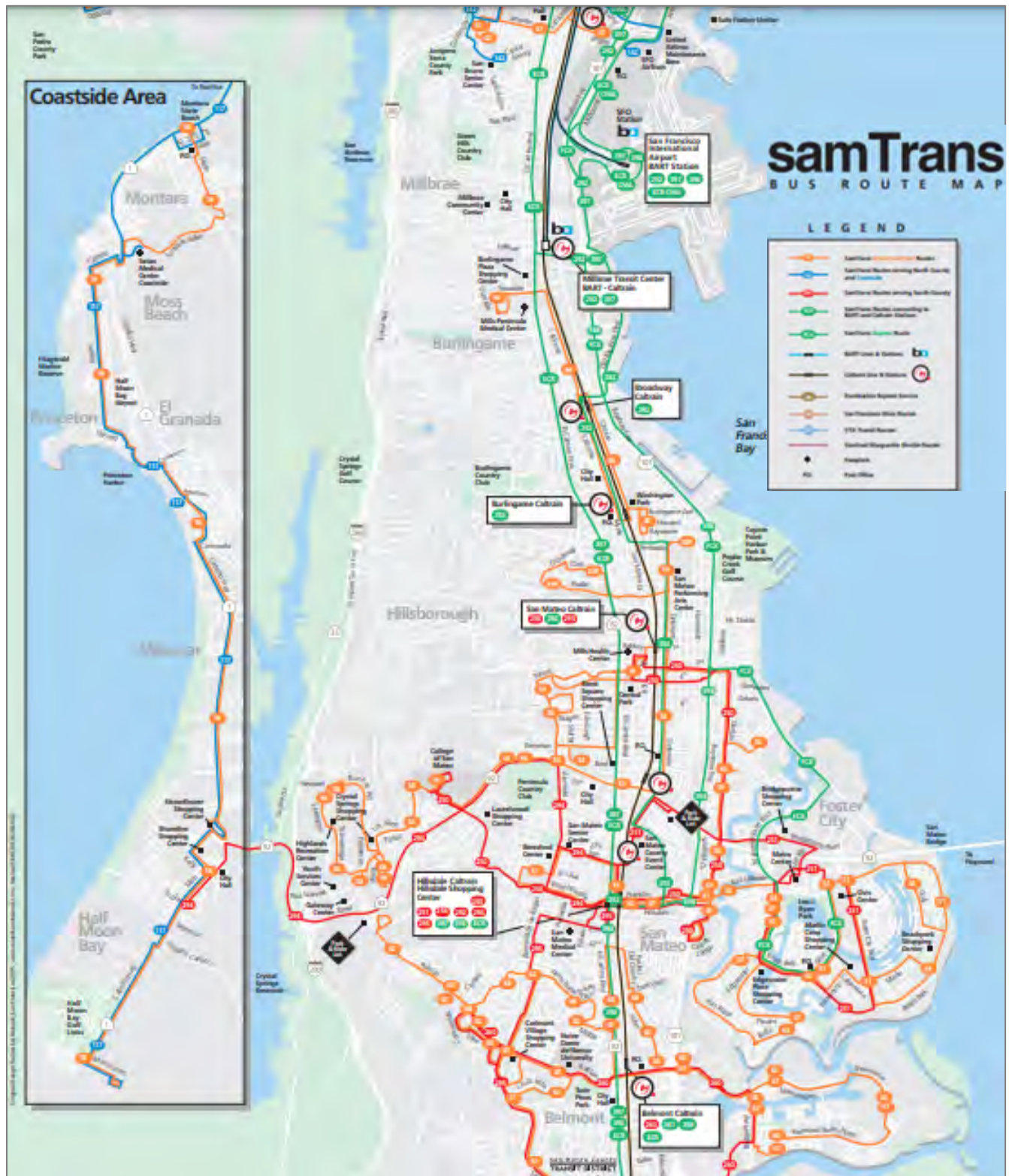
Vote Center & Ballot Drop Box Locations Map



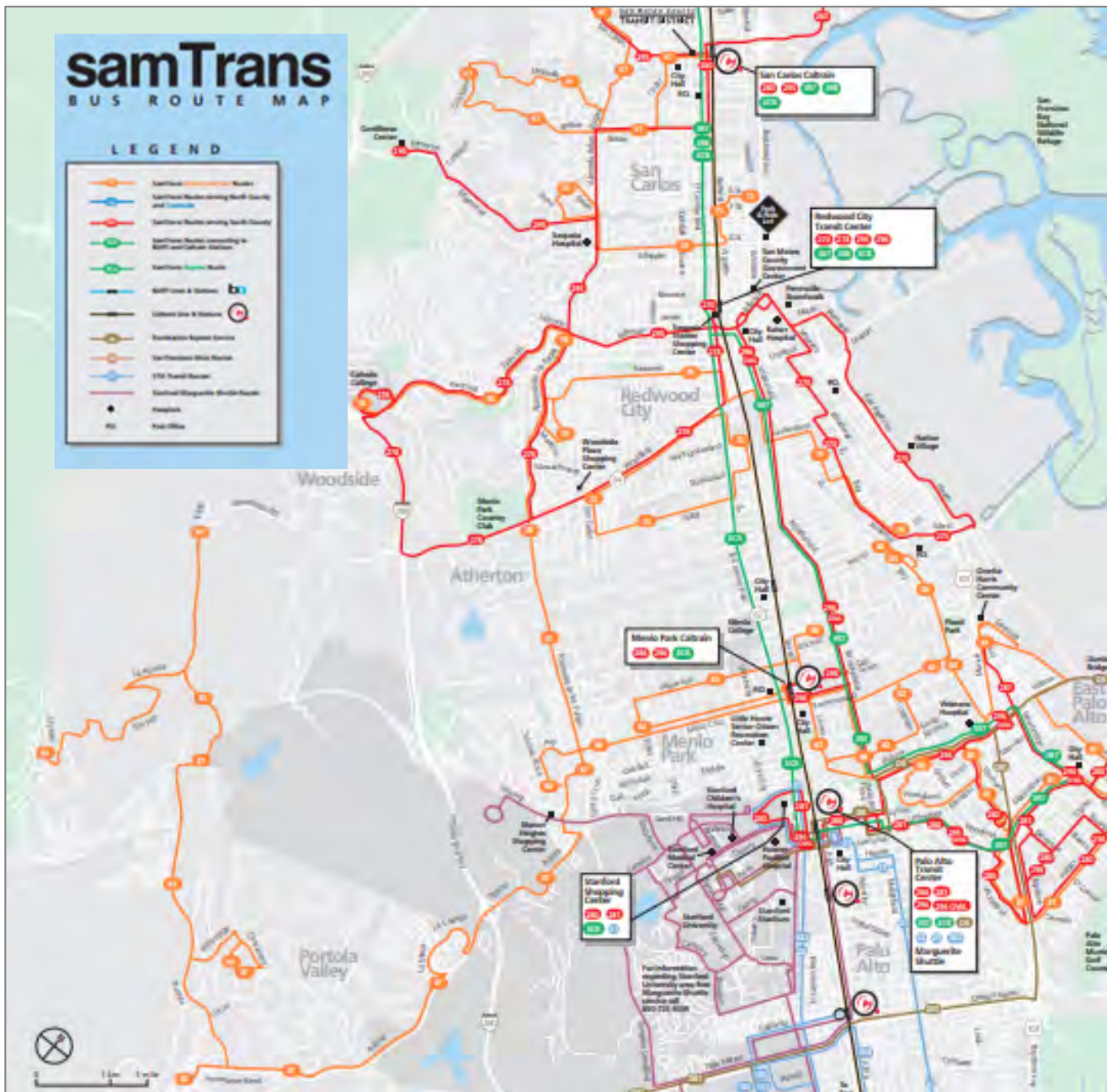
Public Transit Routes in Northern San Mateo County



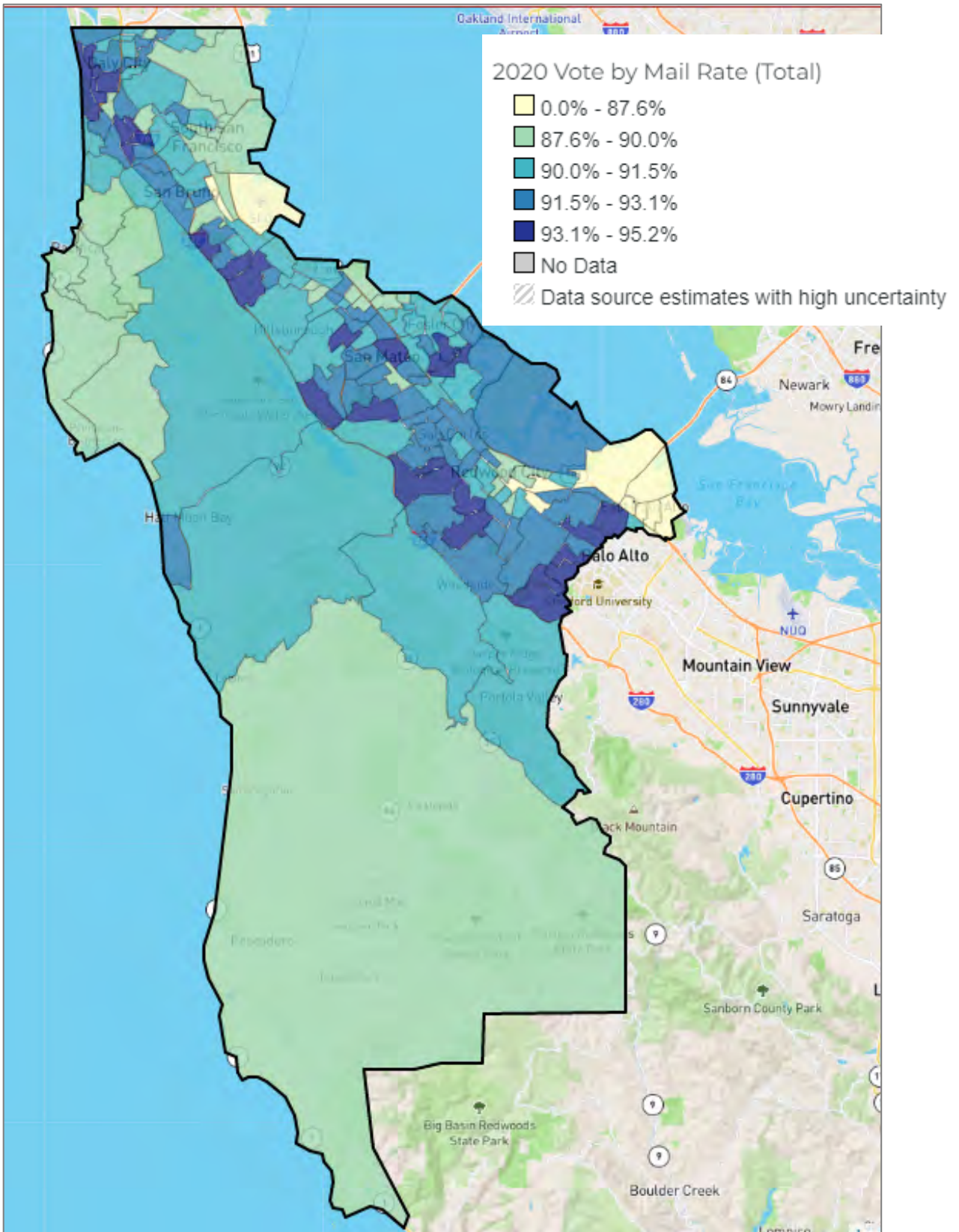
Public Transit Routes Coastside and Mid-Peninsula



Public Transit Routes in Southern San Mateo County

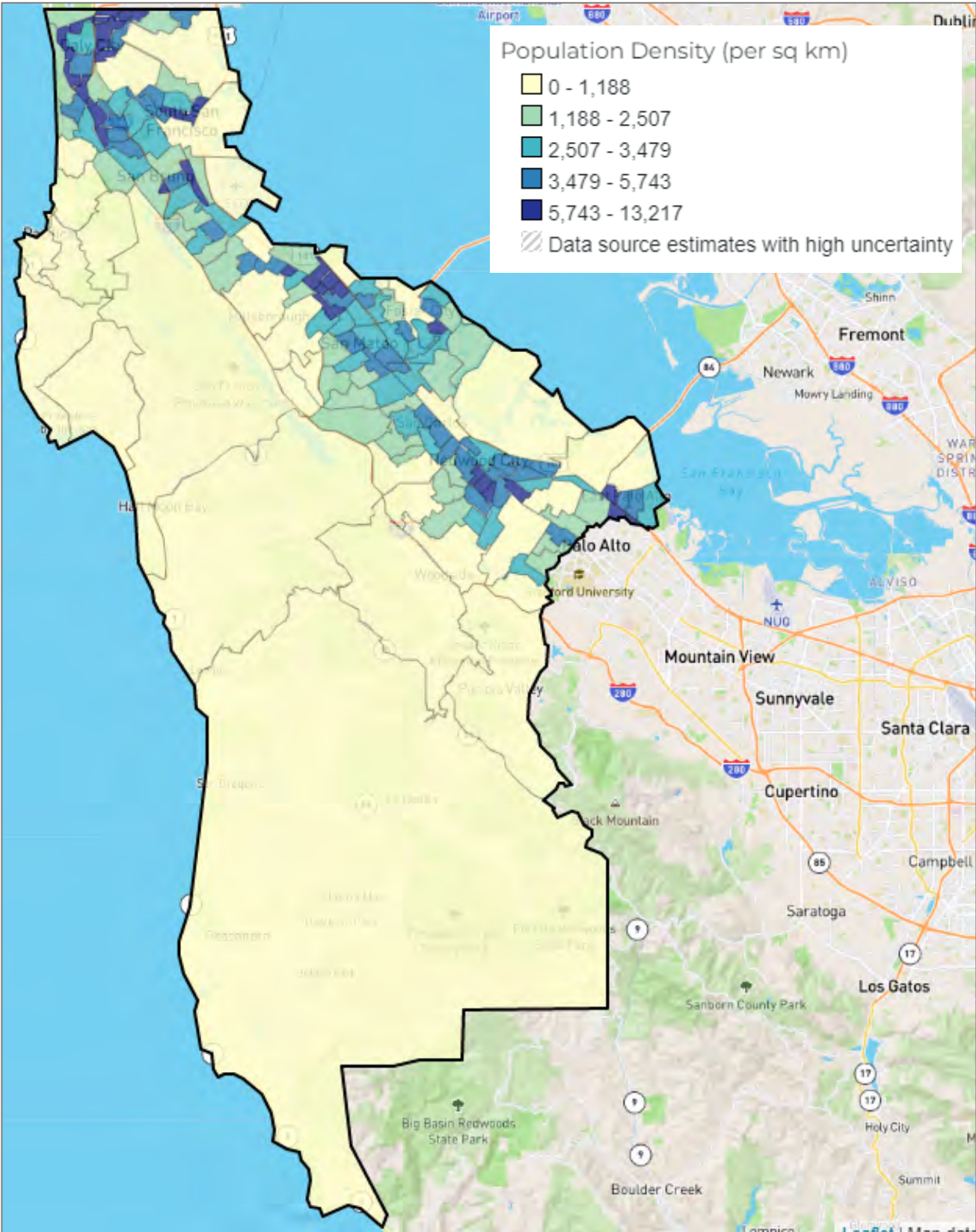


Areas with Low Vote by Mail Usage



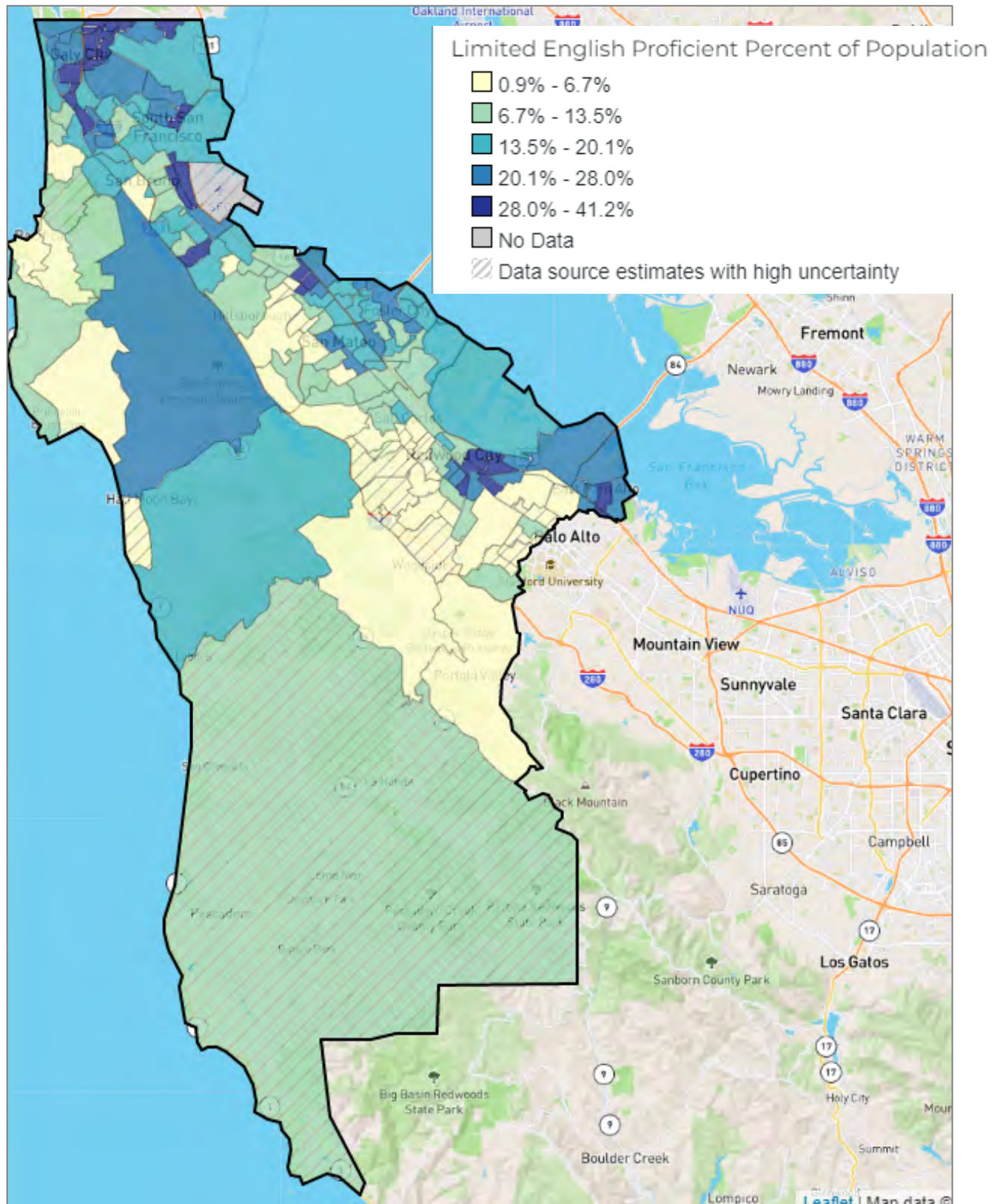
Map from Center for Inclusive Democracy, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy's [Voting Location and Outreach Tool](#).

San Mateo County Population



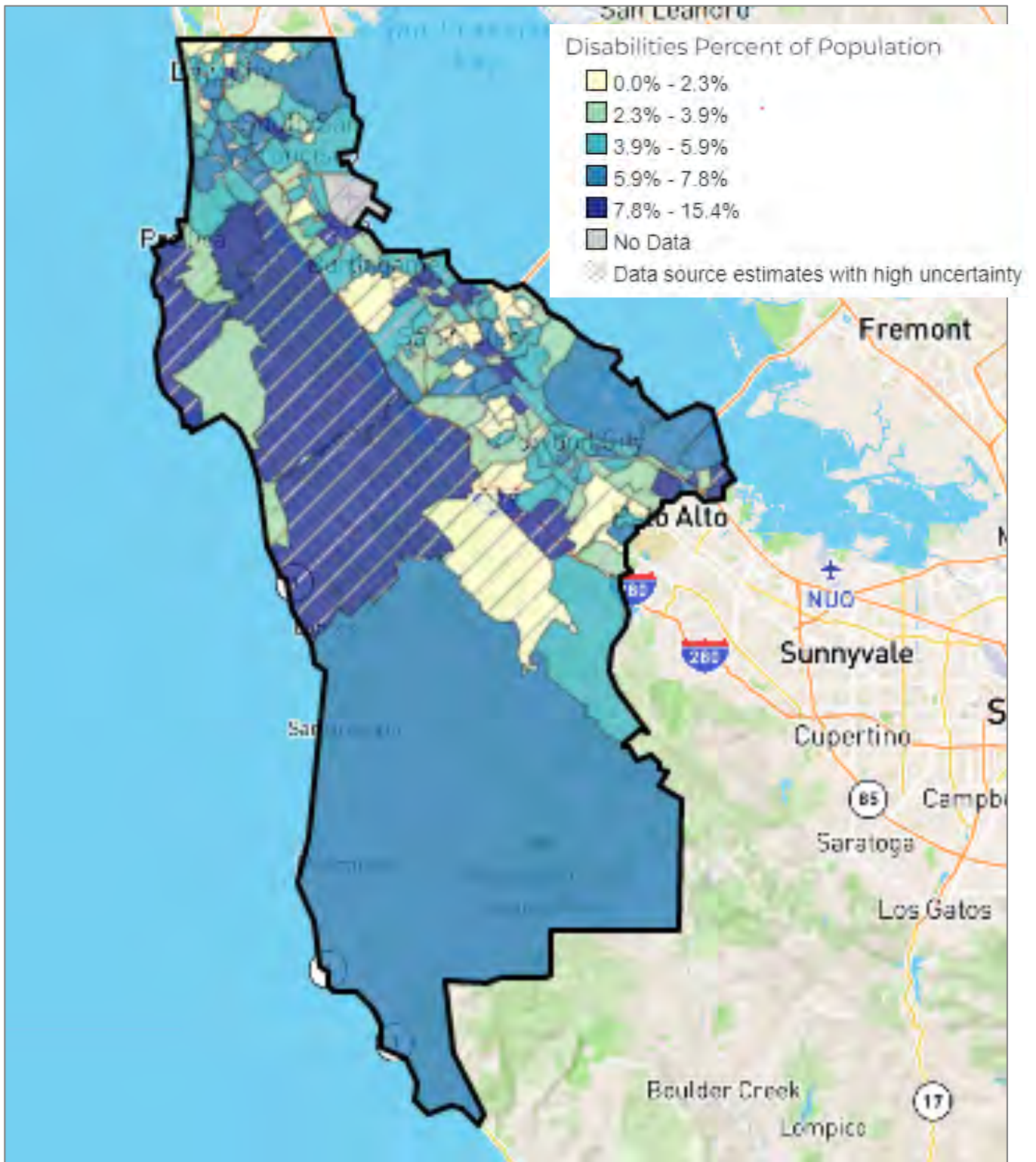
Map from Center for Inclusive Democracy, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy's Voting Location and Outreach Tool.

Language Minority Communities



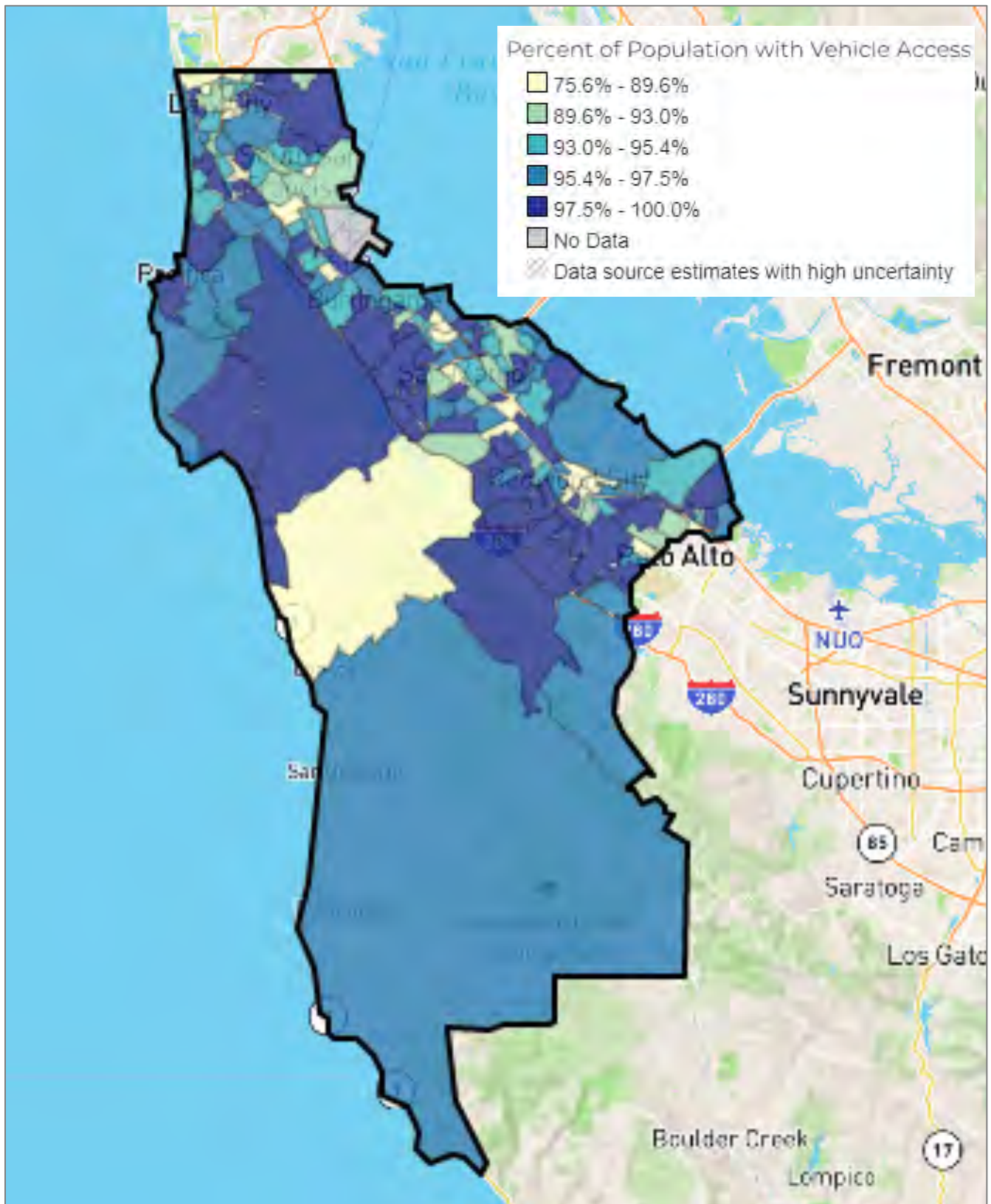
Map from Center for Inclusive Democracy, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy's Voting Location and Outreach Tool.

Individuals with Disabilities



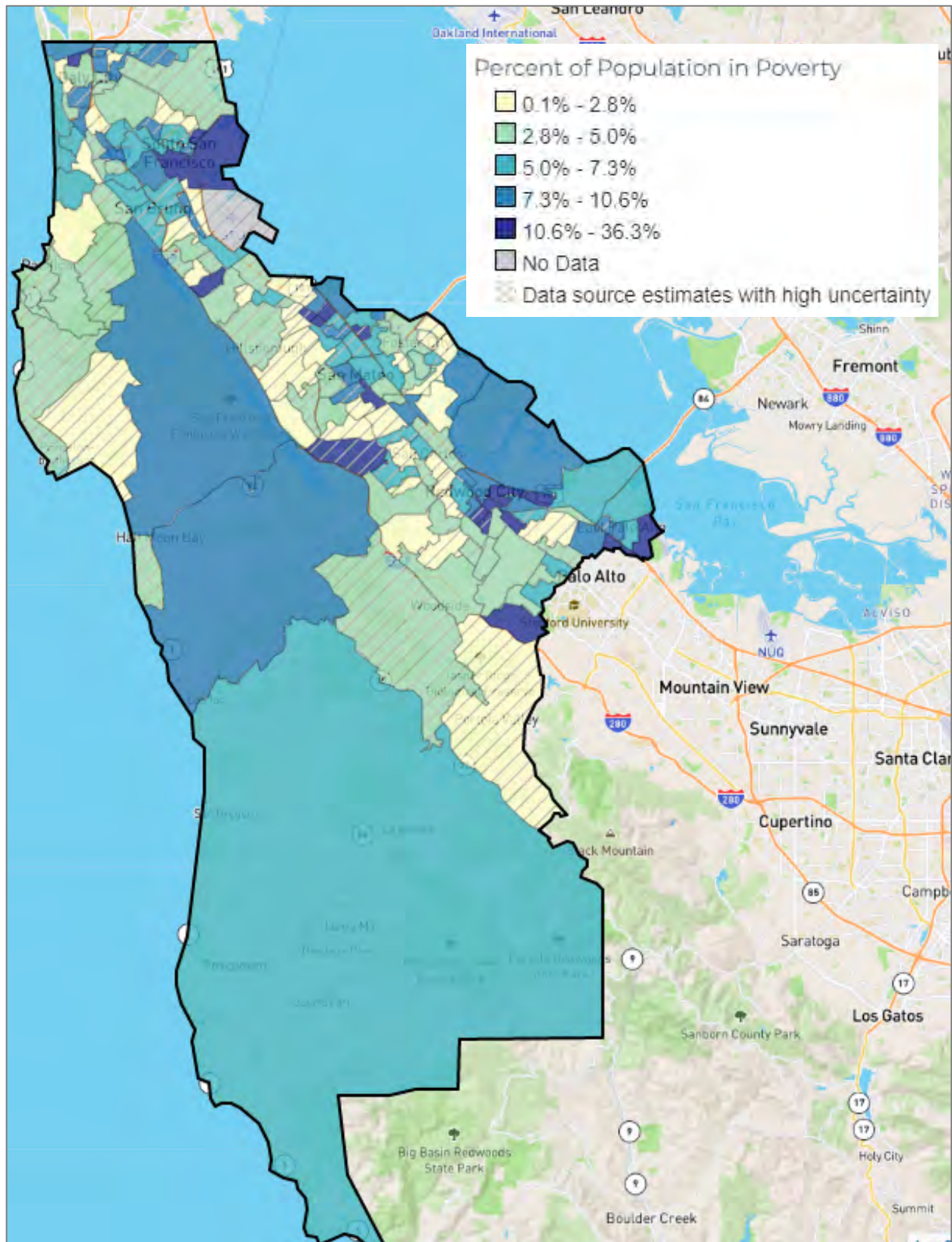
Map from Center for Inclusive Democracy, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy's Voting Location and Outreach Tool.

Households with/without Vehicles



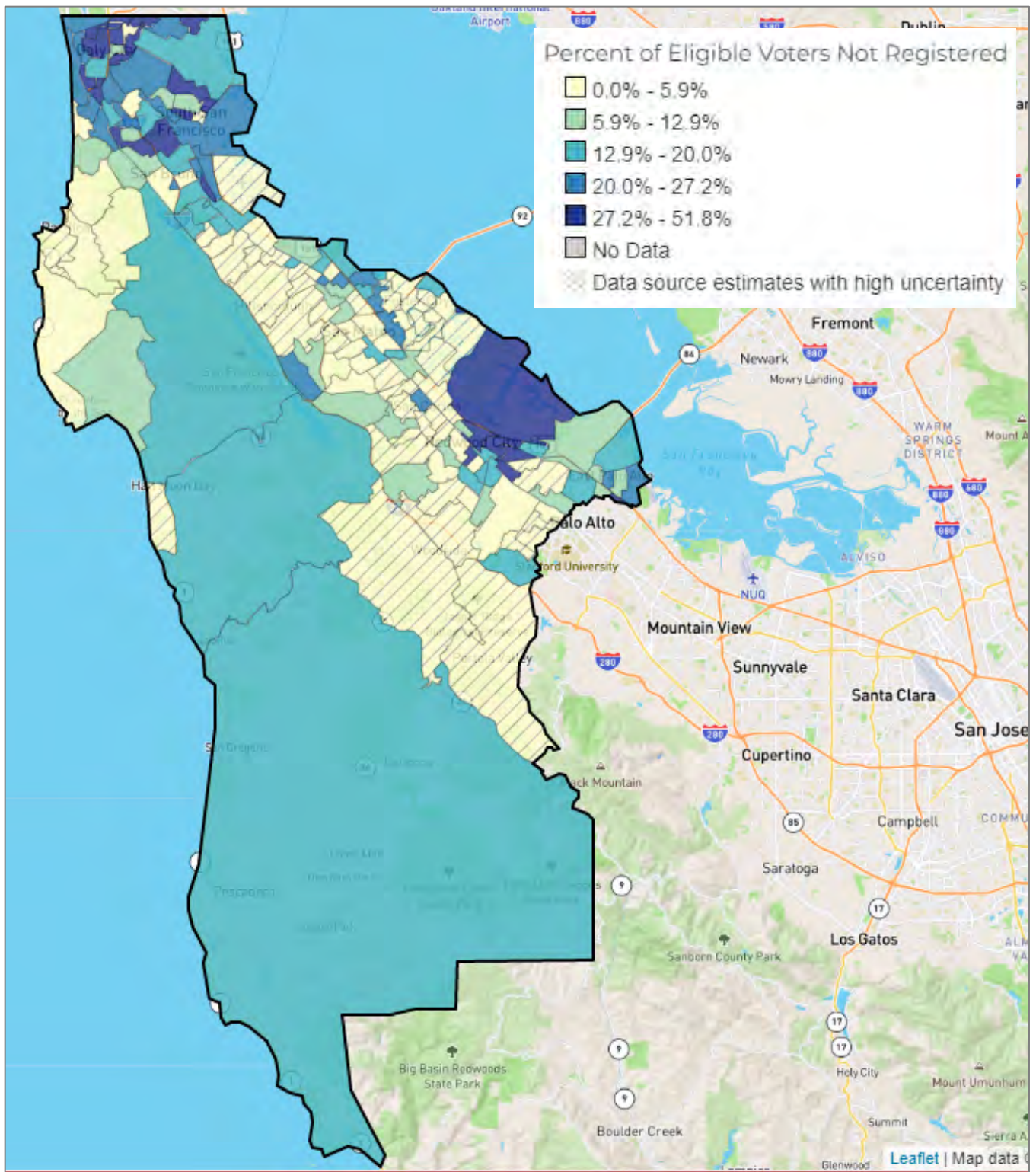
Map from Center for Inclusive Democracy, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy's Voting Location and Outreach Tool.

Individuals Ages 18 and over Living in Poverty



Map from Center for Inclusive Democracy, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy's Voting Location and Outreach Tool.

Eligible Residents Who Are Not Yet Registered to Vote



Map from Center for Inclusive Democracy, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy's Voting Location and Outreach Tool.

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— SAN MATEO COUNTY —
CALIFORNIA VOTER'S CHOICE ACT

LEGISLATION:
SENATE BILL 450



OFFICE OF MARK CHURCH
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER & ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS DIVISION

40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402

phone 650.312.5222 **fax** 650.312.5348

email registrar@smcacre.org **web** www.smcacre.org

  @smcvote

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Legislation
Senate Bill No. 450
CHAPTER 832

An act to amend Sections 3017 and 15320 of, to add Sections 4005, 4006, and 4007 to, and to add and repeal Section 4008 of, the Elections Code, relating to elections.

[Approved by Governor September 29, 2016. Filed with
Secretary of State September 29, 2016.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 450, Allen. Elections: vote by mail voting and mail ballot elections.

Existing law requires all vote by mail ballots to be voted on or before the day of the election and requires the vote by mail voter to return the ballot by mail or in person, as specified, to the elections official who issued the ballot.

This bill would require an elections official who receives a vote by mail ballot that he or she did not issue to forward that ballot to the elections official who issued the ballot no later than 8 days after receipt. By requiring an elections official to forward a ballot to the elections official who issued the ballot, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Existing law authorizes cities with a population of fewer than 100,000 persons, school districts, and special districts to conduct an all-mailed ballot special election to fill a vacancy on the legislative or governing body of those entities under specified conditions.

This bill, the California Voter's Choice Act, would, on or after January 1, 2018, authorize specified counties, and on or after January 1, 2020, authorize any county except the County of Los Angeles, to conduct any election as an all-mailed ballot election if certain conditions are satisfied, including conditions related to ballot dropoff locations, vote centers, and plans for the administration of all-mailed ballot elections. The bill would require the Secretary of State, within 6 months of each all-mailed ballot election conducted by a county pursuant to these provisions, to report certain information to the Legislature regarding that election. The bill would require the county that conducted the all-mailed ballot election to submit to the Secretary of State the information needed for the Secretary of State to prepare the report.

This bill would, on or after January 1, 2020, authorize the County of Los Angeles to conduct any election as a vote center election if certain conditions are satisfied, including conditions related to ballot dropoff locations and vote centers. The bill would, on or after January 1, 2020, authorize the County of Los Angeles to conduct a special election as an all-mailed ballot election pursuant to specified provisions that apply to every county that chooses to conduct a special election as an all-mailed ballot election.

This bill would also require the Secretary of State to establish a taskforce that includes certain individuals to review all-mailed ballot elections conducted pursuant to these provisions and to provide comments and recommendations to the Legislature within 6 months of each all-mailed ballot election or vote center election.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 3017 of the Elections Code proposed by AB 1921 that would become operative only if AB 1921 and this bill are both chaptered and this bill is chaptered 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 these statutory provisions.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the California Voter's Choice Act.

SEC. 2. Section 3017 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

3017. (a) All vote by mail ballots cast under this division shall be voted on or before the day of the election. After marking the ballot, the vote by mail voter shall do any of the following: (1) return the ballot by mail or in person to the elections official who issued the ballot, (2) return the ballot in person to a member of a precinct board at a polling place or vote center within the state, or (3) return the ballot to a vote by mail ballot dropoff location within the state that is provided pursuant to Section 3025 or 4005. However, a vote by mail voter who is unable to return the ballot may designate his or her spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, or a person residing in the same household as the vote by mail voter to return the ballot to the elections official who issued the ballot, to the precinct board at a polling place or vote center within the state, or to a vote by mail ballot dropoff location within the state that is provided pursuant to Section 3025 or 4005. The ballot must, however, be received by the elections official who issued the ballot, the precinct board, or the vote by mail ballot dropoff location before the close of the polls on election day. If a vote by mail ballot is returned to a precinct board at a polling place or vote center, or to a vote by mail ballot dropoff location, that is located in a county that is not the county of the elections official who issued the ballot, the elections official for the county in which the vote by mail ballot is returned shall forward the ballot to the elections official who issued the ballot no later than eight days after receipt.

(b) The elections official shall establish procedures to ensure the secrecy of a ballot returned to a precinct polling place and the security, confidentiality, and integrity of any personal information collected, stored, or otherwise used pursuant to this section.

(c) On or before March 1, 2008, the elections official shall establish procedures to track and confirm the receipt of voted vote by mail ballots and to make this information available by means of online access using the county's elections division Internet Web site. If the county does not have an elections division Internet Web site, the elections official shall establish a toll-free telephone number that may be used to confirm the date a voted vote by mail ballot was received.

(d) The provisions of this section are mandatory, not directory, and a ballot shall not be counted if it is not delivered in compliance with this section.

(e) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a vote by mail voter's ballot shall not be returned by a paid or volunteer worker of a general purpose committee, controlled committee, independent expenditure committee, political party, candidate's campaign committee, or any other group or organization at whose behest the individual designated to return the ballot is performing a service. However, this subdivision does not apply to a candidate or a candidate's spouse.

SEC. 2.5. Section 3017 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

3017. (a) All vote by mail ballots cast under this division shall be voted on or before the day of the election. After marking the ballot, the vote by mail voter shall do any of the following: (1) return the ballot by mail or in person to the elections official who issued the ballot, (2) return the ballot in person to a member of a precinct board at a polling place or vote center within the state, or (3) return the ballot to a vote by mail ballot dropoff location within the state that is provided pursuant to Section 3025 or 4005. However, a vote by mail voter who is unable to return the ballot may designate any person to return the ballot to the elections official who issued the ballot, to the precinct board at a polling place or vote center within the state, or to a vote by mail ballot dropoff location within the state that is provided pursuant to Section 3025 or 4005. The ballot must, however, be received by the elections official who issued the ballot, the precinct board, or the vote by mail ballot dropoff location before the close of the polls on election day. If a vote by mail ballot is returned to a precinct board at a polling place or vote center, or to a vote by mail ballot dropoff location, that is located in a county that is not the county of the elections official who issued the ballot, the elections official for the county in which the vote by mail ballot is returned shall forward the ballot to the elections official who issued the ballot no later than eight days after receipt.

(b) The elections official shall establish procedures to ensure the secrecy of a ballot returned to a precinct polling place and the security, confidentiality, and integrity of any personal information collected, stored, or otherwise used pursuant to this section.

(c) On or before March 1, 2008, the elections official shall establish procedures to track and confirm the receipt of voted vote by mail ballots and to make this information available by means of online access using the county's elections division Internet Web site. If the county does not have an elections division Internet Web site, the elections official shall establish a toll-free telephone number that may be used to confirm the date a voted vote by mail ballot was received.

(d) The provisions of this section are mandatory, not directory, and a ballot shall not be counted if it is not delivered in compliance with this section.

(e) (1) A person designated to return a vote by mail ballot shall not receive any form of compensation based on the number of ballots that the person has returned and no individual, group, or organization shall provide compensation on this basis.

(2) For purposes of this paragraph, "compensation" means any form of monetary payment, goods, services, benefits, promises or offers of employment, or any other form of consideration offered to another person in exchange for returning another voter's vote by mail ballot.

(3) Any person in charge of a vote by mail ballot and who knowingly and willingly engages in criminal acts related to that ballot as described in Division 18 (commencing with Section 18000), including, but not limited to, fraud, bribery, intimidation, and tampering with or failing to deliver the ballot in a timely fashion, is subject to the appropriate punishment specified in that division.

SEC. 3. Section 4005 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

4005. (a) Notwithstanding Section 4000 or any other law, on or after January 1, 2018, the Counties of Calaveras, Inyo, Madera, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Shasta, Sierra, Sutter, and Tuolumne, and, except as provided in Section 4007, on or after January 1, 2020, any county may conduct any election as an all-mailed ballot election if all of the following apply:

(1) (A) At least two ballot dropoff locations are provided within the jurisdiction where the election is held or the number of ballot dropoff locations are fixed in a manner so that there is at least one ballot dropoff location provided for every 15,000 registered voters within the jurisdiction where the election is held, as determined on the 88th day before the day of the election, whichever results in more ballot dropoff locations. For purposes of this subparagraph, a vote center that includes an exterior ballot drop box

counts only as a single ballot dropoff location. Ballot dropoff locations shall comply with the regulations adopted pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 3025.

(B) A ballot dropoff location provided for under this section consists of a secure, accessible, and locked ballot box located as near as possible to established public transportation routes and that is able to receive voted ballots. All ballot dropoff locations shall be open at least during regular business hours beginning not less than 28 days before the day of the election, and on the day of the election. At least one ballot dropoff location shall be an accessible, secured, exterior drop box that is available for a minimum of 12 hours per day including regular business hours.

(2) (A) The county elections official permits a voter residing in the county to do any of the following at a vote center:

(i) Return, or vote and return, his or her vote by mail ballot.

(ii) Register to vote, update his or her voter registration, and vote pursuant to Section 2170.

(iii) Receive and vote a provisional ballot pursuant to Section 3016 or Article 5 (commencing with Section 14310) of Chapter 3 of Division 14.

(iv) Receive a replacement ballot upon verification that a ballot for the same election has not been received from the voter by the county elections official. If the county elections official is unable to determine if a ballot for the same election has been received from the voter, the county elections official may issue a provisional ballot.

(v) Vote a regular, provisional, or replacement ballot using accessible voting equipment that provides for a private and independent voting experience.

(B) Each vote center shall have at least three voting machines that are accessible to voters with disabilities.

(3) (A) On the day of the election, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., inclusive, and on each of the three days before the election, for a minimum of eight hours per day, at least one vote center is provided for every 10,000 registered voters within the jurisdiction where the election is held, as determined on the 88th day before the day of the election. At least 90 percent of the number of vote centers required by this subparagraph shall be open for all four days during the required times. Up to 10 percent of the number of vote centers required by this subparagraph may be open for less than four days if at least one vote center is provided for every 10,000 registered voters on each day.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), for a jurisdiction with fewer than 20,000 registered voters, a minimum of two voter centers are provided on the day of the election and on each of the three days before the election within the jurisdiction where the election is held.

(4) (A) Beginning 10 days before the day of the election and continuing daily up to and including the fourth day before the election, for a minimum of eight hours per day, at least one vote center is provided for every 50,000 registered voters within the jurisdiction where the election is held, as determined on the 88th day before the day of the election.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), for a jurisdiction with fewer than 50,000 registered voters, a minimum of two vote centers are provided within the jurisdiction where the election is held.

(C) The vote centers provided under this section are established in accordance with the accessibility requirements described in Article 5 (commencing with Section 12280) of Chapter 3 of Division 12, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.), the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.), and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

(D) The vote centers provided under this section are equitably distributed across the county so as to afford maximally convenient options for voters and are established at accessible locations as near as

possible to established public transportation routes. The vote centers shall be equipped with voting units or systems that are accessible to individuals with disabilities and that provide the same opportunity for access and participation as is provided to voters who are not disabled, including the ability to vote privately and independently in accordance with Sections 12280 and 19240.

(E) (i) The vote centers provided under this section have an electronic mechanism for the county elections official to immediately access, at a minimum, all of the following voter registration data:

(I) Name.

(II) Address.

(III) Date of birth.

(IV) Language preference.

(V) Party preference.

(VI) Precinct.

(VII) Whether or not the voter has been issued a vote by mail ballot and whether or not a ballot has been received by the county elections official.

(ii) The electronic mechanism used to access voter registration data shall not be connected in any way to a voting system.

(5) A method is available for voters with disabilities to request and receive a blank vote by mail ballot and, if a replacement ballot is necessary, a blank replacement ballot that voters with disabilities can read and mark privately and independently pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.).

(6) (A) Except as otherwise provided for in this section, election boards for the vote centers established under this section meet the requirements for eligibility and composition pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 12300) of Chapter 4 of Division 12.

(B) Each vote center provides language assistance in all languages required in the jurisdiction under subdivision (c) of Section 12303 or Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.) in a manner that enables voters of the applicable language minority groups to participate effectively in the electoral process. Each vote center shall post information regarding the availability of language assistance in English and all other languages for which language assistance is required to be provided in the jurisdiction under subdivision (c) of Section 12303 or Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

(i) If a vote center is located in, or adjacent to, a precinct, census tract, or other defined geographical subsection required to establish language requirements under subdivision (c) of Section 12303 or Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.), or if it is identified as needing language assistance through the public input process described in clause (ii), the county elections official shall ensure that the vote center is staffed by election board members who speak the required language. If the county elections official is unable to recruit election board members who speak the required language, alternative methods of effective language assistance shall be provided by the county elections official.

(ii) The county elections official shall solicit public input regarding which vote centers should be staffed by election board members who are fluent in a language in addition to English pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 12303 and Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

(iii) The county elections official shall provide notice in the sample ballot, in vote by mail materials, and on his or her Internet Web site of the specific language services available at each vote center.

(C) Each vote center provides election materials translated in all languages required in the jurisdiction under subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

(D) Each vote center provides reasonable modifications and auxiliary aids and services as required by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.) and the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 701 et seq.).

(7) (A) Beginning 10 days before the election, the county elections official maintains, in an electronic format, an index of voters who have done any of the following at one of the voter centers established pursuant to this section:

- (i) Registered to vote or updated his or her voter registration.
- (ii) Received and voted a provisional ballot or replacement ballot.
- (iii) Voted a ballot using equipment at the vote center.

(B) The index required by subparagraph (A) includes the same information for each voter as is required to be included on copies of the index of affidavits of voter registration that are posted pursuant to Section 14294. The index required by subparagraph (A) shall be updated continuously during any time that a vote center is open in the jurisdiction.

(8) (A) Beginning 29 days before the day of the election, the county elections official mails to each registered voter a vote by mail ballot packet that includes a return envelope with instructions for the use and return of the vote by mail ballot.

(B) The county elections official delivers to each voter, with either the sample ballot sent pursuant to Section 13303 or with the vote by mail ballot packet, all of the following:

(i) A notice, translated in all languages required under subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.), that informs voters of all of the following:

(I) An all-mailed ballot election is being conducted and each eligible voter will be issued a vote by mail ballot by mail.

(II) The voter may cast a vote by mail ballot in person at a vote center during the times and days specified in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (4) or on election day.

(III) No later than seven days before the day of the election, the voter may request the county elections official to send a vote by mail ballot in a language other than English pursuant to Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.) or a facsimile copy of the ballot printed in a language other than English pursuant to Section 14201.

(IV) No later than seven days before the day of the election, the voter may request the county elections official to send or deliver a ballot that voters with disabilities can read and mark privately and independently pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 20901 et seq.).

(ii) A list of the ballot dropoff locations and vote centers established pursuant to this section, including the dates and hours they are open. The list shall also be posted on the Internet Web site of the county elections official in a format that is accessible for people with disabilities pursuant to Section 11135 of the Government Code.

(iii) A postage-paid postcard that the voter may return to the county elections official for the purpose of requesting a vote by mail ballot in a language other than English or for the purpose of requesting a vote by mail ballot in an accessible format.

(C) Upon request, the county elections official provides written voting materials to voters with disabilities in an accessible format, as required by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.) and the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 701 et seq.).

(9) (A) The county elections official establishes a language accessibility advisory committee that is comprised of representatives of language minority communities. The committee shall be established no later than October 1 of the year before the first election conducted pursuant to this section. The committee shall hold its first meeting no later than April 1 of the year in which the first election is conducted pursuant to this section.

(B) The county elections official establishes a voting accessibility advisory committee that is comprised of voters with disabilities. The committee shall be established no later than October 1 of the year before the first election conducted pursuant to this section. The committee shall hold its first meeting no later than April 1 of the year in which the first election is conducted pursuant to this section.

(C) A county with fewer than 50,000 registered voters may establish a joint advisory committee for language minority communities and voters with disabilities.

(10) (A) The county elections official develops a draft plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section in consultation with the public, including both of the following:

(i) One meeting, publicly noticed at least 10 days in advance of the meeting, that includes representatives, advocates, and other stakeholders representing each community for which the county is required to provide voting materials and assistance in a language other than English under subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

(ii) One meeting, publicly noticed at least 10 days in advance of the meeting, that includes representatives from the disability community and community organizations and individuals that advocate on behalf of, or provide services to, individuals with disabilities.

(B) The county elections official, when developing the draft plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section, considers, at a minimum, all of the following:

(i) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to public transportation.

(ii) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to communities with historically low vote by mail usage.

(iii) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to population centers.

(iv) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to language minority communities.

(v) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to voters with disabilities.

(vi) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to communities with low rates of household vehicle ownership.

(vii) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to low-income communities.

(viii) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to communities of eligible voters who are not registered to vote and may need access to same day voter registration.

(ix) Vote center and ballot dropoff location proximity to geographically isolated populations, including Native American reservations.

(x) Access to accessible and free parking at vote centers and ballot dropoff locations.

(xi) The distance and time a voter must travel by car or public transportation to a vote center and ballot dropoff location.

(xii) The need for alternate methods for voters with disabilities for whom vote by mail ballots are not accessible to cast a ballot.

(xiii) Traffic patterns near vote centers and ballot dropoff locations.

(xiv) The need for mobile vote centers in addition to the number of vote centers established pursuant to this section.

(C) The county elections official publicly notices the draft plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section and accepts public comments on the draft plan for at least 14 days before the hearing held pursuant to subparagraph (D).

(D) (i) Following the 14-day review period required by subparagraph (C), the county elections official holds a public meeting to consider the draft plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section and to accept public comments. The meeting shall be publicly noticed at least 10 days in advance of the meeting on the Internet Web sites of the clerk of the county board of supervisors and the county elections official, or, if neither the clerk of the county board of supervisors nor the county elections official maintain an Internet Web site, in the office of the county elections official.

(ii) After the public hearing to consider the draft plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section and to accept public comments, the county elections official shall consider any public comments he or she receives from the public and shall amend the draft plan in response to the public comments to the extent he or she deems appropriate. The county elections official shall publicly notice the amended draft plan and shall accept public comments on the amended draft plan for at least 14 days before the county elections official may adopt the amended draft plan pursuant to subparagraph (E).

(E) (i) Following the 14-day review and comment period required by clause (ii) of subparagraph (D), the county elections official may adopt a final plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section, and shall submit the voter education and outreach plan that is required by clause (i) of subparagraph (I) to the Secretary of State for approval.

(ii) The Secretary of State shall approve, approve with modifications, or reject a voter education and outreach plan submitted pursuant to clause (i) of subparagraph (I) within 14 days after the plan is submitted by the county elections official.

(iii) The draft plan, the amended draft plan, and the adopted final plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section shall be posted on the Internet Web site of the county elections official in each language in which the county is required to provide voting materials and assistance under subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.), and the Secretary of State's Internet Web site in a format that is accessible for people with disabilities pursuant to Section 11135 of the Government Code.

(F) Public meetings held pursuant to this paragraph shall, upon request, provide auxiliary aids and services to ensure effective communication with people with disabilities.

(G) Within two years of the adoption of the first plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section, the county elections official shall hold public meetings in accordance with the procedures described in subparagraphs (C) to (F), inclusive, to consider revising the first plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section. Every four years thereafter, the county elections official shall hold public meetings in accordance with the procedures described in subparagraphs (C) to (F), inclusive, to consider revising the plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section.

(H) (i) With reasonable public notification, a county elections official may amend a plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section no more than 120 days before the date of an election held pursuant to this section.

(ii) With reasonable public notification, a county elections official may amend a plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section more than 120 days before the date of an election held pursuant to this section if he or she provides at least 30 days to accept public comments on the amended plan.

(I) The plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section, includes all of the following:

(i) A voter education and outreach plan that is approved by the Secretary of State and that includes all of the following:

(I) A description of how the county elections official will use the media, including social media, newspapers, radio, and television that serve language minority communities for purposes of informing voters of the upcoming election and promoting the toll-free voter assistance hotline.

(II) A description of how the county elections official will use the media, including social media, newspapers, radio, and television for purposes of informing voters of the availability of a vote by mail ballot in an accessible format and the process for requesting such a ballot.

(III) A description of how the county elections official will have a community presence to educate voters regarding the provisions of this section.

(IV) A description of the accessible information that will be publicly available on the accessible Internet Web site of the county elections official.

(V) A description of the method used by the county elections official to identify language minority voters.

(VI) A description of how the county elections official will educate and communicate the provisions of this section to the public, including:

(ia) Communities for which the county is required to provide voting materials and assistance in a language other than English under subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.). The county elections official shall hold at least one bilingual voter education workshop for each language in which the county is required to provide voting materials and assistance in a language other than English under subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

(ib) The disability community, including organizations and individuals that advocate on behalf of, or provide services to, individuals with disabilities. The county elections official shall hold at least one voter education workshop to increase accessibility and participation of eligible voters with disabilities.

(VII) A description of how the county will spend the necessary resources on voter education and outreach to ensure that voters are fully informed about the election. This description shall include information about the amount of money the county plans to spend on voter education and outreach activities under the plan, and how that compares to the amount of money spent on voter education and outreach in recent similar elections in the same jurisdiction that were not conducted pursuant to this section.

(VIII) At least one public service announcement in the media, including newspapers, radio, and television, that serve English-speaking citizens for purposes of informing voters of the upcoming election and promoting the toll-free voter assistance hotline. Outreach made under this subclause shall include access for voters who are deaf or hard of hearing and voters who are blind or visually impaired.

(IX) At least one public service announcement in the media, including newspapers, radio, and television, that serve non-English-speaking citizens for each language in which the county is required to provide voting materials and assistance under subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.) for purposes of informing voters of the upcoming election and promoting the toll-free voter assistance hotline.

(X) At least two direct contacts with voters for purposes of informing voters of the upcoming election and promoting the toll-free voter assistance hotline. The two direct contacts are in addition to any other required contacts including, but not limited to, sample ballots and the delivery of vote by mail ballots.

(ii) A description of how a voter with disabilities may request and receive a blank vote by mail ballot and, if a replacement ballot is necessary, a blank replacement ballot that a voter with disabilities can mark privately and independently.

(iii) A description of how the county elections official will address significant disparities in voter accessibility and participation identified in the report required by subdivision (g).

(iv) A description of the methods and standards that the county elections official will use to ensure the security of voting conducted at vote centers.

(v) Information about estimated short-term and long-term costs and savings from conducting elections pursuant to this section as compared to recent similar elections in the same jurisdiction that were not conducted pursuant to this section.

(vi) To the extent available at the time of publication, information on all of the following:

(I) The total number of vote centers to be established.

(II) The total number of ballot dropoff locations to be established.

(III) The location of each vote center.

(IV) The location of each ballot dropoff location and whether it is inside or outside.

(V) A map of the locations of each vote center and ballot dropoff location.

(VI) The hours of operation for each vote center.

(VII) The hours of operation for each ballot dropoff location.

(VIII) The security and contingency plans that would be implemented by the county elections official to do both of the following:

(ia) Prevent a disruption of the vote center process.

(ib) Ensure that the election is properly conducted if a disruption occurs.

(IX) The number of election board members and the number of bilingual election board members and the languages spoken.

(X) The services provided to voters with disabilities, including, but not limited to, the type and number of accessible voting machines and reasonable modifications at each vote center.

(XI) The design, layout, and placement of equipment inside each voter center that protects each voter's right to cast a private and independent ballot.

(vii) A toll-free voter assistance hotline that is accessible to voters who are deaf or hard of hearing, and that is maintained by the county elections official that is operational no later than 29 days before the day of the election until 5 p.m. on the day after the election. The toll-free voter assistance hotline shall provide assistance to voters in all languages in which the county is required to provide voting materials and assistance under subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

(J) The plan for the administration of elections conducted pursuant to this section is posted in a format that is accessible to persons with disabilities on the Internet Web site of the Secretary of State and on the Internet Web site of the county elections official.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 4000 or any other law, on or after January 1, 2018, the Counties of Calaveras, Inyo, Madera, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Shasta, Sierra, Sutter, and Tuolumne, and on or after January 1, 2020, any county may conduct a special election as an all-mailed ballot election under this section if all of the following apply:

(1) The county elections official has done either of the following:

(A) Previously conducted an election as an all-mailed ballot election in accordance with subdivision (a).

(B) Adopted a final plan for the administration of elections pursuant to clause (i) of subparagraph (E) of paragraph (9) of subdivision (a), in which case the county elections official shall complete all activities provided for in the voter education and outreach plan that is required by clause (i) of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (9) of subdivision (a) before the day of the special election.

(2) (A) On the day of election, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., inclusive, at least one vote center is provided for every 30,000 registered voters. If the jurisdiction is not wholly contained within the county, the county elections official shall make a reasonable effort to establish a vote center within the jurisdiction where the special election is held.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), for a jurisdiction with fewer than 30,000 registered voters, the county elections official makes a reasonable effort to establish a vote center.

(3) (A) Not less than 10 days before the day of the election, for a minimum of eight hours per day, at least one vote center is provided for every 60,000 registered voters. If the jurisdiction is not wholly contained within the county, the county elections official shall make a reasonable effort to establish a vote center within the jurisdiction where the special election is held.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), for a jurisdiction with fewer than 30,000 registered voters, the county elections official makes a reasonable effort to establish a vote center.

(4) (A) At least one ballot dropoff location is provided for every 15,000 registered voters. At least one ballot dropoff location shall be located within the jurisdiction where the special election is held. All ballot dropoff locations shall be open at least during regular business hours beginning not less than 28 days before the day of the election, and on the day of the election.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), for a jurisdiction with fewer than 15,000 registered voters, at least one ballot dropoff location shall be provided.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the election day procedures shall be conducted in accordance with Division 14 (commencing with Section 14000).

(d) The county elections official may provide, at his or her discretion, additional ballot dropoff locations and vote centers for purposes of this section.

(e) The return of voted vote by mail ballots is subject to Sections 3017 and 3020.

(f) For the sole purpose of reporting the results of an election conducted pursuant to this section, upon completion of the ballot count, the county elections official shall divide the jurisdiction into precincts pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 12220) of Chapter 3 of Division 12 and shall prepare a statement of the results of the election in accordance with Sections 15373 and 15374.

(g) (1) (A) Within six months of each election conducted pursuant to this section or Section 4007, the Secretary of State shall report to the Legislature, to the extent possible, all of the following information by categories of race, ethnicity, language preference, age, gender, disability, permanent vote by mail status, historical polling place voters, political party affiliation, and language minorities as it relates to the languages required under subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.):

(i) Voter turnout.

- (ii) Voter registration.
- (iii) Ballot rejection rates.
- (iv) Reasons for ballot rejection.
- (v) Provisional ballot use.
- (vi) Accessible vote by mail ballot use.
- (vii) The number of votes cast at each vote center.
- (viii) The number of ballots returned at ballot dropoff locations.
- (ix) The number of ballots returned by mail.
- (x) The number of persons who registered to vote at a vote center.
- (xi) Instances of voter fraud.
- (xii) Any other problems that became known to the county elections official or the Secretary of State during the election or canvass.

(B) The report required by subparagraph (A) shall be posted on the Internet Web site of the Secretary of State in a format that is accessible for people with disabilities pursuant to Section 11135 of the Government Code.

(C) The report required by subparagraph (A) shall be submitted to the Legislature in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

(D) If an election is conducted pursuant to this section, the county shall submit, to the extent possible, to the Secretary of State the information needed for the Secretary of State to prepare the report required by subparagraph (A).

(2) The county elections official shall post on his or her Internet Web site a report that compares the cost of elections conducted pursuant to this section to the costs of previous elections. The report shall be posted in a format that is accessible for people with disabilities pursuant to Section 11135 of the Government Code.

(h) The Secretary of State shall enforce the provisions of this section pursuant to Section 12172.5 of the Government Code.

(i) For purposes of this section, "disability" has the same meaning as defined in subdivisions (j), (m), and (n) of Section 12926 of the Government Code.

SEC. 4. Section 4006 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

4006. For any election conducted pursuant to Section 4005, the county elections official shall make a reasonable effort to inform a voter of either of the following:

- (a) If the voter's vote by mail ballot envelope is missing a signature.
- (b) How the voter can correct the missing signature.

SEC. 5. Section 4007 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

4007. (a) On or after January 1, 2020, the County of Los Angeles may conduct any election as a vote center election if all of the following apply:

- (1) The county elections official complies with all the provisions of subdivision (a) of Section 4005 that are not inconsistent with this section.
- (2) Every permanent vote by mail voter receives a ballot.

(3) At least two ballot dropoff locations are provided within the jurisdiction where the election is held or the number of ballot dropoff locations are fixed in a manner so that there is at least one ballot dropoff location provided for every 15,000 permanent vote by mail registered voters within the jurisdiction where the election is held, as determined on the 88th day before the day of the election, whichever results in more ballot dropoff locations.

(4) Within the jurisdiction where the election is held, at least one vote center is provided for each city that has at least 1,000 registered voters according to the official report of registration submitted by the county elections official to the Secretary of State before the last general election.

(5) On the day of the election, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., inclusive, and on each of the three days before the election, for a minimum of eight hours per day, at least one vote center is provided for every 7,500 registered voters within the jurisdiction where the election is held, as determined on the 88th day before the day of the election. At least 90 percent of the number of vote centers required by this subparagraph shall be open for all four days during the required times. Up to 10 percent of the number of vote centers required by this subparagraph may be open for less than four days if at least one vote center is provided for every 7,500 registered voters on each day.

(6) Beginning 10 days before the day of the election and continuing up to and including the fourth day before the day of the election, for a minimum of eight hours per day, at least one vote center is provided for every 30,000 registered voters within the jurisdiction where the election is held, as determined on the 88th day before the election.

(7) Precincts with fewer than 500 registered voters are designated as all vote-by-mail ballot precincts.

(8) Voters residing in a legislative or congressional district that lies partially within the County of Los Angeles and that also lies within another county that is conducting an election pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 4005 receive a vote by mail ballot if they are eligible to vote in that election.

(9) Voters in a precinct that is either more than a 30 minute travel time from a vote center or in which the polling place in the most recent statewide general election is more than 15 miles from the nearest vote center are mailed a vote by mail ballot.

(10) The vote centers are located within a reasonable travel time of registered voters.

(11) The county elections official conducts a service area analysis of the vote center plans, identifies services gaps, and publicly reports those findings.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 4000 or any other law, on or after January 1, 2020, the County of Los Angeles may conduct a special election as an all-mailed ballot election pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 4005.

(c) No later than four years after conducting the first vote center election pursuant to this section, the County of Los Angeles may conduct all-mailed ballot elections pursuant to Section 4005 and shall not conduct vote center elections pursuant to this section.

SEC. 6. Section 4008 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

4008. (a) The Secretary of State shall establish a taskforce that includes representatives of all of the following:

(1) County elections officials.

(2) Individuals with demonstrated language accessibility experience for languages covered under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

(3) The disability community and community organizations and individuals that advocate on behalf of, or provide services to, individuals with disabilities.

(4) Experts with demonstrated experience in the field of elections.

(b) The taskforce shall review elections conducted pursuant to Section 4005 or 4007 and provide comments and recommendations to the Legislature within six months of each election conducted pursuant to Section 4005 or 4007.

(c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2022, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2022, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 7. Section 15320 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

15320. Vote by mail ballots and mail ballot precinct ballots returned to the elections office and to the polls on election day that are not included in the semifinal official canvass phase of the election, including any ballots returned to another jurisdiction in the state and forwarded to the elections official who issued the ballot pursuant to Section 3017, shall be processed and counted during the official canvass in the manner prescribed by Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 15100) and pursuant to the requirements of Section 3019.

SEC. 8. Section 2.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 3017 of the Elections Code proposed by both this bill and Assembly Bill 1921. It shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2017, (2) each bill amends Section 3017 of the Elections Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after Assembly Bill 1921, in which case Section 2 of this bill shall not become operative.

SEC. 9. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.