



2019 CONFERENCE

*Leading the Way:
What Lies Ahead for California's Elections*

Thursday, April 11, 2019
Sacramento, CA

8am **Registration**

9:00am – 9:30am **Keynote**
The Honorable Alex Padilla, California Secretary of State

9:30am – 10:00am **Special Presentation**
Swearing-in Ceremony for the State Language Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

10:00am – 12:00pm **Opening Plenaries**

Ensuring Every Vote Counts: What Happens After Election Day?

Each election cycle, we wait eagerly to hear the outcome of election contests once our votes are cast. This panel will explore what happens starting 8:01pm on election night and the subsequent steps California election officials take to ensure fair and certifiable elections. This panel will also delve into California's new policies that are helping ensure every vote gets counted.

The Voter's Choice Act: Evaluating California's New Voting Model

The 2018 election cycle was the first opportunity to see the Voter's Choice Act, California's new voting model, come to life. One of the goals for the Voter's Choice Act was to improve the voting experience by providing flexible voting options and increasing the voting period. This panel will focus on the research findings of what happened under the new voting model and will explore the impact the new law had on California's electorate.

12:00pm – 1:00pm **Luncheon**

1:00pm – 2:15pm **Afternoon Concurrent Sessions Round I**

A. Expanding Democracy through Re-enfranchisement

In 2016 the California legislature passed AB 2466, which re-enfranchised people in county jails and codified a superior court ruling that restored voting rights for returning citizens in community supervision. This panel is an opportunity for elections officials and advocates to discuss obstacles, solutions, and best practices for registering voters in jail and other voters impacted by the criminal justice system.

B. Emergency Medical Ballots: Challenges and Strategies for Improvement

Emergency Medical Ballots are an important safeguard for voters who cannot leave the hospital or their home on Election Day because of an unforeseen medical condition. These ballots, however, pose administration challenges for election officials, and requesting them is often confusing and burdensome for voters. This panel will highlight ways to improve voter access to Emergency Medical Ballots.

1:00pm – 2:15pm Afternoon Concurrent Sessions Round I (Continued)

C. Census 2020 and Election 2020: Getting Out the Count and the Vote

In early 2020, there will be intense preparations for two critical events that will shape the future of California’s political life and its democracy – the state’s 2020 Presidential primary is March 3 and 2020 Census Day is April 1. This session will address how election officials can use opportunities for voter education to also conduct outreach on Census 2020. In addition, panelists will discuss how community groups can integrate efforts to mobilize residents for Census 2020 participation with non-partisan voter engagement efforts, highlighting best practices – and potential pitfalls to avoid.

2:15pm – 2:30pm Break

2:30pm – 3:45pm Afternoon Concurrent Sessions - Round II

D. Expanding Community Participation: How Election Offices Can Host Effective Public Events

In the past, election offices have not routinely hosted public events like meetings, workshops, and hearings. However, changes in state laws, like the Voter’s Choice Act and the establishment of community advisory committees for language and access for voters with disabilities, require that counties proactively host more public meetings and conduct outreach. This panel will share best practices and strategies for successful public events and outreach from around the state.

E. Protecting the Vote through Post-Election Risk-Limiting Audits

Amidst reports of cyber-attacks on election systems, can voters trust that their votes are safe? Robust post-election audits--a hand count of a portion of the voter-marked paper ballots--are key to reassuring the public that Californians’ votes do count. This panel explains the basic ideas and designs behind risk-limiting audits, how they can benefit California voters and election officials, and strategies for promoting audits statewide.

F. Conditional Voter Registration: How Expanding Same Day Registration Can Remove Barriers to Voting

This panel will discuss the implementation of conditional voter registration (CVR), also known as Same Day Registration, in the November 2018 election. Panelists will share success using satellite locations, problems experienced in areas without satellite locations, and new research on the impact of access and lack of access to CVR on historically disenfranchised communities.

3:45pm – 5:00pm Closing Plenary

Putting the Voter First: Exploring Voter Centric Reforms and Elections Practices

California is at the forefront of election modernization efforts with the implementation of Motor Voter, Same Day Registration and the Voter’s Choice Act (VCA). These critical reforms have increased opportunities to register to vote and options for voting. This panel will explore how these reforms fared during the 2018 election cycle and highlight election practices implemented throughout California that improved the voter experience.

5:00pm – 6:00pm Evening Networking Reception