The Future of Vote-by-Mail in California

Presented by: Jana Lean, Chief Elections Division Secretary of State
Topics

- Vote-by-mail usage in California
- Comparisons to other states
- The Voters Choice Act (SB 450) and related regulations
- Improvements and recommendations
Vote-by-mail usage in California

Transmitted Vote-by-Mail Ballots

- Nov-2008: 7,156,841
- Nov-2012: 9,394,212
- Nov-2016: 12,018,267

Transmitted to Voters
- Nov-2008: 5,722,465
- Nov-2012: 6,554,199
- Nov-2016: 8,453,683

Returned for Counting
- Nov-2008: 5,722,465
- Nov-2012: 6,554,199
- Nov-2016: 8,453,683

Accepted and Counted
- Nov-2008: 5,722,465
- Nov-2012: 6,554,199
- Nov-2016: 8,453,683
Vote-by-mail usage in California

Permanent Vote-by-Mail Voters

- Nov-2008: 1,596,729 One-time VBM + 5,560,112 Permanent VBM = 7,156,841
- Nov-2012: 1,484,882 One-time VBM + 7,909,330 Permanent VBM = 9,394,212
- Nov-2016: 2,100,275 One-time VBM + 9,917,992 Permanent VBM = 12,018,267

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Vote-by-mail usage in California

Rejected Vote-by-Mail Ballots

- Nov-2008: 130,730 - 2.18%
- Nov-2012: 80,518 - 1.21%
- Nov-2016: 58,309 - 0.69%

Rejected Total | Percentage of Submitted
--- | ---
130,730 | 2.18%
80,518 | 1.21%
58,309 | 0.69%
Comparisons to other states

Vote-by-Mail Ballots Cast Nationwide

Nov 2008

- California, 5,752,669
- Washington, 2,678,075
- Florida, 1,850,502
- Colorado, 1,510,842
- Other States, 10,774,559

Nov 2012

- California, 6,554,199
- Washington, 3,140,660
- Florida, 2,293,416
- Colorado, 1,852,105
- Other States, 14,542,635
The Voters Choice Act (SB 450) and related regulations

2017 Regulations

- Vote by Mail / Provisional Ballot Processing
- Vote-by-Mail Drop Boxes
- Vote Centers
- Ballot Printing – Ballot on Demand
- ePollbooks
- VoteCal
- Early Ballot Pick-up
- Conditional Voter Registration
- New Motor Voter
- Recounts
Improvements and recommendations

Planned improvements:

- Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM)
- Ballot forwarding by county elections officials
- Increased number of ballot drop-off locations
Improvements and recommendations

Future ideas:

- Extend deadline to E+8 with postmark
- Uniform ballot envelope
- Notices and reminders about mailing dates
- Electronic tracking of ballots
Thank you

For more information:

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