Research Questions:

- Who are the state’s vote-by-mail voters – has the demographic composition of these voters changed over the last decade? – Issue Brief # 1

- What is the demographic composition of unsuccessful vote-by-mail voters? – Issue Brief # 2

- What is the county breakdown of reasons for ballot rejection? – Issue Brief # 3

- How would the make-up of the electorate be affected if unsuccessful VBM voters were able to cast successful VBM ballots? – Issue Brief # 4
Who are the state’s vote-by-mail voters - has the demographic composition of these voters changed over the last decade?

• VBM Use Rates by Sub-Group
• Composition of VBM vs Poll Voter Populations
• Geographic Variation
VBM Use Rates by Sub-Group
Strong Growth in the VBM Use

California Vote by Mail Use: 2002-2012
General Elections

In Millions

UC Davis California Civic Engagement Project - CCEP
Data Sources: Statewide Database (SWDB)
Different Sub-Groups Use VBM at Different Rates
Youth and Older Voters: Disparities in VBM Use

- 2012 - Only voters age 55 and older us VBM at a rate greater than 50% - 63.4%.

- 2012 - Youth voters – lowest VBM use rate of all age groups – 39%.

- Change over the decade:
  - Youth had the lowest increase in their percent use of VBM of all age cohorts
  - youth increasing their proportional use of VBM more slowly than the rest of the state’s voters.
Older Voters Driving State’s 50% Use Rate

California Age Cohort Vote: Percent Vote by Mail
General Elections

Percentage of Total Voters

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Data Sources: Statewide Database (SWDB)
Latino and Asian VBM Disparities

- 2012 - Latino VBM proportional use rate – 36.6%
- 2012 – Asian VBM proportional use rate – 58%

Change over the decade:

- Latino VBM increase was lower

- The gap between the Latino and Asian proportional VBM use rates grew over the decade – from about 15 percentage points to over 21 percent percentage points.
Latinos and Asians: Disparities in VBM Use

California Latino and Asian Vote: Percent Vote by Mail General Elections

Percentage of Total Voters

UC Davis California Civic Engagement Project - CCEP
Data Sources: Statewide Database (SWDB)
Composition of VBM vs Poll Voter Populations
Breakdown of VBM Ballots:

- VBM Voters are:
  - Older
  - Less Latino
  - More Asian
  - Less Democratic
  - Different Regional Patterns
Breakdown of VBM Ballots By Age

- 2012 - 71% of VBM ballots are Age 45 +

- 2012 - 58.5% of poll ballots are Age 45 +

Change over the decade:

- Age 65 + still holds the largest proportion of VBM ballots - 32.1% (up from 28.9% in 2004)

- Age 45-54 holds the largest proportion of poll ballots - 21.7% (slightly decreased since in 2004)
VBM: Greater Proportions of Older Voters

2012 California Ballot Type: Percent by Age Cohort
General Election

Percentage of Ballots

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Cohort</th>
<th>VBM</th>
<th>Poll</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
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<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UC Davis California Civic Engagement Project - CCEP
Data Sources: Statewide Database (SWDB)
Breakdown of VBM Ballots By Race and Ethnicity

- In 2012...

- Latinos are underrepresented in VBM voters and Asians overrepresented.

- Latinos made up 14.5% of VBM ballots, but 24.4% of poll voters.

- Since 2004, Latino increases in the proportion of the poll vote have slightly outpaced increases in their share of VBM voters.

- Asians make up 9% of VBM ballot versus 6% of poll voters.
VBM Voters: Few Latinos and More Asians

2012 California Ballot Type: Percent Latino and Asian
General Election

Percentage of Ballots

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Latino</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Non-Latino and Asian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VBM</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poll</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UC Davis California Civic Engagement Project - CCEP
Data Sources: Statewide Database (SWDB)
Why does it matter if there are differences in the make-up of VBM vs. Poll Voters?

- Impacts:

- Outreach and education to VBM voters and/or future VBM voters

- Services provided to VBM voters

- As some counties look to possibly reduce polling places – need to identify if there is disparate impact

- = critical to utilize data in VBM policy discussions.
Thank you

Mindy Romero
Director, California Civic Engagement Project
UC Davis
msromero@ucdavis.edu