

### General Vote by Mail Talking Points:

- Ballots will be mailed to every active, registered voter during the first week of October.
  - [AB 49](#) changed that allowed counties to mail earlier (“no later than E-29) but we are sticking to E-29 for our County
  - Tell voter: if you do not receive your ballot by **Friday, October 16**, please call or email us.
- Our office opens **October 5** for early voting, 8am-5pm. Our office will not be used as an official “Vote Center” but available for replacement ballots and CVR.
- Ballots can be mailed back, or dropped off at any Vote Center or Ballot Drop Box location.
  - Mailed ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day by USPS/bona fide mail delivery service to be included in our final results AND received in our office by **November 20** ([Election Code 3020](#) now allows for a ballot to be received 17 days after Eday, versus 3 days as it was previously).
- VBM Packet contents:
  - Official ballot (we do not know yet how many cards it will be but we are trying to fit it on two cards)
  - Post-paid pink return envelope
  - List of Ballot Drop Box locations
  - “I Voted” sticker
  - Vote by Mail info **\*NEW\***
- [Accessible Vote by Mail](#) (AVBM):
  - ANYONE can now use the AVBM system – not just military/overseas and voters with disabilities! Play around with the system and get used to it!
- 58 Ballot Drop Boxes will be provided in Sacramento County – it goes from the box directly to us; our teams pick them up based on [SOS standards](#) ([These are emergency procedures](#))
  - Ballots can be dropped off at ANY Ballot Drop Box in the state!
  - 24 Exterior drop boxes at Citrus Heights City Hall and VRE
- Track your ballot by signing up for BallotTrax at <https://ballottrax.net/voter/>
  - You can always call (800) 762-8019 or verify their ballot was received through our [Voter Look-up Tool](#)
- Postage is paid on pink return envelopes – no stamp needed.
  - Replacement envelopes available at any interior Drop Box and Vote Center
- You can pick-up a ballot for someone else, at our office or any Vote Center
  - Have the voter complete [this form](#), and their designee can take it to any Vote Center or our office

### USPS Talking Points:

- We encourage voters to mail their voted ballot back by **October 22**.
- **October 27** is the last day we will receive requests to mail a voter to someone

- If someone needs a delivery after this date, check with your Manager on delivery options (we have folks that can do a ballot drop-off while doing other things), we will also be encouraging voters to use AVBM
- We are in constant contact with our West Sacramento postal rep and will work closely with them as the situation changes
- As ballots start to come back, we check to ensure ballots are being postmarked and check for any anomalies. If we see anything of concern or notice returned ballots aren't being postmarked, we contact our USPS representative.
- Postage is paid on pink return envelopes – no stamp needed.

### **Vote by Mail Security/Myths Talking Points:**

- Election materials do not get forwarded
- The process for “Absentee” and “Mail-in” ballots is the same. The difference seems to be “absentee” is when you ASK for a ballot, “mail-in” is automatically mailed to you (at least that is what I am hearing folks say the difference is). The process for issuing and processing return ballots is exactly the same. California officially changed from “absentee” to “Vote by Mail” in 2007 as more than half of California voters were permanent absentee voters. Since 2002, voters could permanent request a mail-in ballot.
- Each ballot envelope is sprayed with a unique barcode that ties it directly back to a voter. If a voter requests a replacement ballot, their first ballot is automatically voided. Same procedure if a person votes at a Vote Center.
- Before a ballot is counted, the signature on the pink return envelope is compared to the signature on a voter’s registration
  - Not sure if sig matches? Check your CA DL/ID card if you did online registration or we will send a copy of a voter’s registration to the voter, free of charge
  - If signature doesn’t match, we will contact the voter
- Returning the ballot for someone else or “ballot harvesting” concerns – see attached email, we are sticking with the same procedures as before, since the legislation to change collection requirements has not passed
- You do not have to vote on all contests, those you do vote on will still count
- All mail ballots are counted, regardless of close contests
- Security Steps:
  - [Chain of custody](#) when picking up ballots from the Post Office, Drop Boxes, or Vote Centers
  - Envelopes are immediately reviewed to check for envelopes without a signature and other counties’ ballots. Ballots from other counties will be forwarded to the correct county.
  - Envelopes are ran through a sorter that takes a picture of the envelope to compare for signature checking to begin verification of eligibility: did they already vote in CA and does their sig match?
    - If signature checked good, the ballot will move on to extracting
    - If there is concern about a signature, it will move up to Supervisor review. If the Supervisor verified it doesn’t match, a letter will be sent to the voter.

- Sig checking: check for slant, pen pressure, common characters (“i” are dotted, “t” are crossed, loops), printed or cursive, size, spacing, pen pressure, connecting strokes
      - We do have Automatic Signature Verification that will pass through high confidence matches. If anything other than high confidence, it is sent for a human to review.
  - Extraction of ballots done with teams of two with high-speed machines that cover up the voter’s personal info for maximum privacy
  - Ballots are reviewed for damages and prepared for tabulation – damaged ballots are re-made and logged
  - Ballots are run through the tabulation machines in our secured ballot counting room, under 24 hour surveillance to the room. A limited number of permanent staff members have access to this room – not even all managers have access!
    - Machines have to pass Logic & Accuracy testing and not connected to the internet. We do a random audit during the certification period to ensure they are counted correctly.
      - \*Extracting room, ballot counting room, and processing rooms will only have access to red felt tip pens. Red does not show up on the scanners (hence the red oval) so no concerns of our teams marking ballots that will invalidate or change a voter’s vote
  - Adjudication – reviewing ballot for voter intent.

### **In-person voting:**

- Please check [here](#) for our safety measures.
- Sacramento County will have 84 Vote Centers open for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Election. 18 of the locations will open October 24<sup>th</sup> and stay open for a total of 11 days. All Vote Centers will be open on October 31<sup>st</sup> and stay open through November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Any registered voter can vote at any location in the County.
- If you are not registered to vote, but are eligible, you can register and vote at the same time at any location in the County.
- Need some extra assistance? Vote Centers offer voters same day registration, language assistance and accessibility machine for voters than may have a physical disability.
- Vote Centers will follow all COVID-19 safety protocols, including the use of face coverings, sanitation supplies and social distancing guidance.

### **Tips for Seniors or High Risk Voters**

- Mailing your ballot or dropping it off at a dropbox is the safest way to vote
- If you need to use a Vote Center:
  - Take advantage of early voting days
  - Visit the Vote Center mid-morning or mid-afternoon
  - Avoid Election Day and high traffic times like after 5 pm on weekdays