
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1392 (Sharp-Collins) - Elections: voter registration information: elected officials and candidates

Version: July 2, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Policy Vote: E. & C.A. 5 - 0, JUD. 13 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Robert Ingenito

Bill Summary: AB 1392 would (1) exempt the residence address, telephone number, and email address of a federal, state, or local elected official or candidate for an elected federal, state, or local office from being disclosed on voter rolls under existing provisions of law, as provided, (2) provide that a county or county elections official is not liable for taking, or failing to take, the actions prescribed by this bill when the county or the county elections official receives erroneous information from the Secretary of State (SOS), and (3) provide that an action in negligence will not be maintained against any government entity or officer or employee thereof as a result of the disclosure of the information that is the subject of this bill, except by a showing of gross negligence or willfulness.

Fiscal Impact:

- By adding specified duties to local elections officials, this bill creates a state-mandated local program. To the extent the Commission on State Mandates determines that the provisions of this bill create a new program or impose a higher level of service on local agencies, local agencies could claim reimbursement of those costs. The magnitude is unknown, but potentially in excess of \$50,000 annually (General Fund).
- SOS indicates that it would incur minor and absorbable costs to implement the provisions of the bill.

Background: A report published by the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point found that threats against public officials have steadily increased since 2017, which corresponds with an increase in polarization in this country since the 2016 presidential election. The report found that from 2013-2016 there were an average of 38 federal charges per year, but that number almost doubled during 2017-2022. Several high profile incidents have occurred against federal officials. In 2017, U.S. Representative Steve Scalise was shot at a congressional baseball practice. There was the January 6 insurrection at the Capitol and the hammer attack on U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi's husband inside his home. The California Legislature has also experienced incidents of violence.

In June 2025, two Minnesota state legislators—Senator John Hoffman and Representative Melissa Hortman—were shot in their homes. Senator Hoffman and his wife Yvette survived the attack, but were hospitalized for needed medical care. Representative Hortman and her husband Mark died from their injuries. The suspect was apprehended and faces federal and state murder charges. Court documents in the

case show that the suspect used “online people search services to find the home addresses of his intended targets. Police found the names of 11 registered data brokers—or companies that gather and sell people’s information, including addresses, emails and phone numbers—in [the suspect’s] abandoned car after the shootings. Police also found a list of dozens of state and federal lawmakers, and their addresses, according to the criminal complaint.”

A 2024 report from the Brennan Center for Justice that conducted surveys in October 2023 from over 1,700 local and state elected officials from all 50 state and across ages, party affiliations, ideologies, genders, sexual orientations, racial and ethnic identities, and religions found alarming rates of threats against elected officials. As the report explains, “threats and attacks [on elected officials] constrain how freely officeholders interact with constituents, narrow the spectrum of policy positions they feel safe to support, and make them less willing to continue in public service. Unaddressed, the problem stands to endanger not just individual politicians but, more broadly, the free and fair functioning of representative democracy — at every level of government.”

Proposed Law: This bill would, among other things, do the following:

- Exempt the residence address, telephone number, and email address of a federal, state, or local elected official or candidate for an elected federal, state, or local office from specified disclosure requirements.
- Require SOS or applicable local elections official to provide each county elections official with a list identifying each elected official or candidate residing in the county and require the county elections official to make the elected official or candidate’s information confidential within 5 business days.
- Require an elected official or candidate to contact their county elections official to ensure their voter registration record has been made confidential.

Related Legislation:

- AB 302 (Bauer-Kahan), among other things, would authorize a protected individual or the California Privacy Protection Agency, to request a business to refrain from publishing or selling their personal information. The bill is currently pending in this Committee.
- SB 1131 (Newman, Chapter 554, Statutes of 2022), among other things, expanded eligibility in the state’s address confidentiality program to include individuals who face threats of violence or violence or harassment from the public because of their work for a public entity and provided that participants in the program are eligible for confidential voter status.

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