
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1392
Author: Sharp-Collins (D) and Flora (R)
Amended: 9/5/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 7/1/25
AYES: Cervantes, Choi, Allen, Limón, Umberg

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 7/15/25
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Arreguín, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/29/25
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SUBJECT: Elections: voter registration information: elected officials and candidates

SOURCE: California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.

DIGEST: This bill requires the residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on an elected official or candidate's affidavit of registration be made confidential unless the person opts out.

Senate Floor Amendments of 9/5/25 make technical changes and address chaptering issues between this bill and AB 827 (Berman) of 2025.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Provides that the home address, telephone number, email address, precinct number, or other information specified by the Secretary of State (SOS) for voter registration purposes, and prior registration information shown on the voter

registration affidavit for all registered voters, are confidential, and shall not be disclosed to any person unless certain conditions are met.

- 2) Provides that the information in 1) of existing law be provided with respect for any voter to any candidate for federal, state, or local office, to any committee for or against any initiative or referendum measure for which legal publication is made, and to any person for election, scholarly, journalistic, or political purposes, or for governmental purposes, as determined by the SOS.
- 3) Permits any person filing a new registration affidavit of registration or reregistration to have the information relating to their residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on the affidavit, or any list or roster or index prepared therefrom, declared confidential upon order of a superior court upon a showing of good cause that a life-threatening circumstance exists to the voter or a member of the voter's household. An individual is also able to seek confidential voter status and have their residence address, telephone number, and email address declared confidential upon presentation of certification that the person is a participant in the SOS's Safe at Home program, which masks the identifying information of crime victims and other specified individuals.
- 4) Requires a county elections official, upon application of a public safety officer and if authorized by the county board of supervisors, to make confidential an officer's residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on the affidavit of registration.
- 5) Requires a county elections official, upon application of a qualified elections-related worker, to make confidential that worker's residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on the affidavit of registration.

This bill:

- 1) Requires the residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on an elected official or candidate's affidavit of registration be made confidential.
- 2) Defines "elected official or candidate" as a federal, state, or local elected official or a candidate for an elected federal, state, or local office.
- 3) Requires the SOS to provide each county elections official a list identifying each elected official or candidate in each respective county when a person files nomination papers for an elected federal or state office. When a person files nomination papers for an elected local office, the county elections official must

add that individual's name to the list identifying each elected official or candidate residing in that county.

- 4) Requires the county elections official to make confidential an elected official or candidate's information in 1) of this bill within five business days of receipt of the list from the SOS in 3) of this bill or within five business days of the filing of nomination papers with the county elections official for an office for which nomination papers are filed with the county elections official.
- 5) Requires county election officials to exclude from any list, roster, or index elected officials or candidates with a confidential voter status pursuant to this bill.
- 6) Creates a process for when an elected official or candidate with a confidential voter status moves to another county.
- 7) Permits an elected official or candidate to opt out of confidential voter status by following a specified process.
- 8) Requires elected officials or candidates to contact their county elections official to ensure that their voter registration record has been made confidential. Elected officials or candidates holding office as of the effective date of this bill must also contact their county elections official to ensure the confidentiality of their voter registration record.
- 9) Provides that confidential status of an elected official or candidate remains in place until the official is no longer holding the office to which they were elected or, for a candidate, the winning candidate takes office.
- 10) Provides 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 SOS.
- 11) Provides that an action in negligence shall not be maintained against any government entity, officer, or employee as a result of the disclosure of the information that is the subject to the provisions of this bill, except by a showing of gross negligence or willfulness.
- 12) Makes corresponding changes to include the provisions prescribed by this bill to other areas of the Elections Code where the confidentiality of information is prohibited from being shared.

- 13) Permits the information being made confidential pursuant to this bill be disclosed only for bona fide journalistic or governmental purposes following a specified process.

Background

Minnesota. On June 14, 2025, two Minnesota legislators were shot in their homes: Senator John Hoffman and Representative Melissa Hortman. Senator Hoffman and his wife survived the attack but were hospitalized following this shooting. Representative Hortman and her husband were both murdered. The suspect was apprehended and faces federal and state murder charges. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz called the shooting an “act of targeted political violence.”

Other States. According to *The New York Times*, legislators and officials across the country began to reexamine their current practices relating to privacy and security. This includes increased security for lawmakers in Ohio, security briefings for legislators in Michigan, increased patrols around lawmakers’ homes in Fairfax County, Virginia, and the removal of home addresses from biographies of legislators in North Dakota.

Related Legislation. The Legislature passed and the Governor signed SB 1131 (Newman, Chapter 554, Statutes of 2022) which expanded the state’s address confidentiality program, Safe at Home, to elections-related workers. SB 1131 responded to an increase in threats to election workers in recent years. One of the sponsors of the bill, the California Voter Foundation, noted in a letter that:

Over the past two years, those charged with administering California’s elections have been increasingly subjected to targeted threats of violence, harassment, and intimidation. Election workers face the risk of “doxing” and harassment as the result of their names, photographs, and addresses being posted online and on social media platforms, as has happened to numerous election officials already around the country. Since November 2020, more than 15% of California’s election officials have left their jobs, some citing increased aggressive and abusive behavior targeted at them.

Comments

Author’s Statement. Public service should not come with threats, violence and potential harm to an elected official or their family. Unfortunately, these threats are on the rise. This bill is a common sense measure that requires county officials to make confidential the address and other sensitive information of state and federal elected officials in order to improve safety.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 1131 (Newman, Chapter 554, Statutes of 2022), among other provisions, expanded the state's address confidentiality program, Safe at Home, to elections-related workers.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations:

- 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.

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/9/25)

California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D. (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/9/25)

First Amendment Coalition
Freedom of the Press Foundation

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