

Date of Hearing: September 12, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS  
Gail Pellerin, Chair  
AB 1392 (Sharp-Collins) – As Amended September 5, 2025

**CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS**

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

**SUMMARY:** Makes the voter registration records of elected officials and candidates for elective office confidential, thereby making information from those records unavailable for election, scholarly, or political purposes, as specified.

**The Senate amendments** delete the Assembly-approved version of the bill, and instead:

- 1) Define “elected official or candidate,” for the purpose of this bill, as an official holding or a candidate for an elected federal, state, or local office.
- 2) Provide for the residence address, telephone number, and email address from the voter registration of an elected official or candidate to be made confidential.
- 3) Require the Secretary of State (SOS), whenever a person files nomination papers for elective federal or state office, to provide a list to each county elections official that identifies each elected official or candidate residing in that county. Require a county elections official, whenever a person files nomination papers for an elected local office, to add that individual’s name to a list identifying each elected official or candidate residing in that county.
- 4) Require a county elections official to make confidential the residence address, telephone number, and email address from the voter registration of an elected official or candidate within five business days of a candidate’s filing of nomination papers with the county elections official or within five business days of receipt of the list described above in 3). Require the county elections official to exclude voters with a confidential voter status under this bill from any list, roster, or index of voters, as specified.
- 5) Require an elected official or candidate to apply for confidential voter status under this bill within 60 days of moving to a new county. Require the elections official of the new county, upon notice of the confidential voter moving into the county, to do all of the following:
  - a) Contact the confidential voter and provide information regarding the application for confidential voter status in the new county.
  - b) Honor the confidential voter status from the former county for 60 days from the date of notice, and exclude the confidential voter in any list, roster, or index during the 60-day period.
  - c) Remove the confidential voter status if the new voter has not obtained or cannot obtain confidential voter status in the new county during the 60-day period.

- 6) Provide that an elected official or candidate's residence address, telephone number, and email address shall remain confidential until the official no longer holds the office or, in the case of a candidate, until the winning candidate takes office.
- 7) Protect a county or county elections official from liability for taking or failing to take the actions required by this bill due to the receipt of erroneous information from the SOS.
- 8) Prohibit an action in negligence against any government entity, officer, or employee as a result of the disclosure of information that is confidential under this bill, except by a showing of gross negligence or willfulness.
- 9) Permit a candidate or elected official to opt out of confidential voter status under this bill, as specified. Permit an elected official who opts out to reapply for confidential voter status at any time while serving in or running for office.
- 10) Permit an elected official or candidate's residence address, telephone number, and email address made confidential pursuant to this bill to be disclosed for bona fide journalistic or governmental purposes. Require a person seeking an elected official's or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for a journalistic purpose to apply to the SOS or a county elections official.
- 11) Require a person seeking a federal or state elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for journalistic purposes to submit all of the following to the SOS:
  - a) A completed California Voter Registration File Request application.
  - b) A letter of authorization or affiliation from the media outlet that the person represents. If the person submitting the request is a member of the media, a press pass may be submitted in lieu of a letter of authorization.
  - c) A declaration under penalty of perjury attesting to the intended journalistic use of the information.
- 12) Require a person seeking a local elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for journalistic purposes to submit requests to the county or other local elections official. Require a county elections official to process such a request consistent with SOS regulations. Require the county elections official to retain records of all requests for, and disclosures of, a local elected official or candidate's confidential voter registration information for journalistic purposes. Permit the county elections official to reject a request that does not adhere to the requirements of this bill.
- 13) Declare that the provisions of this bill that limit the public's access to certain voter registration information is necessary to ensure the safety of elected officials and candidates.
- 14) Add double-jointing language to avoid chaptering problems with AB 827 (Berman) of the current legislative session.
- 15) Makes corresponding changes.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Provides that the home address, telephone number, email address, precinct number, or other number specified by the 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, except that such information shall be provided with respect to any voter to any candidate for public office, to any committee for or against any initiative or referendum measure, as specified, and to any person for election, scholarly, journalistic, or political purposes, or for governmental purposes, as determined by the SOS, as specified. (Elections Code §2194; Government Code §7924.000)
- 2) Provides, notwithstanding 1) above, that a voter's residence address, telephone number, and email address from the voter's registration may be declared confidential, and shall not be provided to candidates for public office, committees for or against initiative or referendum measures, or to any person for election, scholarly, journalistic, or political purposes, or for governmental purposes, in the following circumstances:
  - a) Upon order of a superior court after a showing of good cause that a life-threatening circumstance exists to the voter or a member of the voter's household (Elections Code §2166);
  - b) If the voter is a participant in an address confidentiality program established for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, or elder or dependent adult abuse, or a similar program established for reproductive health care service providers, employees, volunteers, and patients, and other individuals who face threats or violence because of work for a public entity (Elections Code §2166.5; Government Code §§6205 et seq., §§6215 et seq.);
  - c) If the voter is a public safety officer who declared under penalty of perjury that a life-threatening circumstance exists to the voter or a member of the voter's household, and the county board of supervisors in the county where the voter is registered to vote has authorized such confidentiality for public safety officers (Elections Code §2166.7); or,
  - d) If the voter is employed by or contracts with the SOS or a local elections official and performs elections-related work and interacts with the public, and the voter declares under penalty of perjury that a life-threatening circumstance exists to the voter or a member of the voter's household (Elections Code §2166.8).
- 3) Permits a candidate for judicial office, or a candidate for any office whose voter registration is confidential pursuant to 2) above, to withhold the candidate's residence address from the declaration of candidacy, at the discretion of the elections official. Requires the elections official to verify whether the candidate's address is within the appropriate political subdivision if the candidate's residence address is not on the declaration of candidacy, and to add the notation "verified" where appropriate on the declaration of candidacy (Elections Code §§8040, 10226.3).
- 4) Specifies that the people have the right of access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business, and, therefore, the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies shall be open to public scrutiny. Requires a statute adopted after June

3, 2014, that limits the right of access to be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest. (California Constitution, Art. I, §3(b))

**FISCAL EFFECT:** According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 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.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Prior Assembly Consideration of This Bill:** As approved by the Assembly earlier this year, this bill would have authorized employers to distribute specified information to employees by mail, in addition to physically displaying that material. Subsequent to the Assembly's approval, this bill was amended in the Senate to delete the Assembly-approved provisions and to add the current provisions, which were approved by the Senate by a vote of 40-0 on September 9, 2025. As a result, this bill has been re-referred to this committee for further consideration pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2.
- 2) **Purpose of the Bill:** According to the author, “Public service should not come with threats, violence and potential harm to the elected official or their family. Unfortunately, these threats are on the rise. AB 1392 is a common sense measure that requires county officials to make confidential the address and other sensitive information of state and federal elected officials and candidates in order to improve safety.”
- 3) **Threats against Elected Officials:** In June of this year, two Minnesota legislators—Senator John Hoffman and Representative Melissa Hortman—were shot in their homes. Senator Hoffman and his wife survived the attack, but were hospitalized following the shooting. Representative Hortman and her husband were killed. The suspect was apprehended and faces federal and state murder charges. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz called the shooting an “act of targeted political violence.”

According to *The New York Times*, in response to these shootings, legislators and officials across the country began to reexamine their 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.

- 4) **Voter Registration Confidentiality:** Under current law, all voter registration information is confidential, though certain information from voter registration records may be released for approved election, scholarly, journalistic, political, or governmental purposes. However, a voter's driver's license number, ID number, partial Social Security number, and signature are never disclosed under these provisions.

To access permitted information, individuals or organizations must apply to the SOS or a county elections official, providing their name, address, phone number, and driver's license or approved ID number; the specific information requested; and a statement of the intended use of the information. The elections official must verify the applicant's identity before providing any information. Completed applications must be retained by the elections official for five years.

In certain situations, state law provides a higher level of confidentiality for voter registration records, prohibiting the release of a voter's residence address, phone number, and email address even for election, scholarly, journalistic, political, or governmental purposes. Individuals enrolled in California's Safe at Home program—which includes two address confidentiality programs for those at higher risk of threats or violence—are eligible for these protections. Additionally, a voter may request a superior court to declare their address and contact information confidential if they can show that a life-threatening circumstance exists for the voter or a household member. Similar protections are also available to public safety officers and individuals who perform elections-related work for state or county elections officials who attest to such threats affecting them or their families.

The number of voters who have confidential voter registrations pursuant to these provisions is small; according to information from the SOS, fewer than 2,500 voters statewide currently have confidential voter registration status, including approximately 1,100 voters who have confidential voter registration status as part of the Safe at Home program.

This bill creates a new procedure for public officials and candidates for office to prevent the residence addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses in their voter registration records from being disclosed for election, scholarly, or political purposes. Unlike existing confidentiality procedures, this protection would be provided to *all* public officials and candidates without a need to show or attest to a life-threatening circumstance. This procedure also differs in that the residence addresses, phone numbers, and emails of public officials and candidates granted confidentiality under this program would still be available for bona fide journalistic or governmental purposes, as specified.

This bill likely will significantly expand the number of people whose voter registration records are subject to heightened confidentiality requirements. Given the number of elected officials and candidates at all levels—federal, state, and local—several thousand people will qualify for these protections unless they choose to opt out.

- 5) **Arguments in Support:** The sponsor of this bill, Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., writes in support:

I am proud to sponsor Assembly Bill 1392, which strengthens the privacy of elected officials and candidates for federal, state, and local office by safeguarding sensitive voter registration information. The bill ensures the confidentiality of residence addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses listed on voter registration records. County elections officials are required to protect this information within five business days of receiving a list of candidates from the Secretary of State or the filing of nomination papers. This protection will remain in place through the duration of an elected official's service or, for unsuccessful

candidates, until the winning candidate takes office. In light of increasing threats and harassment targeting public officials, AB 1392 provides timely and necessary protection.

- 6) **Previous Legislation:** SB 1131 (Newman), Chapter 554, Statutes of 2022, expanded the state's Safe at Home program to elections-related workers, and allowed employees and contractors of state or local election officials who face life-threatening circumstances to have their voter registration information made confidential, among other provisions.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

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

**Opposition**

None on file.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Ethan Jones / ELECTIONS / (916) 319-2094