

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1513 (Committee on Elections)

As Amended August 28, 2025

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Replaces the term "trial court" with "superior court" in provisions of the Elections Code related to the recall process, and makes related conforming and clarifying changes. Replaces the use of registered mail with electronic or certified mail for elections-related communications.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Eliminate requirements that certain notices required by the Elections Code must be sent by registered mail, and instead require those notices to be sent either by electronic delivery or certified mail.
- 2) Add double jointing language to avoid chaptering problems with AB 930 (Ward) of the current legislative session.

COMMENTS

Most provisions of the Elections Code related to the election of superior court judges use the term "superior court" when referring to those offices. The provisions of the Elections Code governing the recall of superior court judges, however, use the term "trial court" instead. The use of the "trial court" terminology predates the elimination of municipal and justice courts in the state. The term "trial court," however, is not defined in the Elections Code, so the use of that term exclusively in provisions of law related to the recall process can lead to confusion about the specific offices that are covered when the Elections Code refers to the recall of "trial court" judges. This bill replaces the term "trial court" with "superior court" in provisions of the Elections Code related to the recall process, and makes related conforming and clarifying changes.

Additionally, this bill eliminates all existing situations where the Elections Code requires something to be sent by registered mail, and instead requires that it be sent either electronically in the case of communications between different governmental bodies, or via certified mail, in the case of communication from a governmental body to an individual or non-governmental organization. This change will ensure that elections-related communications can be delivered electronically or via certified mail, which is a quicker and verifiable mail option.

The Senate amendments eliminate requirements that certain notices required by the Elections Code must be sent by registered mail, and instead require those notices to be sent either by electronic delivery or certified mail. These provisions previously were included in AB 502 (Pellerin) of the current legislative session, which was approved by the Assembly unanimously in that form. Additionally, Senate amendments add double jointing language to avoid chaptering problems with AB 930 (Ward) of the current legislative session. This bill, as amended in the Senate, is consistent with prior Assembly actions.

According to the Author

This is an Assembly Elections Committee omnibus bill, containing various minor and technical changes to the Elections Code.

Arguments in Support

In support of a prior version of this bill, the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials, wrote: "Current law requires county elections officials to notify the Secretary of State by registered mail of the ordering of a special local election and the close of the candidate nomination period for the election. The Secretary of State is likewise required to notify the county elections official by registered mail of the results of the randomized alphabet draw for the special election and of the filing of a written recount request for any statewide office election or statewide measure election. AB 1513 would instead require county elections officials and the Secretary of State to notify each other of these items by electronic delivery and to confirm receipt of the other's notification by electronic delivery."

Arguments in Opposition

None received.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, negligible state costs.

VOTES:**ASM ELECTIONS: 7-0-0**

YES: Pellerin, Macedo, Bennett, Berman, Solache, Stefani, Lackey

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 69-0-10

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Boerner, Carrillo, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Irwin, Celeste Rodriguez, Sanchez, Wallis

UPDATED

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