

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1562 (Jackson)

As Amended June 17, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Authorizes, until January 1, 2033, a county to adopt a system in which individuals are randomly selected to serve as precinct board members (also referred to as poll workers).

Senate Amendments

- 1) Require a county board of supervisors to adopt and approve any plan by a county elections official to provide for the random selection of individuals to serve as poll workers.
- 2) Require every registered voter who resides in the jurisdiction, instead of every citizen who is at least 18 years of age and resides in the jurisdiction, to be eligible to be selected to serve as a poll worker. Prohibit a candidate to be voted on at the election from being selected to serve as a poll worker.
- 3) Permit an elections official to disqualify a person who has been selected to serve as a poll worker if the elections official, in their discretion, deems the person unsuitable to serve.
- 4) Allow an eligible person to be excused from serving as a poll worker for ill health or another good and sufficient reason, as determined by the elections official, instead of for undue hardship upon themselves or the public. Permit an eligible person who is 70 years of age or older to request to be excused from service as a poll worker.
- 5) Require an elections official who administers a system for random selection of poll workers to develop a form that a person who is selected may use to request to be excused and provide written notice to each person selected, as specified. Require each person selected to serve as a poll worker to receive training regarding their duties, as specified.
- 6) Require each person to serve for the duration of the election for which they are selected, unless they are excused; to receive compensation; and to be subject to the same protections that apply to an employee who takes time off to serve on a jury.
- 7) Add a January 1, 2033, sunset date.

COMMENTS

In California, a United States (US) citizen, a legal permanent resident of the US who would be eligible to vote except for their citizenship status, and an eligible high school student may serve as poll workers.

According to National Conference of State Legislatures, Nebraska is the only state that permits jurisdictions to "draft" poll workers in the same fashion as courts select jury members.

According to Nebraska state law, draftee poll workers are randomly selected from the county's list of registered voters and are required to be of good repute and character and be able to read and write the English language, except as provided. Additionally, under Nebraska's law, no citizen is excluded from serving as a draftee poll worker unless excused by reason of ill health or

other good and sufficient reason. A person who is selected and fails to serve can be found guilty of neglecting their duties. Only two counties in Nebraska avail themselves of this statutory authority: Douglas County and Sarpy County.

The Senate amendments provide detail on how a county elections official implements a system to randomly select individuals to serve as poll workers. Specifically, the Senate amendments permit a county board of supervisors, instead a county elections official, to adopt and approve a system to randomly select individuals to serve as poll workers. Additionally, the amendments require every registered voter who resides in the jurisdiction to be eligible to be selected to serve as a poll worker and authorizes an eligible person to be excused from serving, as specified. The Senate amendments also require each person selected to serve to receive compensation and be subject to the same protections that apply to an employee who takes time off to serve on a jury. Finally, the amendments add a January 1, 2033, sunset date. This bill, as amended in the Senate, is consistent with prior Assembly actions.

According to the Author

"When people do not understand how democracy works, it becomes easier to manipulate and easier to break. When only a small group of people are running our elections, public trust begins to erode. AB 1562 strengthens our democracy and encourages civic engagement by authorizing county election officials to adopt a system in which individuals are randomly selected to serve as poll workers for elections. This bill is intended to bring more people closer to the democratic process, recognizing democracy works best when more people are inside the room, not locked out of it."

Arguments in Support

In support of this prior version of this bill, Power California Action wrote: "At a time when voter confidence has declined and participation, especially among historically underrepresented communities, has dropped, California must take proactive steps to strengthen civic engagement and trust in our democratic institutions. AB 1562 provides a meaningful opportunity to do just that. By expanding how poll workers are recruited, this bill creates more pathways for Californians, particularly young people and communities of color, to engage directly in the electoral process. Increased exposure to how elections function can deepen civic understanding, build trust, and encourage life-long participation."

Arguments in Opposition

None received.

FISCAL COMMENTS

None. This bill is keyed non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

VOTES:**ASM ELECTIONS: 7-1-0****YES:** Pellerin, Gallagher, Addis, Berman, Elhawary, Solache, Stefani**NO:** Johnson**ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 56-10-14****YES:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas**NO:** Castillo, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Hadwick, Irwin, Johnson, Macedo, Sanchez, Tangipa**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Bonta, Chen, Ellis, Flora, Gabriel, Jeff Gonzalez, Hoover, Lackey, Lee, Patterson, Celeste Rodriguez, Sharp-Collins, Ta, Ward**SENATE FLOOR: 29-7-4****YES:** Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Wiener**NO:** Alvarado-Gil, Choi, Grove, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Dahle, Jones, Niello, Weber Pierson**UPDATED**

VERSION: June 17, 2026

CONSULTANT: Nichole Becker / ELECTIONS / (916) 319-2094

FN: 0003771