

Date of Hearing: April 15, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS
Gail Pellerin, Chair
AB 1610 (Ransom) – As Amended April 7, 2026

SUBJECT: Elections: notice.

SUMMARY: Creates uniform procedures for updating a voter's registration record when the voter changes their mailing address but not their residence address. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires a county elections official to do the following when the official receives postal service change of address data that indicates that a voter's mailing address is no longer valid, and that mailing address was different than the voter's residence address:
 - a) If a new mailing address is provided, update the mailing address in the voter's registration record to the new mailing address, and send a forwardable notice to the voter indicating that the voter's mailing address has been updated and that if the update was incorrect, the voter should notify the elections official, as specified.
 - b) If a new mailing address is not provided and the voter lives at a residence address that can receive mail, update the voter's registration record to remove the invalid mailing address, and send a forwardable notice to the voter indicating that the voter's mailing address has been updated and that if the update was incorrect, the voter should notify the elections official, as specified.
 - c) If a new mailing address is not provided and the voter lives at a residence address that cannot receive mail, update the status of the voter's registration to inactive and mail a forwardable confirmation notice to the voter's prior mailing address, as specified.
- 2) Makes technical and conforming changes.

EXISTING STATE LAW:

- 1) Permits a person who meets the qualifications to vote under the California Constitution to register to vote in accordance with state law. Provides that such a person may vote at any election held within the territory within which the person resides and the election is held. (Elections Code §2000)
- 2) Requires a person's affidavit of voter registration to include the person's place of residence and their mailing address, if different from the place of residence. (Elections Code §2150)
- 3) Requires a county elections official to mail a voter notification form to a voter upon receipt of a completed voter registration for that voter and upon notification that the voter's address has changed, as specified. (Elections Code §2155)
- 4) Requires each county elections official to conduct a pre-election residency confirmation of each registered voter, as specified, prior to each primary election. Among other options, this

residency confirmation may be conducted by a mailing to the registered voter via the United States Postal Service (USPS) or by contracting with the USPS or its licensees to use postal service change-of-address data. (Elections Code §§2220, 2222, 2223, 2227)

- 5) Requires a county elections official who receives change-of-address data for a voter from the USPS or its licensees to do the following:
 - a) If a mailing is undeliverable and the voter has no forwarding address, or if change-of-address data indicates that the voter has moved out of state, the elections official must update the voter's registration to inactive and mail a confirmation notice to the voter.
 - b) If the change-of-address information indicates that the voter has moved to another address in the state, the elections official must update the residence address for that voter's registration to the new address and mail the voter a confirmation notice. (Elections Code §§2221, 2225, 2226)
- 6) Provides that voters with an inactive voter registration status do not receive vote by mail (VBM) ballots or other election materials that otherwise are sent to registered voters and are not included in voter registration numbers for the purposes of certain election administration related processes. (Elections Code §§2226, 3000.5)
- 7) Provides that any voter whose registration is inactive, and who offers to vote, who notifies the elections official of a continued residency, or who confirms the voter's registration record on the website of the Secretary of State (SOS), shall be removed from the inactive list and placed on the active voter list. Requires the cancelation of a voter's registration if the voter's registration has been made inactive, a required notification has been sent to the voter, and the voter does not offer to vote or vote at any election between the date of the mailing and two federal general elections after the date of that mailing. (Elections Code §2226)

EXISTING FEDERAL LAW:

- 1) Requires every state, except as specified, to conduct a general program that makes a reasonable effort to remove the names of ineligible voters from the official lists of eligible voters by reason of death of the registrant, or a change in the residence of the registrant, as specified. (52 USC 20507(a)(4))
- 2) Provides that a state may meet the requirement outlined in 1) by establishing a program under which change-of-address information supplied by the USPS through its licensees is used to identify registrants whose addresses may have changed. Requires the relevant elections official, where the information from USPS indicates that the registrant moved to an address not in the elections official's jurisdiction, to mail a specified forwardable notice to the voter to confirm the change of address. Provides, in this situation, that the voter may not be removed from the eligible list of voters in elections for federal office unless the voter either confirms their change of residence in writing, or fails to respond to the notice and has not voted or appeared to vote in an election between the time the notice is sent and the date of the second federal general election after the notice is sent. (52 USC 20507(c), (d))

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown. State-mandated local program; contains reimbursement direction.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose of the Bill:** According to the author:

As the most populous state in the United States, California's elections officials work tirelessly to increase the civic engagement and turnout of voters, and to encourage voter registration. However, our county elections officials currently lack guidance on how to properly reach Californians who change their mailing address and aren't able to receive mail at their home. As a result, there are some Californians at risk of losing their active voter registration status. As a state, it is critical for us to make the registration and change-of-address processes as streamlined as possible. This bill provides supports and clarifications for elections officials, and helps ensure voters receive the right election materials at the right address.

2) **Voter List Maintenance and USPS Data:** Voter registration lists—the official records of eligible, registered voters—are essential tools for administering elections, and maintaining them is critical to both accessibility and integrity. Elections officials continuously update these lists by adding new voters, revising existing records, and removing ineligible individuals. This process, known as voter list maintenance, is governed by both federal and state law, which establish requirements and procedures for keeping voter records current, including those described above in the “Existing Law” section of this analysis.

One key source of information used in list maintenance is data from the USPS. The SOS receives monthly change-of-address data from the USPS through the California Employment Development Department and uploads it into the statewide voter registration database. The system then identifies potential matches between this data and registered voters, flagging those records for review by the appropriate counties. Counties also rely on returned or undeliverable mail, including VBM ballots, as an additional tool for maintaining accurate voter records.

State law contains detailed and uniform procedures for updating voter registration records when USPS data indicates that a voter has changed their residence address. However, it does not address situations in which USPS data suggests a change to a voter's mailing address without any indication that the voter's residence has changed. According to the SOS, this gap has led counties to adopt varying approaches, resulting in inconsistent practices across the state. This bill would establish uniform procedures for processing mailing address updates received from the USPS, promoting greater consistency in voter list maintenance statewide.

3) **Voters' Mailing Addresses:** A voter may have a mailing address that differs from their residence address for a variety of practical or logistical reasons. One common reason is convenience—individuals may prefer to receive mail at a more secure or reliable location, such as a P.O. box or a family member's home, particularly if their residential mailbox is not secure. Voters who spend time at multiple locations throughout the year, including college students, may also need election materials sent to an address other than their residence.

When a voter is able to receive mail at their residence, county elections officials generally retain a valid address to contact the voter if they are notified by the USPS that the mailing address on file is no longer valid. However, some voters are unable to receive mail at their residence. For example, in certain rural or remote areas, the USPS does not provide delivery directly to individual homes. Additionally, under state law, individuals experiencing homelessness may register to vote using a description of the location where they spend most of their time, even if they cannot provide a traditional address. In these cases, voters may identify cross streets or a recognizable location, such as a public park, to enable county elections officials to determine the appropriate voting precinct.

In situations where a voter cannot receive mail at their residence, elections officials may not have an alternative valid address if the voter's mailing address becomes outdated. Establishing a clear policy in state law for handling these circumstances would help ensure consistent and uniform treatment of voter records.

- 4) **Arguments in Support:** The sponsor of this bill, Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., wrote in support of a prior version of the bill:

Current law provides clear guidance to our 58 counties when [National Change of Address] data indicates a voter's residence address has changed, but is silent on how to handle changes to mailing addresses. Many voters, including rural residents, military personnel, college students, and others, rely on separate mailing addresses to receive their ballots and election materials. The absence of statutory direction has resulted in inconsistent practices across counties, with some updating mailing addresses, others declining to do so, and no uniform notice being provided to affected voters.

AB 1610 addresses this deficiency in current law by amending Section 2225 to...create[] three distinct procedures based on the specific circumstances...

This ensures all California voters receive consistent treatment and appropriate notification when their mailing address information changes. By filling this gap in Section 2225, AB 1610 will reduce confusion, improve voter communication, and ensure that all Californians can reliably receive their election materials regardless of which county they live in.

- 5) **Technical Amendments:** Committee staff recommends the following technical amendments to this bill:

Amend the language on page 3, lines 2-4 of the bill as follows:

“We have received notification that you have moved to a new residence address in ~~California or that your mailing address is no longer valid.~~ California. Your voter registration record has been

Amend the language on page 3, lines 13-15 of the bill as follows:

“We have received notification that ~~you have moved to a new residence address in California or that~~ your mailing address is no longer valid. Your mailing address has been updated. If this is

- 6) **Related Legislation:** AB 2153 (Berman), repeals an obsolete provision of law related to residency confirmation of registered voters. AB 2153 was approved by this committee on March 25, 2026, by an 8-0 vote, and is pending in the Senate.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D. (Sponsor)
California Association of Clerks & Election Officials (prior version)
California-Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP (prior version)

Opposition

None on file.

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