

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1610 (Ransom) – As Amended April 16, 2026

Policy Committee: Elections

Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill prescribes additional steps a county elections official must take when United States Postal Service (USPS) data suggests a voter has changed their mailing address but not their residence address.

In such instances, when USPS data indicates a voter has an invalid mailing address that is different from the voter's residence address:

- 1) If a new mailing address is available via change-of-address data, the elections official must update the voter's registration record with the new mailing address and send a forwardable notice to the new address to confirm the change.
- 2) If a new mailing address is not identified and the voter can receive mail at their physical residence, the elections official must send a notice to the voter's physical residence and remove the invalid mailing address from the record.
- 3) If a new mailing address is not identified and the voter cannot receive mail at their physical residence, the elections official must send a specified notice to the voter's mailing address on the voter's registration record.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Possible aggregate costs in excess of \$150,000 annually across the state's 58 county elections officials to update voter list maintenance procedures and mail additional notices to voters. The magnitude of costs depends on the number of voters who change their mailing address without changing their residence address each year. For example, some counties report negligible costs, but other counties report costs of approximately \$10,000 annually. If the Commission on State Mandates determines this bill's requirements to be a reimbursable state mandate, the state would need to reimburse these costs to counties (General Fund (GF)).

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of GF structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

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.

This bill is sponsored by Secretary of State (SOS) Shirley N. Weber and supported by the California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials and the California-Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP.

- 2) **Voter List Maintenance.** Elections officials continuously update their voter registration lists to add new voters, revise existing records, and remove ineligible individuals. This process, known as voter list maintenance, is governed by both federal and state law. One key source of information used in list maintenance is USPS data, which the SOS receives from the Employment Development Department and uploads into the statewide voter registration database. The database compares USPS data with registered voters and flags records needing review by the appropriate county.

Existing state law contains detailed uniform procedures an elections official must use to update voter registration records when USPS data indicates a voter has changed their residence address. However, the law does not address situations in which USPS data suggests a change to a voter's mailing address without a change in the voter's residence address (a voter may have a mailing address that differs from their residence address, where voter registration occurs, for a variety of logistical reasons). This bill establishes uniform procedures an elections official must use to update voter registration records under such circumstances.

Analysis Prepared by: Irene Ho / APPR. / (916) 319-2081