

registration record on the website of the Secretary of State (SOS), must be removed from the inactive list and placed on the active voter list.

- 6) Provides the voter's registration is cancelled after the voter's registration is made inactive, the required notification is sent to the voter, and the voter does not attempt to vote or vote at any election between the date of the mailing and two federal general elections after the date of that mailing.
- 7) Requires, pursuant to federal law, every state 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.

This bill:

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following when the official receives postal service change of address data that indicates a voter's mailing address is no longer valid, and that mailing address was different than the voter's residence address: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

BACKGROUND

National Voter Registration Act. In 1993, the federal government enacted the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and provided a number of reforms designed to facilitate voter participation through voter registration. Most notably, it established the framework for voter registration at the Department of Motor Vehicles, otherwise known as Motor Voter.

The NVRA also contains various provisions relating to maintaining the integrity of the voter rolls. Specifically, the NVRA provides voters must not be removed from the official list of eligible voters on the grounds that the registrant has changed residence unless (1) the registrant confirms in writing a change of residence outside the registrar's

jurisdiction, or (2) the registrant has failed to respond to a specified address confirmation notice and has not attempted or appeared to vote in any election within the next two federal general election cycles following the date of the address confirmation notice.

California law imposes its own requirements regarding notifications to persons who register to vote and for list maintenance activities. This includes provisions that require residence confirmation mailings and, depending on the responses of the initial mailing, multiple attempts to contact the voter. As previously mentioned, if the voter fails to respond and has not attempted or appeared to vote in any election within the next two federal general election cycles following the date of the address confirmation notice, then that voter’s registration is cancelled.

COMMENTS

Author’s Statement. As the most populous state in the U.S., California’s elections officials work tirelessly to increase the civic engagement and turnout of voters, and to encourage voter registration. Our county election officials currently lack guidance on how to properly reach Californians who change their mailing address and are not 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 support and clarification for election officials and helps ensure voters receive the right election materials at the right address.

RELATED/PRIOR LEGISLATION

AB 2153 (Berman) of 2026 repeals an obsolete provision of law related to residency confirmation of registered voters.

PRIOR ACTION

Assembly Floor:	74 - 0
Assembly Appropriations Committee:	15 - 0
Assembly Elections Committee:	8 - 0

POSITIONS

Sponsor: Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.

Support: California Association of Clerks and Election Officials
NAACP California-Hawaii State Conference

Oppose: None received