
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1610 (Ransom) - Elections: notice

Version: April 16, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: E. & C.A. 5 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Robert Ingenito

Bill Summary: AB 1610 would create uniform procedures for updating a voter's registration record when the voter changes their mailing address but not their residence address.

Fiscal Impact: By imposing specified duties on local elections officials, this bill creates a state-mandated local program. To the extent the Commission on State Mandates determines that the provisions of this bill create a new program or impose a higher level of service on local agencies, local agencies could claim reimbursement of those costs. The magnitude is unknown, but could exceed \$50,000 per year (General Fund).

Background: The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) established a national framework to expand voter registration and participation while ensuring the accuracy of voter registration rolls. Among its most significant reforms, the NVRA required states to provide voter registration opportunities through motor vehicle agencies, creating what is commonly referred to as the "Motor Voter" program.

In addition to expanding access to voter registration, the NVRA establishes uniform standards governing voter list maintenance. Under federal law, a voter may not be removed from the voter registration rolls solely because of a presumed change of residence unless the voter either: (1) confirms in writing that they have moved outside the jurisdiction, or (2) fails to respond to an address confirmation notice and neither votes nor attempts to vote during the subsequent two federal general election cycles.

California law supplements these federal requirements by prescribing detailed voter notification and list maintenance procedures. County elections officials are required to conduct residence confirmation mailings and, depending on the outcome of the initial notice, undertake additional outreach efforts to verify a voter's eligibility. If a voter does not respond to these notices and neither votes nor attempts to vote during the following two federal general election cycles, the county elections official is required to cancel that voter's registration, consistent with federal law.

Proposed Law: This bill, among other things would do the following:

- Require 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:
 - 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.

- 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.
- 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.

Related Legislation: AB 2153 (Berman) would repeal an obsolete provision of law related to residency confirmation of registered voters. The bill is currently pending on the Senate Floor.

Staff Comments: The magnitude of costs to local elections officials resulting from the bill would depend on the number of voters who change their mailing address without changing their residence address each year. Some counties report their costs to be negligible, while other indicate costs of \$10,000 annually.

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