
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1610
Author: Ransom (D)
Amended: 4/16/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/30/26

AYES: Wiener, Choi, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26

AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Elections: notice

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

DIGEST: This bill creates uniform procedures for updating a voter's registration record when the voter changes their mailing address but not their residence address.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires a person's affidavit of voter registration to include the person's residence and, if different from the place of residence, a mailing address.
- 2) Requires a county elections official to mail a voter notification form to a voter upon receipt of a completed voter registration and also upon notification that the voter's address has changed.
- 3) Requires each county elections official to conduct a pre-election residency confirmation of each registered voter prior to each primary election. This residency confirmation may be conducted, among other options, by a mailing to the registered voter through the United States Postal Service (USPS) or by

contracting with the USPS or its licensees to use postal service change-of-address data.

- 4) 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 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 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.
- 5) Provides that any voter whose registration is inactive, who attempts 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), 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 election 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.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations:

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).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D. (source)
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials
NAACP California-Hawaii State Conference

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0, 5/21/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins,

Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson,
Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Chen, Garcia, Lackey, Ramos, Celeste
Rodriguez

Prepared by: Scott Matsumoto / E. & C.A. / (916) 651-4106
8/14/26 10:40:00

**** **END** ****