

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
Buffy Wicks, Chair  
AB 2785 (Committee on Elections) – As Amended April 16, 2026

Policy Committee: Elections Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: Yes

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires each county elections official to provide additional precinct and election return data to the Legislature to maintain the computerized redistricting database.

This bill also requires the Legislature to work with the Secretary of State (SOS) to establish a secure electronic process for county elections officials to submit the data, provides that unredacted election returns are confidential and protected from public disclosure, and prohibits the public disclosure of election returns from a precinct in which fewer than 10 voters cast ballots.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

- 1) Possible aggregate costs in excess of \$150,000 annually across the state's 58 county elections officials to provide required data to the Legislature. The magnitude of costs depends on the volume of data each county must report and the county's existing reporting processes. For example, some counties report negligible costs, but other counties report costs in the mid-tens of thousands of dollars per 10-year redistricting cycle. 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)).
- 2) Likely absorbable costs to the Legislature to maintain the database with specified information under established security procedures.
- 3) Minor and absorbable costs to the SOS to establish a secure electronic reporting process with the Legislature.

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, Proposition 11 (2008) transferred responsibility for drawing district boundaries to the Citizens Redistricting Commission, but expressly preserved the Legislature's longstanding role in preparing and maintaining the state's official redistricting database, which involves ongoing data collection and processing. The author intends this bill to streamline that data collection process, take steps to protect voter privacy, and codify the categories of information counties have been required to provide for redistricting purposes after recent statewide elections.

- 2) **Statewide Database.** In 1993, the redistricting database created by the California State Assembly was transferred to the University of California (UC), along with state budget funding to maintain the database. Now housed at the UC Berkeley School of Law, the Statewide Database serves as California's official redistricting database. However, the Legislature maintains an ongoing role to ensure the Statewide Database remains complete and accurate.

Existing law requires county elections officials to make certain information available to the Legislature for the purpose of redistricting, including precinct maps and election returns. Before each statewide election, Statewide Database staff works with the SOS to develop a memo that the SOS sends to county elections officials outlining the data counties must send to the Statewide Database, along with instructions for sending the data. According to the Assembly Elections Committee's analysis of this bill:

Collecting data from county elections officials has been time- and labor-intensive for Statewide Database staff. Moreover, some county officials have raised concerns that releasing precinct-level election results could compromise ballot secrecy in precincts with very few voters.

This bill codifies the information that counties have been regularly asked to submit to the Statewide Database by the SOS for recent statewide elections, codifies a Statewide Database practice to protect voter privacy, and establishes a secure electronic process for data submission.

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