

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
AB 2786 (Committee on Elections) – As Introduced March 12, 2026

Policy Committee: Elections

Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill makes various technical changes to state law regarding elections.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires an elections official for a lead county in a multi-county school or special district election to work with the other counties within district boundaries to establish deadlines for the submission of ballot measure text and impartial analysis and submit required materials and accompanying forms to the other counties within 24 hours of receipt from the ballot measure author.
- 2) Updates obsolete references and makes other technical changes.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Minor and absorbable costs to specified county elections officials. 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.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author, this bill is the Assembly Elections Committee's annual omnibus bill and includes changes requested by the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) and recommended by committee staff. This bill is supported by CACEO.
- 2) **Lead County.** AB 773 (Pellerin), Chapter 664, Statutes of 2020, established the concept of a "lead county" for multi-county district ballot measures to help streamline the ballot measure filing process and ensure consistent filing deadlines. This bill requires the lead county to coordinate with the other counties within the district to establish deadlines for the submission of the ballot measure text and impartial analysis and requires the lead county to provide all ballot measure materials to the other counties within 24 hours of receipt. Establishing additional deadlines will help ensure all counties receive materials in time to meet necessary printing deadlines and all voters within the district receive the same materials.

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