
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**
Senator Scott Wiener, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 2786 **Hearing Date:** 6/30/26
Author: Committee on Elections
Version: 3/12/26
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Rida Shaikh

Subject: Elections

DIGEST

This bill expands the coordination between a lead county and other counties on the deadlines for specified ballot measure materials and makes technical changes.

ANALYSIS

Existing law:

- 1) Defines “general election” as the following:
 - a) The election held throughout the state on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November in each even-numbered year.
 - b) Any statewide election held on a *regular election date*, as specified.
- 2) Requires an election to be held on the next *regular election date*, not less than 113 nor more than 150 days after the date the board of supervisors calls and gives notice of the election.
- 3) Specifies various *established election dates*.
- 4) Requires all arguments and rebuttals related to a ballot measure in a district or school district that encompasses more than one county to be submitted to a lead county. The lead county, which is the county with the most voters within district bounds or whose superintendent of schools covers the district, must work with the other counties within the district boundaries to establish filing deadlines for the submissions.
- 5) Requires the Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments and the Chairperson of the Assembly Standing Committee on Elections and Redistricting to meet with the Secretary of State (SOS) and assist the SOS to the extent that the participation is not incompatible with their positions as Members of the Legislature.

This bill:

- 1) Requires a lead county for multi-county ballot measures to coordinate with other counties to establish deadlines for the submission of the measure text, impartial analysis, and accompanying forms.
- 2) Requires a lead county to provide all ballot measure materials to the other counties within 24 hours of receipt.
- 3) Updates obsolete references from a *regular election date* to an *established election date*.
- 4) Removes a reference to the “Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments and the Chairperson of the Assembly Standing Committee on Elections and Redistricting” and replaces it with “chairpersons of the elections committees of the Assembly and Senate.”

COMMENTS

- 1) Author’s Statement. This is one of the Assembly Elections Committee's annual omnibus bills, containing various minor and technical changes. This bill includes changes requested by the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials and recommendations by committee staff.
- 2) Lead counties. AB 773 (Pellerin), Chapter 664, Statutes of 2023, established a lead county for multi-county ballot measures. It was to help streamline the filing process for ballot measures and ensure consistent filing deadlines. AB 773 requires all arguments and rebuttals related to a ballot measure in a district or school district that encompasses more than one county to be submitted to a lead county. The lead county must work with the other counties within the district to establish filing deadlines for the submissions.

This bill expands the requirement for a lead county to coordinate with other counties to establish deadlines for the submission of the measure text, impartial analysis, and accompanying forms. The lead county has to provide all ballot measure materials to the other counties within 24 hours of receipt. According to county election officials, this proposal will ensure all counties receive ballot measure documents in time to meet necessary printing deadlines and will safeguard that voters within the district receive the same materials.

- 3) Obsolete references. SB 1200 (Committee on Elections and Reapportionment), Chapter 1143, Statutes of 1996, made various technical changes to the Elections Code, one of which changing the phrase “regular election dates” to “established election dates.”

This bill updates the Elections Code and Health Safety Code by removing the obsolete references and changing it to “established election dates.”

- 4) Non-existent committee. The Assembly Committee on Elections, prior to the 2021-2022 legislative session, was named the Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting.

This bill removes references to the names of the Assembly and Senate election committees and replaces them with general terms. The change will avoid future issues with the law becoming outdated if the committee's change their name.

RELATED/PRIOR LEGISLATION

AB 773 (Pellerin), Chapter 664, Statutes of 2023, established a lead county for multi-county ballot measures to help streamline the filing process for ballot measures and ensure consistent filing deadlines.

PRIOR ACTION

Assembly Floor:	77 - 0
Assembly Appropriations Committee:	14 - 0
Assembly Elections Committee:	8 - 0

POSITIONS

Sponsor: Author

Support: California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

Oppose: None received

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