
CONSENT

Bill No: SB 1418
Author: Cervantes (D)
Amended: 3/24/26
Vote: 21

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Wiener, Choi, Allen, Cervantes, Umberg

SUBJECT: Elections officials: meetings

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill increases from three to four per year the maximum number of meetings the Secretary of State (SOS) may convene with election officials in California.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Provides the SOS is the chief elections officer of the state.
- 2) Permits the SOS, on written call, to convene a maximum of three meetings in any calendar year with county election officials, city election officials, and registrars of voters to discuss matters affecting the administration of election laws and to promote uniformity of procedure in those matters. Any deputy of a county elections official, city elections official, or registrar of voters designated by their principal may attend these meetings.

This bill:

- 1) Increases the maximum number of meetings the SOS may convene with California's election officials from three to four meetings in a calendar year.
- 2) Makes technical changes.

Comments

Author's Statement. Under existing law, the SOS can summon elections officials to meet to discuss state elections laws to ensure uniformity in the administration of those laws. The number of these meetings is limited to three per calendar year. In order to better promote uniformity in elections administration across California, this bill would increase the number of meetings the SOS may call from three to four per calendar year.

Election Administration in California. Elections in California are conducted at the local level. This task is typically completed by county elections officials who also serve as registrars of voters, though city election officials (i.e., city clerks) can administer city elections. Jurisdictions must follow state laws, but interpretation and implementation of these laws may vary. To bring more uniformity when implementing the Elections Code, as California's chief elections official, the SOS can promulgate regulations, provide guidance to local election officials, and/or call up to three formal meetings every calendar year with election officials.

Communication between the SOS and Election Officials. The SOS and election officials meet periodically and communicate frequently throughout the year. While not a formal meeting, the SOS and election officials meet at conferences throughout the year, and the SOS convenes a monthly call with county election officials to update them on various election-related matters.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 1842 (John F. McCarthy, Chapter 1883, Statutes of 1955) added the ability for the SOS, on written call, to convene a maximum number of three meetings with election officials in a calendar year.

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

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/22/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/22/26)

None received

Prepared by: Scott Matsumoto / E. & C.A. / (916) 651-4106
4/22/26 16:11:13

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