

SENATE THIRD READING
SB 482 (Weber Pierson)
As Amended June 23, 2025
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires city and county officials to electronically submit an updated list of local officials to the Secretary of State within 120 days of each general election.

Major Provisions

- 1) Requires, no more than 120 days after each general election, the governing body of each city, county, or city and county, or their delegated local entity, including, but not limited to, the office of the city clerk or the office of the county administrator, to submit to the Secretary of State by electronic means an updated list of local elected or appointed officials for publication in the roster of public officials, as described in existing law.
- 2) Provides that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to current law governing state mandated local costs.

COMMENTS

The Secretary of State is the state official responsible for keeping correct records of all official acts of the state government. The Secretary of State also serves as the chief elections officer of the state, and maintain records of various public and private entities, including local agencies.

Since 1946, whenever the Legislature makes an appropriation for the purpose, the Secretary of State must compile, publish, and distribute a roster of state and local public officials (SB 1138, Fletcher and Burns, 1945). This document is known as the California Roster, or the Cal Roster. The Secretary of State then distributes this roster to state and local offices, as well as the public.

According to the Author

This proposal will help facilitate regular and systematic publication of the Cal Roster. In addition to improving the accuracy of official records, this measure promotes greater transparency and accessibility for the public. Accurate and up-to-date local government data is essential for facilitating communication between state agencies and local officials, ensuring accountability.

By mandating that local governments submit updated rosters within 120 days of each local general election, the legislation aims to create a more responsive and accurate public record. Government should be transparent, accessible, and current. As written, the bill will promote greater efficiency, accuracy, and transparency in the publication of California's government officials, benefiting citizens, public servants, and government entities alike. It's a simple yet effective approach to ensuring that the public has access to up-to-date information about their elected and appointed representatives.

Arguments in Support

California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, sponsor of this measure, writes, "The Cal Roster serves as both a vital reference directory and a historical record of California's elected and appointed leadership. While current law requires the Secretary of State to publish this

information annually, it does not place a corresponding requirement on local governments to submit updated rosters, nor does it establish a deadline for doing so. As a result, publication of the Cal Roster is often delayed as our office must repeatedly follow up with individual jurisdictions that fail to respond to the annual data request.

"SB 482 addresses this inefficiency by establishing a clear and reasonable requirement: local governments must submit updated rosters of elected and appointed officials within 120 days following each local general election. This modest change will:

- 1) Ensure the Cal Roster remains accurate and up to date,
- 2) Streamline the publication process, and
- 3) Enhance public access to reliable and timely information about their government.

"While this bill creates a new reporting mandate, it does not impose additional costs on local governments, as they already submit this information to the Secretary of State, although often not in a timely manner. SB 482 simply ensures timely and consistent submission of that data to the Secretary of State, facilitating in turn timely publication of the California Roster."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

- 1) Potential General Fund administrative savings to SOS due to avoided workload related to requesting information from local governments.
- 2) Likely minor costs to cities and counties to submit updated lists of local officials to the Secretary of State within 120 days of a general election. While local costs could be eligible for state reimbursement, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates, the information cities and counties must report to SOS is readily available, and costs to comply would not likely meet the threshold to seek state reimbursement.

VOTES

SENATE FLOOR: 34-0-6

YES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNeerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Richardson, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alvarado-Gil, Cervantes, Grove, Padilla, Reyes, Rubio

ASM LOCAL GOVERNMENT: 10-0-0

YES: Carrillo, Ta, Hoover, Pacheco, Ramos, Ransom, Blanca Rubio, Stefani, Ward, Wilson

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 13-0-2

YES: Wicks, Sanchez, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Arambula, Pellerin

UPDATED

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