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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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Bill No: SB 482  
Author: Weber Pierson (D)  
Amended: 6/23/25  
Vote: 21

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SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 7-0, 4/23/25  
AYES: Durazo, Choi, Arreguín, Cabaldon, Laird, Seyarto, Wiener

SENATE ELECTIONS & C.A. COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/29/25  
AYES: Cervantes, Choi, Allen, Limón, Umberg

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 34-0, 5/15/25 (Consent)  
AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Richardson, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarado-Gil, Cervantes, Grove, Padilla, Reyes, Rubio

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 65-0, 9/9/25 – Roll call not available.

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**SUBJECT:** Roster of public officials: local government

**SOURCE:** California Secretary of State

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**DIGEST:** This bill requires city and county officials to electronically submit an updated list of local officials to the Secretary of State (SOS) within 120 days of each general election.

*Assembly Amendments* of 6/23/25 lengthen the amount of days city and county officials have to submit their updated list to SOS after each general election.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law:

- 1) Requires SOS to compile, publish, and distribute a roster of state and local public officials. SOS then distributes this roster to state and local offices, as well as the public.
- 2) Requires, within 70 days of after commencing its legal existence, a public agency to notify SOS so they can be officially recognized in the Registry of Public Agencies.

This bill requires city and county officials to electronically submit an updated list of local elected or appointed officials to the Secretary of State for publication in the roster of public officials no more than 120 days after each general election.

## **Background**

According to SOS, they do not receive information from all local agencies in a timely fashion, which can delay publication of the roster. They estimate that at most 35% of local governments submit information in a timely fashion without further requests for information. The remainder submit the information only after additional requests, which increases staff workload.

## **Comments**

- 1) *Purpose of this bill.* According to the author, “Public benefits include increased transparency and accountability. No significant unintended consequences are anticipated. This proposal will also help facilitate regular and systematic publication of the Cal Roster. In addition to improving the accuracy of official records, this proposal 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 ‘provide 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.”

- 2) *Empty threat?* The SOS reports that many local agencies do not provide the information necessary for them to complete the roster of public officials in a timely fashion. SB 482 puts that requirement in state law. However, simply having a requirement in state law may not be sufficient to guarantee compliance. Other state officials, like the State Controller, rely on local agencies submission of information to complete other reporting requirements, like annual financial transaction reports. Despite having the power to impose fines for compliance, the State Controller still reports challenges receiving information for these reports despite existing statutory language requiring local agencies to submit it. SB 482 does not impose any penalties that do not comply with its requirements. Does SB 482 do enough to ensure local agencies comply with its requirements, or should it include a consequence if they do not?

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

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, potential General Fund administrative savings to SOS due to avoided workload related to requesting information from local governments and also, 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.

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 9/9/25)

California Secretary of State (Source)

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 9/9/25)

None received

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9/9/25 12:37:06

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