

# Know the facts about the upcoming election.

**Every active registered voter in San Diego County will receive a ballot in the mail for the Sept. 14 California Gubernatorial Recall Election.**

Voting by mail is not a new phenomenon for San Diego County. Over 75% of its registered voters were already signed up to permanently receive their ballot by mail for the March 2020 primary election and 100% of active registered voters were mailed a ballot for the November 2020 presidential general election, so the San Diego County Registrar of Voters is well positioned moving forward.

With such a large percentage who have preferred voting by mail over the years, the Registrar has matured its processes and increased capacity for the better part of two decades and are more than prepared to manage the processing of mail ballots accurately and securely.

## **The Registrar...**

- ...has a contracted vendor who can handle the increased mailing capacity
- ...has a long and strong partnership with its local United States Postal Service office to ensure timely delivery and return of mail ballots
- ...has invested over the years to manage backend processing of mail ballots (high capacity mail sorting machines, digital adjudication, and high-speed scanners)
- ...has added more automated extraction machines
- ...has expanded the use of the Remote Accessible Vote by Mail System option to all voters (Elec. Code, § 1605(c).)
- ...will start processing mail ballots beginning 29 days before election day (Elec. Code, § 1605(a).)
- ...will accept election day postmarked mail ballots up to 7 days after election day (Elec. Code, § 1605(d).)

## **SAFEGUARDS ARE IN PLACE FOR VOTING BY MAIL**

Safeguarding the integrity of every election and every validly cast ballot is paramount to the Registrar of Voters' mission. Much attention has been shined on the security of casting a ballot by mail for the upcoming election and the San Diego County Registrar of Voters wants to provide you with all the steps we take to ensure the protection and integrity of every ballot that is cast by mail, including implementing the necessary safeguards, security, chain-of-custody, and quality assurance procedures.



**VOTE 2021**



## MAINTENANCE OF VOTER REGISTRATION LIST INCLUDES:

1. Updating voter registration lists daily, weekly, and monthly to ensure the voter's correct residence address and mailing address is on file
2. Removing voters from the voter rolls when the Registrar's office receives:
  - Information of those who have passed away from the Bureau of Vital Records/Statistics
  - Information from the Superior Court or Federal Court that someone has been convicted and is incarcerated for a felony
  - Notification from another election agency that a voter has registered in their county
3. Sending out mailers to determine if a person has moved. Voters will be placed on inactive status when election mail is returned from the United States Postal Service. These voters do not receive a mail ballot unless they interact with Registrar's office to confirm their residence status

[Click here](#) to learn more about maintenance of voter registration lists.

**Signature verification:** The principal method used to detect and prevent fraud is the mail ballot envelope itself. Once the mail ballot is received by the Registrar's office, the signature on the outside of the return ballot envelope is checked against the signature on file in a voter's registration record.

**Mail ballots are tracked:** Our election management system tracks mail ballots that are issued to voters. As a result, it has the capability to prevent multiple ballots issued to a voter from being counted. In fact, if we need to send a replacement ballot to a voter, the original one we issued is automatically suspended.

**Collaboration with USPS:** The Registrar's office works closely with the United States Postal Service to ensure mail ballots are prioritized in terms of delivery to voters and when returned to our office.

**USPS collection boxes and staffed drop-off locations:** In addition to the trusted service provided by the United States Postal Service, the Registrar is providing mail ballot drop-off locations across the county. These locations are staffed by election workers, adding a layer of security and transparency to the ballot drop-off process. Staff at these locations will also double check that the voter signed and dated their return envelope.

**Electronic Poll Books (ePoll Books):** If a voter receives a mail ballot but chooses to vote in person at a voting location, an election worker can look up the voter in the ePoll Book to suspend their mail ballot and re-issue a new ballot to cast.

Lastly, San Diego County has not experienced any systemic or widespread voter fraud, particularly as it relates to voting by mail.

**Committing voter fraud is a federal crime. Any allegation of voter fraud is referred to the County District Attorney's Office and the Secretary of State's Fraud Investigation Unit who investigate and prosecute.**

## WAYS YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR VOTE

SIGN, SEAL, RETURN your ballot to a trusted source. Voters who return their ballot through the U.S. Postal Service can track it by signing up for "[Where's My Ballot?](#)".

Learn more about voting in the upcoming election at [sdvote.com](https://sdvote.com).



**VOTE 2021**

