

**CACEO Voting Opportunities Committee (VOC)
Mail Ballot / Vote Center Legislation Recommendations
Adopted by the CACEO Board of Directors on June 11, 2015**

Mail Ballot / Vote Center Funding	
Issue	Notes / Discussion by VOC
Funding.	The VOC recognizes that implementation of legislation to modernize California elections will require significant funding. The VOC recommends in principle that funding to convert to a mail ballot/vote center model be provided by the state and that there should be funding for hardware/software, voter outreach and education.
MAIL BALLOT ISSUES	
Issue	Notes / Discussion by VOC
Who will receive a mail ballot and can a voter choose to opt out of receiving a mail ballot?	VOC Committee recommends that all active voters receive a mail ballot and that voters should not be given the option to opt-out of receiving a mail ballot because providing this option would be labor intensive, confusing for voters, and unnecessary because voters would still have the option to vote at a vote center even without the opt-out provision
Can election officials send a mail ballot and a sample ballot in the same mailing?	VOC has determined that not all counties have the capability to combine their ballots and sample ballots into one mailing. Therefore, some expected savings from a mail ballot election may not be realized. VOC encourages all counties to determine whether their county is capable of combining mailings in order to accurately present cost information to legislators.
Who pays the return postage?	VOC recommends that voters be required to pay the postage to return their voted ballot.
What materials should be sent to a voter?	The VOC recommends removing section 12 (C) of SB 450 referring to postage-paid postcards for the purpose of requesting a vote by mail ballot in a language other than English. The VOC recognizes that this issue is already accounted for in section 12 (A) and more specifically in section 12 (A) iii of SB 450. The VOC had significant concerns regarding the costs of sending postage paid postcards to all voters for every election.
VOTE CENTER ISSUES	
Issue	Notes / Discussion by VOC
Name.	VOC recommends that the term "Vote Centers" be used in California.
Should there be multiple formulas?	VOC acknowledges that while one formula would be less confusing for voters, it could prove to be wasteful in Special Elections. Therefore, VOC recommends two formulas, one for General and Primary Elections and one for Special Elections.

<p>How many vote centers should be required for General and Primary Elections?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado’s model of 1 per 30,000 registered voters for 15 days and 1 per 15,000 registered voters on Election Day has proven to be unnecessary and wasteful. • Projections show that SB 450’s model of 1 per 15,000 registered voters for 10 days will be even more inefficient than Colorado’s model. • VOC’s recommendation below is based on realistic projections of expected turnout and considers the fact that finding adequate locations for vote centers for long periods of time will be extremely difficult. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VOC recommends that vote centers be open beginning at E-10 and that they must be open at least for two weekend days. ○ VOC’s recommended formula requires a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E-10 to E-1 – 1 per 75,000 registered voters ▪ Election Day – 1 per 15,000 registered voters ○ VOC recommends that mandated formulas have a sunset provision and that the formulas be revisited by the legislature in 2019 after data is collected in the 2018 Gubernatorial Election.
<p>How many vote centers should be required for Special Elections?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As stated above, VOC recommends separate formulas for General and Primary Elections versus Special Elections. • VOC’s recommendation below is based on realistic projections of expected turnout in a Special Elections and considers the fact that finding adequate locations for vote centers for long periods of time will be extremely difficult. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VOC recommends that vote centers be open beginning at E-10 and that they must be open at least for two weekend days. ○ VOC’s recommended formula requires a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E-10 to E-1 – 1 per 150,000 registered voter ▪ Election Day – 1 per 30,000 registered voters ○ VOC recommends that mandated formulas have a sunset provision and that the formulas be revisited by the legislature in 2019 after data is collected in the 2018 Gubernatorial Election.
<p>ADA accessibility</p>	<p>VOC recommends endorsing SB 450’s language on accessibility requirements.</p>
<p>Free use of publicly owned facilities.</p>	<p>VOC recommends that the legislation should have a provision that allows ROVs to use publicly owned facilities for use as Vote Centers / Drop-off locations because finding a large number of locations with adequate connectivity and that will allow usage by ROVs for long periods of time will be difficult.</p>
<p>BALLOT DROP-OFF ISSUES</p>	
<p>Issue</p>	<p>Notes / Discussion by VOC</p>
<p>Should there be separate requirements for drop-off locations, drop boxes, and vote centers in SB 450?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 450 addresses vote centers and drop off locations and is silent about drop-boxes. Its drop-off location definition of “shall consist of a locked ballot box located in a secure public building” is too restrictive. • SB 365 distinguishes ballot drop-off locations from ballot drop boxes. • VOC recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VOC is in agreement with AB 365’s distinction between drop-off receptacles and drop-off locations. It also recognizes that legislation may need to contain separate rules about the number of locations and hours of operation. However, the VOC is making no recommendations about such rules at this time.

Minimum number of ballot drop-off locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The VOC recommends that a minimum number of ballot drop-off locations coincide with the number of vote centers designated for early voting prior to Election Day.
Hours of operation.	VOC did not discuss hours of operation for vote centers. However, it did discuss hours of operations for drop-off locations. Recommended language for drop-off locations is “shall be open during normal business hours.”
Security at drop-off locations.	VOC recommends that the SOS promulgate regulations that establish guidelines for security measures.
TECHNOLOGY ISSUES	
Issue	Notes / Discussion by VOC
VoteCal / EMS Vote Center Module.	<p>VOC recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretary of State should begin a new project to develop a new vote center module utilizing the EMS vendor’s software that works seamlessly with VoteCal. The vote center module should work similarly to WebScore in Colorado and not similar to an E-Poll book solution. The vote center module should be functional by June, 2017.
Connectivity at vote centers.	VOC recommends that wireless connections should be allowed at vote centers and the SOS should develop regulations about security of connections. Restricting connections to wired connections only may be problematic because they can be very expensive and it’s not clear whether they can be turned on and off as needed.
Ballot on demand at vote centers.	VOC recommends that current Ballot-On-Demand regulations be streamlined to allow for more efficient deployment of printers. While SB 439 authorizes the SOS to adopt more practical regulations regarding Ballot on Demand systems, VOC recommends that regulations be monitored to assure they meet ROV needs.
DRE usage at vote centers.	VOC recommends that the Secretary of State reexamine current early voting DRE security requirements.