



Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.

California Secretary of State

1500 11th Street | Sacramento, CA 95814 | Tel 916.653.7244 | Fax 916.653.4620 | www.sos.ca.gov

April 1, 2026

Honorable John Laird, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee

Honorable Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee

Honorable Buffy Wicks, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee

Joe Stephenshaw, Director
Department of Finance

Re: 2025 Statewide Special Election Costs

Dear Chairpersons Laird, Gabriel, Cervantes, Wicks, and Director Stephenshaw:

Pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 280 (Chapter 97, Statutes of 2025), this report and supporting documents outline the total costs of the November 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election.

Background

On August 21, 2025, the Statewide Special Election was called pursuant to SB 280, which set the election date and procedures. Section 4, of SB 280, provides that:

(a) It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure counties have sufficient funding to effectuate the November 4, 2025, statewide special election. An amount is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Controller for the actual and reasonably necessary costs, as determined by the Director of Finance, for the counties to conduct the November 4, 2025, statewide special election.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, the Controller shall allocate these funds to counties according to a schedule provided by the Director of Finance. Any excess funds received by the county shall be used to offset state costs for the next statewide election conducted by the county. Each county shall report its final total cost to administer the statewide special election to the Secretary of State in a manner and by a date determined by the Secretary of State.

(c) An amount is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Secretary of State for the actual and reasonably necessary costs, as determined by the Director of Finance, for the Secretary of State to administer the November 4, 2025, statewide special election.

(d) No later than April 1, 2026, the Secretary of State shall report on the final costs of the statewide special election to the Director of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. The report shall include all of the following:

- (1) The total cost of the statewide special election by county.
- (2) The costs broken out by category for each county.
- (3) Any funds remaining, by county, that can be used to offset state costs for the next election conducted by the county.

On September 5, 2025, and October 14, 2025, the Department of Finance requested the State Controller's Office allocate General Fund resources to county elections officials to administer the Statewide Special Election in a sum totaling \$251,356,359. (See [Allocation to Counties Letter](#) and [Supplemental Letter](#).)

On September 8, 2025, the Department of Finance requested the State Controller's Office allocate \$31,375,000 to the Secretary of State to support costs to administer the Statewide Special Election.

Subsequently, California's 58 counties received their allocation as requested by the Department of Finance and successfully conducted the November 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election.

Total Cost of the November 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election

The total cost of the Statewide Special Election is \$237,238,345.10, which includes \$204,987,206.67 in county costs and \$32,251,138.43 in Secretary of State costs.

County Costs

The total cost by county is as follows:

Summary of Cost Report Totals

County	Allocated Special Election Costs	Actual Special Election Costs	Remaining Balance of Funds from Special Election Allocation	Additional Funding Needed for Special Election Costs Incurred
Alameda*	\$11,429,947.00	\$8,592,229.72	\$2,837,717.28	
Alpine	\$38,950.00	\$33,977.69	\$4,972.31	
Amador*	\$159,610.00	\$159,867.05	-\$257.05	\$257.05
Butte*	\$843,000.00	\$921,716.66	-\$78,716.66	\$78,716.66
Calaveras*	\$348,832.00	\$223,523.16	\$125,308.84	
Colusa	\$227,358.00	\$197,184.88	\$131,661.24	
Contra Costa	\$6,568,000.00	\$5,199,905.51	\$1,368,094.49	
Del Norte	\$139,345.00	\$116,493.84	\$22,851.16	
El Dorado*	\$836,800.00	\$707,180.50	\$129,619.50	
Fresno*	\$4,047,000.00	\$2,825,189.44	\$1,232,116.94	
Glenn	\$236,600.00	\$181,495.91	\$55,104.09	

Humboldt*	\$839,000.00	\$547,358.16	\$291,641.84	
Imperial*	\$681,090.00	\$424,569.67	\$256,520.33	
Inyo	\$220,826.00	\$220,680.56	\$145.44	
Kern	\$3,188,500.00	\$1,939,125.79	\$1,249,374.21	
Kings*	\$518,300.00	\$259,361.85	\$258,938.15	
Lake	\$351,028.00	\$274,447.60	\$76,580.40	
Lassen	\$144,700.00	\$118,415.98	\$26,284.02	
Los Angeles*	\$67,194,000.00	\$64,473,494.29	\$3,194,334.96	
Madera*	\$892,560.00	\$855,778.90	\$36,781.10	
Marin*	\$1,635,647.00	\$1,255,071.22	\$380,575.78	
Mariposa*	\$75,000.00	\$58,540.41	\$16,459.59	
Mendocino	\$351,000.00	\$328,632.84	\$22,367.16	
Merced*	\$1,395,245.00	\$1,318,808.08	\$76,436.92	
Modoc	\$71,860.00	\$62,605.18	\$9,254.82	
Mono	\$187,000.00	\$161,129.27	\$25,870.73	
Monterey	\$3,500,000.00	\$2,786,740.11	\$713,259.89	
Napa*	\$682,336.00	\$575,837.78	\$106,498.22	
Nevada*	\$695,200.00	\$525,645.82	\$169,554.18	
Orange*	\$15,432,820.00	\$10,132,400.00	\$5,300,420.00	
Placer*	\$3,100,000.00	\$1,907,805.32	\$1,192,194.68	
Plumas	\$58,667.00	\$54,968.74	\$3,698.26	
Riverside*	\$16,329,709.00	\$11,371,623.55	\$4,958,085.45	
Sacramento*	\$10,843,148.00	\$10,843,148.00	\$0.00	
San Benito*	\$357,300.00	\$323,121.18	\$34,178.82	
San Bernardino	\$24,877,758.00	\$17,167,320.00	\$7,710,438.00	
San Diego*	\$19,000,000.00	\$12,240,653.16	\$6,759,346.84	
San Francisco	\$4,508,500.00	\$4,095,128.12	\$413,371.88	
San Joaquin	\$4,247,235.00	\$3,893,390.78	\$353,844.22	
San Luis Obispo	\$1,896,400.00	\$1,070,095.84	\$826,304.16	
San Mateo*	\$4,170,529.00	\$3,024,568.05	\$1,145,960.95	
Santa Barbara	\$2,445,000.00	\$1,720,945.09	\$724,054.91	
Santa Clara*	\$17,219,000.00	\$14,504,605.84	\$2,714,394.16	
Santa Cruz*	\$1,262,062.00	\$1,029,252.81	\$232,809.19	
Shasta	\$1,149,176.00	\$1,030,383.38	\$118,792.62	
Sierra	\$24,000.00	\$16,844.26	\$7,155.74	
Siskiyou	\$373,088.00	\$246,124.83	\$126,963.17	
Solano	\$2,617,826.00	\$2,853,400.22	-\$235,574.22	\$235,574.22
Sonoma*	\$3,068,144.00	\$2,271,953.00	\$873,245.00	
Stanislaus*	\$1,592,116.00	\$1,615,436.76	-\$23,320.76	\$23,320.76
Sutter	\$397,900.00	\$408,380.73	-\$10,480.73	\$10,480.73
Tehama	\$300,000.00	\$252,075.25	\$47,924.75	
Trinity	\$205,000.00	\$124,412.52	\$80,587.48	
Tulare	\$1,241,750.00	\$882,504.36	\$359,245.64	
Tuolumne*	\$228,420.00	\$216,921.16	\$11,498.84	
Ventura*	\$5,297,000.00	\$5,023,925.33	\$273,074.67	

Yolo*	\$1,264,731.00	\$964,495.00	\$300,236.00	
Yuba	\$350,346.00	\$356,315.52	-\$5,969.52	\$5,969.52
Totals:	\$251,356,359.00	\$204,987,206.67	\$47,031,830.08	\$354,318.94

* Denotes Voter's Choice Act counties.

As indicated in the table above, fifty-two counties have remaining funds available for a total of \$49,031,495.12. Six counties will need additional funding in the amount of \$354,318.94, as follows:

Amador	\$257.05
Butte	\$78,716.66
Solano	\$235,574.22
Stanislaus	\$23,320.76
Sutter	\$10,480.73
Yuba	\$5,969.52
Total	\$354,318.94

The total costs for counties by category are as follows:

Category	Allocated	Actual
Ballot Costs	\$73,564,648.18	\$61,764,567.78
Equipment & Logistics	\$42,088,941.49	\$36,364,311.53
Staffing	\$114,320,672.27	\$99,416,105.18
Outreach & Communication	\$16,198,878.06	\$7,708,568.22
Indirect/Jurisdiction Adjustments	\$1,234,519.00	-\$266,346.04
Costs without Detail	\$3,948,700.00	\$0.00
Total	\$251,356,359.00	\$204,987,206.67

For the county-by-county costs by category, please see [Attachment A – County-by-County Special Election Costs by Category \(PDF\)](#).

Secretary of State Costs

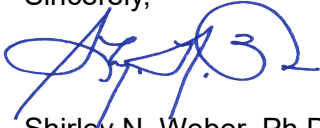
The Secretary of State was allocated \$31,375,000. The Secretary of State actual expenditures were \$32,251,138.43 which is inclusive of an additional \$2,099,786.33 in unanticipated expenditures as the result of the Legislative Analyst's Office mapping error in their analysis provided for inclusion in the Voter Information Guide. The Secretary of State notes that the invoicing process is still ongoing and that costs are subject to change based on the final invoicing and processing through our office and the Department of General Services. The table below details the Secretary of State estimated and actual costs for the November 4, 2025, Statewide Special Election.

Secretary of State 2025 Special Election Expenditures	Allocated Special Election Costs	Actual Special Election Costs	Remaining Funds from Special Election Allocation
Voter Information Guide	\$8,025,000.00	\$9,589,051.69	-\$1,564,051.69
Printing	\$3,483,000.00	\$4,133,719.81	-\$650,719.81
Mailing	\$4,542,000.00	\$3,355,545.55	\$1,186,454.45
<i>Legislative Analyst's Office Voter Information Guide Mapping Error (printing & mailing) **</i>	\$0.00	\$2,099,786.33	-\$2,099,786.33
Voter Hotline Support	\$265,000.00	\$101,590.47	\$163,409.53
Temporary Contracted Workers	\$200,000.00	\$75,501.00	\$124,499.00
Retired Annuitant Supervisors	\$65,000.00	\$26,089.47	\$38,910.53
Elections Costs	\$185,000.00	\$392,217.27	-\$207,217.27
Overtime (Elections)	\$76,000.00	\$25,499.62	\$50,500.38
Rental E-Night Vans	\$1,000.00	\$689.28	\$310.72
Emergency phones	\$3,000.00	\$1,076.00	\$1,924.00
Voter Hotline Headsets	\$1,000.00	\$899.85	\$100.15
Voter Hotline IVR & ACD Recordings	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Outreach Materials	\$1,000.00	\$1,452.90	-\$452.90
Special Election Translations	\$98,000.00	\$362,599.62	-\$264,599.62
ITD Costs	\$134,000.00	\$0.00	\$134,000.00
Election Night Reporting Infrastructure	\$134,000.00		\$134,000.00
Ballot tracking	\$250,000.00	\$249,999.00	\$1.00
Ballot Tracking	\$250,000.00	\$249,999.00	\$1.00
Election Observation	\$37,000.00	\$3,431.35	\$33,568.65
Observation (TEC, etc)	\$37,000.00	\$3,431.35	\$33,568.65
Voter's Choice Act (VCA) Program	\$3,011,000.00	\$140,010.00	\$2,870,990.00
Sub-Grants to CBOs/ hard-to-reach populations	\$2,000,000.00		\$2,000,000.00
SOS VCA Messaging toolkit development	\$100,000.00		\$100,000.00
SOS VCA Messaging materials translations	\$55,000.00		\$55,000.00
SOS VCA (Sub)grant administration	\$656,000.00		\$656,000.00
Legislative Reporting	\$200,000.00	\$140,010.00	\$59,990.00
Communications/Office of Cybersecurity	\$18,560,000.00	\$21,356,366.00	-\$2,796,366.00
Production/Shoots	\$130,000.00		\$130,000.00
Paid Communication – Digital/TV/Print/Radio/Billboards	\$16,000,000.00	\$21,356,366.00	-\$5,356,366.00
Translation - Real-time Translation Services	\$55,000.00		\$55,000.00
Vendor support - Campaign Management/Data Analysis	\$1,200,000.00		\$1,200,000.00
CBO Microgrants	\$950,000.00		\$950,000.00
Earned Media/Outreach	\$225,000.00		\$225,000.00
Outreach and Education	\$490,000.00	\$15,840.00	\$474,160.00
Targeted Voter Outreach and Education	\$440,000.00		\$440,000.00
Equipment and Logistics	\$50,000.00	\$15,840.00	\$34,160.00
Headquarters	\$418,000.00	\$402,632.65	\$15,367.35
Security - CHP	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$0.00
Security - Platinum	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Security - City of Sacramento	\$1,000.00	\$963.00	\$37.00
Postage - USPS	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$0.00
Postage - Fed-Ex	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$0.00
Overtime - DGS Building Staff	\$8,000.00		\$8,000.00
Overtime - SOS Building Staff	\$4,000.00		\$4,000.00
Overtime - Contract & Procurement Staff	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00
Over Head Supplies (badges, paper, etc.)	\$2,000.00	\$1,669.65	\$330.35
Total SOS Estimated Expenditures	\$31,375,000.00	\$32,251,138.43	-\$876,138.43

** Included in the Voter Information Guide (VIG) was a map provided by the Legislative Analyst's Office which contained an error identifying two districts with the same district number. Upon discovery, postcards containing the corrected map were printed and mailed to recipients who previously received the VIG with the erroneous map.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me at (916) 653-7244.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. N. Weber', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.
California Secretary of State

cc: Hans Hemann, Chief Consultant, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Sue Parker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Cara L. Jenkins, Legislative Counsel