



**ALEX PADILLA**  
California Secretary of State

AP18:171

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 29, 2018**

**CONTACT:**

**SOS Press Office**

**(916) 653-6575**

## **California Secretary of State Alex Padilla Response to Paul Ryan Comments on CA Elections**

**SACRAMENTO** – California Secretary of State Alex Padilla issued the following response after [Speaker Paul Ryan's comments calling California elections "bizarre"](#).

“It is bizarre that Paul Ryan cannot grasp basic voting rights protections. It shouldn’t “defy logic” that elections officials are meticulous in counting every eligible ballot. California works to ensure every ballot is counted properly and every ballot is accounted for. In the most populous state in the nation — and the state with the largest number of registered voters — this takes time.”

“In California, we believe in an inclusive and accessible democracy. We provide voters as many opportunities as possible to cast their ballots. That is why we have no excuse vote by mail, automatic voter registration, same-day voter registration, and early voting. These reforms helped drive California’s historic registration and a 30 year high in midterm turnout. I stand with the thousands of elections officials and volunteers throughout the state who continue to work around the clock to ensure the accuracy and integrity of our elections.”

###

**Follow the California Secretary of State on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).**