

**State of California  
Office of Administrative Law**

**In re:**  
**Secretary of State**

**Regulatory Action:**

**Title 02, California Code of Regulations**

**Amend sections: 20136**

**NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY  
REGULATORY ACTION**

**Government Code Sections 11346.1 and  
11349.6**

**OAL Matter Number: 2020-0616-01**

**OAL Matter Type: Emergency**

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This emergency action by the Secretary of State extends the time in which ballots must be retrieved from unstaffed vote-by-mail drop boxes from 24 hours to 48 hours.

OAL approves this emergency regulatory action pursuant to sections 11346.1 and 11349.6 of the Government Code.

This emergency regulatory action is effective on June 24, 2020 and will expire on February 20, 2021 pursuant to Executive Order N-40-20. The Certificate of Compliance for this action is due no later than February 19, 2021.

**Date: June 24, 2020**



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**Nicole C. Carrillo  
Attorney**

**For: Kenneth J. Pogue  
Director**

**Original: Alex Padilla, Secretary of State  
Copy: Raj Bathla**

# EMERGENCY

(See instructions on reverse)

For use by Secretary of State only

OAL FILE NUMBERS	NOTICE FILE NUMBER <b>Z-</b>	REGULATORY ACTION NUMBER	EMERGENCY NUMBER <b>2020-0616-01E</b>
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For use by Office of Administrative Law (OAL) only

2020 JUN 16 A 9:56

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

NOTICE	REGULATIONS
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**ENDORSED - FILED**  
in the office of the Secretary of State  
of the State of California

**JUN 24 2020**  
1:59 PM

AGENCY WITH RULEMAKING AUTHORITY  
Secretary of State

AGENCY FILE NUMBER (if any)

**A. PUBLICATION OF NOTICE (Complete for publication in Notice Register)**

1. SUBJECT OF NOTICE		TITLE(S)	FIRST SECTION AFFECTED	2. REQUESTED PUBLICATION DATE	
3. NOTICE TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> Notice re Proposed Regulatory Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other		4. AGENCY CONTACT PERSON		TELEPHONE NUMBER	FAX NUMBER (Optional)
<b>OAL USE ONLY</b>	ACTION ON PROPOSED NOTICE <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as Modified <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved/Withdrawn			NOTICE REGISTER NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE

**B. SUBMISSION OF REGULATIONS (Complete when submitting regulations)**

1a. SUBJECT OF REGULATION(S) Vote-by-Mail Ballot Drop Boxes and Vote-by-Mail Drop-Off Locations	1b. ALL PREVIOUS RELATED OAL REGULATORY ACTION NUMBER(S)
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2. SPECIFY CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS TITLE(S) AND SECTION(S) (Including title 26, if toxics related)

<b>SECTION(S) AFFECTED</b> (List all section number(s) individually. Attach additional sheet if needed.)	ADOPT
	AMEND
	20136
TITLE(S)	REPEAL
2	

3. TYPE OF FILING

<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Rulemaking (Gov. Code §11346)	<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Compliance: The agency officer named below certifies that this agency complied with the provisions of Gov. Code §§11346.2-11347.3 either before the emergency regulation was adopted or within the time period required by statute.	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Readoption (Gov. Code, §11346.1(h))	<input type="checkbox"/> Changes Without Regulatory Effect (Cal. Code Regs., title 1, §100)
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmittal of disapproved or withdrawn nonemergency filing (Gov. Code §§11349.3, 11349.4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmittal of disapproved or withdrawn emergency filing (Gov. Code, §11346.1)	<input type="checkbox"/> File & Print	<input type="checkbox"/> Print Only
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency (Gov. Code, §11346.1(b))	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		

4. ALL BEGINNING AND ENDING DATES OF AVAILABILITY OF MODIFIED REGULATIONS AND/OR MATERIAL ADDED TO THE RULEMAKING FILE (Cal. Code Regs. title 1, §44 and Gov. Code §11347.1)

5. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHANGES (Gov. Code, §§ 11343.4, 11346.1(d); Cal. Code Regs., title 1, §100)

<input type="checkbox"/> Effective January 1, April 1, July 1, or October 1 (Gov. Code §11343.4(a))	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effective on filing with Secretary of State	<input type="checkbox"/> §100 Changes Without Regulatory Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> Effective other (Specify)
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6. CHECK IF THESE REGULATIONS REQUIRE NOTICE TO, OR REVIEW, CONSULTATION, APPROVAL OR CONCURRENCE BY, ANOTHER AGENCY OR ENTITY

<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Finance (Form STD. 399) (SAM §6660)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair Political Practices Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> State Fire Marshal
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		

7. CONTACT PERSON Raj Bathla	TELEPHONE NUMBER (916) 695-1597	FAX NUMBER (Optional)	E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional) rbathla@sos.ca.gov
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8. I certify that the attached copy of the regulation(s) is a true and correct copy of the regulation(s) identified on this form, that the information specified on this form is true and correct, and that I am the head of the agency taking this action, or a designee of the head of the agency, and am authorized to make this certification.

SIGNATURE OF AGENCY HEAD OR DESIGNEE <i>Susan Lapsley</i>	DATE June 15, 2020
TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNATORY Susan Lapsley, Deputy SOS	

For use by Office of Administrative Law (OAL) only

**ENDORSED APPROVED**

JUN 24 2020

Office of Administrative Law

**California Secretary of State  
Proposed Regulatory Action:  
Vote-by-Mail Ballot Drop Boxes and Vote-by-Mail Drop-Off Locations  
Proposed Regulation Text**

Title 2. Administration  
Division 7. Secretary of State  
Chapter 3. Voting Locations

Article 1. Vote-by-Mail Ballot Drop Boxes and Vote-by-Mail Drop-Off Locations

20136. Drop-off Location and Drop Box Hours. Public Notification. Collection Times.

(a) The county elections official shall publicly announce the locations of drop-off locations and drop boxes at least 30 days prior to the election. The announcement must include the days and estimated times a particular staffed drop box will be available. The announcement must also include information on accessibility, including wheelchair access, for each drop-off location and drop box. Information shall be included in the county's Voter Information Guide and Sample Ballot publications, included in vote-by-mail materials sent to voters, and conspicuously posted on the county elections official's website. In the event any changes are made to locations and/or schedules, the information posted on the elections official's website shall be updated within 24 hours.

(b) For the purpose of posting the locations on the Secretary of State's website and to include information in any relevant election materials, the county elections official shall notify the Secretary of State of the drop-off and drop box locations, and the dates and estimated hours of availability, at least 30 days prior to the election. In the event any changes are made to locations and/or schedules, the Secretary of State must be notified within 24 hours.

(c) Drop boxes shall be locked and covered, or otherwise made unavailable to the public until the 29<sup>th</sup> day prior to the election, to ensure that no ballots or any other materials may be deposited before the vote-by-mail period begins. The elections official shall determine the appropriate method or design to make the drop boxes unavailable for use. Prior to use on the 29<sup>th</sup> day before the election, all drop boxes shall be inspected for damage and to ensure they are empty.

(1) A county elections official who provides a drop box outside of their office throughout the year for the purpose of voters delivering completed voter registration affidavits shall not be required to lock and cover those drop boxes.

(2) In the event drop boxes are deployed on the 60<sup>th</sup> day prior to an election for use by military and overseas voters, the provisions of this Article must be followed.

(d) Ballots shall be retrieved from drop boxes at times determined by the elections official, but shall be subject to the following:

(1) Ballots shall be retrieved from both staffed and unstaffed drop boxes at least every 96 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, between the 29<sup>th</sup> day before the election and the 10<sup>th</sup> day before an election.

(2) Ballots shall be retrieved from staffed drop boxes at least every 72 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, after the 10<sup>th</sup> day before the election through the closing of the polls on Election Day. The elections official shall develop procedures for contacting locations of staffed drop boxes between ballot retrieval periods to determine if an additional retrieval is needed.

(3) Ballots shall be retrieved from unstaffed drop boxes every ~~24~~ 48 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, ~~hours~~ after the 10<sup>th</sup> day prior to an election through the closing of the polls on Election Day.

(e) Upon the closing of the polls on Election Day, all drop boxes shall be locked and covered or otherwise made unavailable at 8:00 p.m. to ensure that no ballots are dropped off after the polls have closed. In the event there are voters in line at 8:00 p.m., or a court order has been issued extending the time for the closing of the polls, the drop boxes may remain open until those voters have cast their ballot or the court order extending time has lapsed.

*Note: Authority cited: Section 12172.5, Government Code; and Sections 10 and 3025, Elections Code. Reference: Section 3025, Elections Code.*

**California Secretary of State  
Proposed Regulatory Action:  
Vote-by-Mail Ballot Drop Boxes and Vote-by-Mail Drop-Off Locations  
Finding of Emergency**

Government Code section 11346.1(a)(2) requires that, at least five working days prior to submission of the proposed emergency action to the Office of Administrative Law, the adopting agency provide a notice of the proposed emergency action to every person who has filed a request for notice of regulatory action with the agency. After submission of the proposed emergency to the office of Administrative Law, the Office of Administrative Law shall allow interested persons five calendar days to submit comments on the proposed emergency regulations as set forth in Government Code section 11349.6. (1 California Code of Regulations, Section 48.)

**INFORMATIVE DIGEST AND STATEMENT OF EMERGENCY**

These emergency regulations avoid serious harm to the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare by doing the following:

- Provide greater flexibility to county elections officials in retrieving ballots from unstaffed drop boxes every 48 hours instead of 24 hours.

On May 8, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-64-20 calling for the November 3, 2020, General Election to be conducted as an all vote-by-mail ballot election due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. On June 3, 2020, Governor Newsom issued another Executive Order N-67-20 directing county elections officials to provide ample in-person voting opportunities on and before Election Day.

While the future course of the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be known with certainty, the state, national, and international projections reflect ongoing danger from the pandemic throughout the remainder of this year, and experts believe that COVID-19 will remain a threat to public health during the November election.

As a result of the Executive Orders, the county elections officials will be required to deploy more ballot drop boxes than in previous elections. In addition, the county elections officials are anticipating reduced availability of staff due to the concerns of contracting COVID-19. The culmination of increased workload and the likelihood of reduced staff due to COVID-19 will make it extremely be difficult for the counties to implement requirements without sacrificing the health and safety of their staff.

Given the current requirement of social distancing, county elections officials will need to make adjustments in the way they conduct their business. Specifically, regarding the retrieval of ballots from the unstaffed ballot drop boxes, the county elections officials must ensure that they:

1. Use two separate vehicles to retrieve voted ballots to ensure the safety of the ballot retrievers.
2. Properly sanitize those vehicles before and after their use.

3. Schedule delivery of ballots at the office to prevent overcrowding to maintain social distancing.

Allowing the county elections officials to retrieve ballots from unstaffed drop boxes every 48 hours instead of 24 hours will assist them in utilizing their limited resources during the time of this pandemic.

This additional time for counties to retrieve ballots will not unreasonably affect the administration of the election or voters' ability to track their ballot status through existing tools like the Secretary of State's "Where's My Ballot?" tool, which tells voters when their ballot has been received by the county elections office. Ballots will still be retrieved frequently. This additional 24-hour buffer for counties to retrieve ballots from drop boxes represents a balance between timely retrieval of ballots and voter information related to that, with county resources required for servicing a large number of boxes. Furthermore, as stated above, counties will likely continue to service high-volume drop boxes at least every 24 hours. For example, counties indicate that they already empty some ballot boxes several times a day, an interval beyond that required by current regulation. This additional buffer would likely not affect those practices.

Therefore, these emergency regulations are necessary to provide flexibility to elections officials to provide some cost savings and to avoid serious harm to the public peace, health, and, safety of Californians.

#### Regulatory Compatibility

The Secretary of State has determined that these proposed regulations are not inconsistent or incompatible with existing regulations. After conducting a review for any regulations that would relate to or affect this area, the Secretary of State has concluded that these are the only regulations that concern Vote-by-Mail Ballot Drop Boxes and Vote-by-Mail Drop-Off Locations in California.

#### Local Mandate Determination

Mandate on local agencies or school districts: None

#### Estimate of Cost Savings

Cost savings to any state agency: None

Reimbursable cost to any local government agencies: None

Nondiscretionary cost or savings to local government agencies: None

Cost or savings in federal funding to the state: None

#### **NECESSITY STATEMENT**

These proposed regulations are necessary to ensure that November 3, 2020, General Election is conducted in an orderly fashion and without putting at risk the health and safety of Californians during the COVID-19 crisis, and consistent with Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-64-20 and Executive Order N-67-20.

### **AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE**

Section 12172.5, Government Code; and Section 10 and 3025, Elections Code. Reference: Section 3025, Elections Code.

### **DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON**

- Governor Gavin Newsom’s Executive Order N-64-20 (May 8, 2020)
- Governor Gavin Newsom’s Executive Order N-67-20 (June 3, 2020)

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-64-20

**WHEREAS** on March 4, 2020, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS** on November 3, 2020, California—like the other states of the United States—will hold a General Election, and Californians throughout the state will exercise their right to vote; and

**WHEREAS** it is unknown to what degree COVID-19 will pose a threat to public health in November, and California and its counties must begin taking action now—to procure supplies, secure polling places, enlist volunteers, and draw up plans, among other steps—to ensure that the November 3, 2020 General Election is held in a manner that is accessible, secure, and safe; and

**WHEREAS** to preserve public health in the face of the threat of COVID-19, and to ensure that the November election is accessible, secure, and safe, all Californians must be empowered to vote by mail, from the safety of their own homes; and

**WHEREAS** it is also essential to ensure that all Californians who may need access to in-person voting opportunities—including individuals with disabilities, individuals who speak languages other than English, individuals experiencing homelessness, and others who may find vote-by-mail less accessible than in-person voting—are able to access such opportunities and exercise their right to vote; and

**WHEREAS** the Secretary of State has been working with California elections officials, voting rights advocates, and other stakeholders to explore how best to implement procedures for the November election that will make in-person voting opportunities available, give county elections officials needed flexibility, and preserve public health; and

**WHEREAS** discussions concerning the November election have been informed, and should continue to be informed, by the ways in which existing California law—including, in particular, the California Voter's Choice Act—provide standards to ensure that, even in the context of an "all-mail ballot" election, voters are able to access in-person voting opportunities; and

**WHEREAS** work in partnership with the Legislature and the Secretary of State, guided by the standards in existing California law and the exigencies of the COVID-19 pandemic, will be essential to ensure that the November election is accessible, secure, and safe; and

**WHEREAS** confirming that every voter will be able to vote by mail in the November election will allow California and its counties to begin preparing for that election now—even as planning continues to determine how details of that election (including requirements concerning the availability of in-person voting opportunities) will be implemented; and

**WHEREAS** it is critical that counties have clarity regarding requirements for in-person voting opportunities and other details of the November election by no later than May 30, 2020, which may require a subsequent Executive Order; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes specified in this Order would prevent, hinder, or delay appropriate actions to prevent and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes of the State of California, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567, 8571, and 8627, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately:

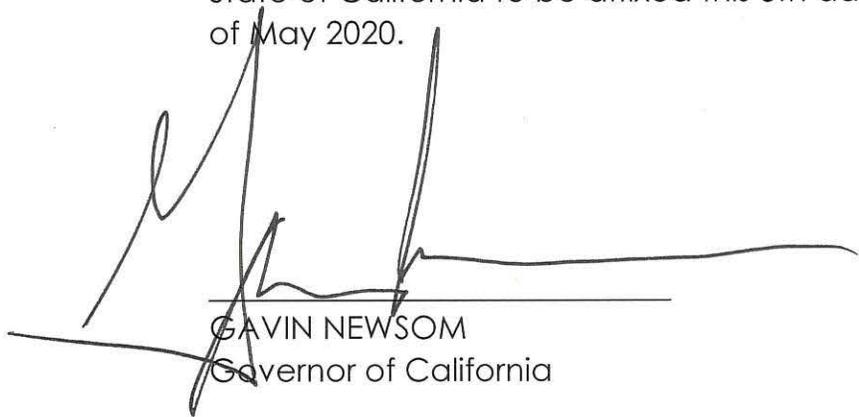
**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

- 1) Notwithstanding any limitation on the distribution of vote-by-mail ballots in Elections Code sections 1500 and 4000-4007, or any other provision of state law, each county elections officials shall transmit vote-by-mail ballots for the November 3, 2020 General Election to all voters who are, as of the last day on which vote-by-mail ballots may be transmitted to voters in connection with that election, registered to vote in that election. As set forth in this paragraph, every Californian who is eligible to vote in the November 3, 2020 General Election shall receive a vote-by-mail ballot.
- 2) Nothing in this Order shall be construed to limit the extent to which in-person voting opportunities are made available in connection with the November 3, 2020 General Election. It is the intent of this Order that my Administration continue to work with the Legislature and the Secretary of State to determine how requirements for in-person voting opportunities and other details of the November election will be implemented—guided by California's longstanding commitment to making its elections accessible, as enshrined in existing California law, while recognizing the exigencies of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3) My Administration continues working in partnership with the Secretary of State and the Legislature on requirements for in-person voting opportunities and on how other details of the November election will be implemented. Nothing in this Order is intended, or shall be construed, to limit the enactment of legislation on that subject.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 8th day of May 2020.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and extends above and below the line.

GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-67-20

**WHEREAS** on March 4, 2020, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS** on November 3, 2020, California—like the other states of the United States—will hold a General Election, and Californians throughout the state will exercise their right to vote; and

**WHEREAS** while the future course of the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be known with certainty, state, national, and international projections reflect ongoing danger from the pandemic throughout the remainder of this year, and experts believe that COVID-19 will remain a threat to public health during the November election; and

**WHEREAS** California and its counties must take action now—to procure supplies, secure polling places, enlist volunteers, and draw up plans, among other steps—to ensure that the November 3, 2020 General Election is held in a manner that is accessible, secure, and safe; and

**WHEREAS** to preserve public health in the face of the threat of COVID-19, and to ensure that the November election is accessible, secure, and safe, all Californians who are registered to vote in that election must be empowered to vote by mail, as an alternative to in-person voting, where appropriate; and

**WHEREAS** it is also essential to ensure that all Californians who may need access to in-person voting opportunities—including individuals with disabilities, individuals who speak languages other than English, individuals experiencing homelessness, and others who may find vote-by-mail less accessible than in-person voting—are able to access such opportunities and exercise their right to vote; and

**WHEREAS** it is vital that California voters not be disenfranchised as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that the November election be conducted in a way that promotes eligible voters' participation in our democracy; and

**WHEREAS** on May 8, 2020, I issued Executive Order N-64-20, which provides that Californians registered to vote in the November 3, 2020 General Election shall receive vote-by-mail ballots; and

**WHEREAS** as contemplated by Executive Order N-64-20, my Administration has been working and continues to work in partnership with the Legislature and the Secretary of State concerning the implementation of requirements for in-person voting opportunities and other details and fiscal impacts of the November election, and nothing in this Order is intended to limit legislative action on those subjects; and

**WHEREAS** it is now critical—given counties' pressing need to take action to prepare for the November election, as recognized in Executive Order N-64-20—that counties be able to prepare to meet requirements for in-person voting opportunities and to implement other details of the November election; and

**WHEREAS** to curb the spread of COVID-19, in-person voting opportunities for the November election must be made available in sufficient numbers to prevent overcrowding and to otherwise maintain physical distancing at in-person voting locations; and

**WHEREAS** public and private entities and individuals are encouraged to cooperate with county elections officials in administering the November election (including by volunteering their time and property, where appropriate), and county elections officials are encouraged to consider using all mechanisms provided by existing law to secure voting locations and elections personnel for that election, which may include the use of public buildings (such as school buildings and state office buildings) pursuant to Elections Code sections 12283–12284, and which may (in light of the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic) also include the assignment of public employees as disaster services workers pursuant to Government Code section 3100; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes specified in this Order would prevent, hinder, or delay appropriate actions to prevent and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes of the State of California, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567, 8571, and 8627, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

- 1) As provided by Executive Order N-64-20, all Californians who are registered (and otherwise eligible) to vote in the November 3, 2020 General Election shall receive vote-by-mail ballots. Consistent with Elections Code section 2226, this provision is not intended, and shall not be construed, to mean that voters in an inactive voter registration status shall receive vote-by-mail ballots in connection with the November 3, 2020 General Election.
- 2) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of state law (including, but not limited to, Elections Code sections 3019.5 and 3019.7), all county elections officials are required to use the Secretary of State's vote-by-mail ballot tracking system, created pursuant to Elections Code section 3019.7, and to use Intelligent Mail Barcodes on all vote-by-mail ballot envelopes.
- 3) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of state law (including, but not limited to, any such provision of Elections Code sections 12200–12286 or 12288, and specifically including the requirement in Elections Code section 12286(a)(3) that at least one polling place be designated per precinct), a county that is not subject to the California Voter's Choice Act shall not, in connection with the November 3, 2020 General Election, be required to make available more than one polling place per 10,000 registered voters, as long as the county complies with all of the following conditions:

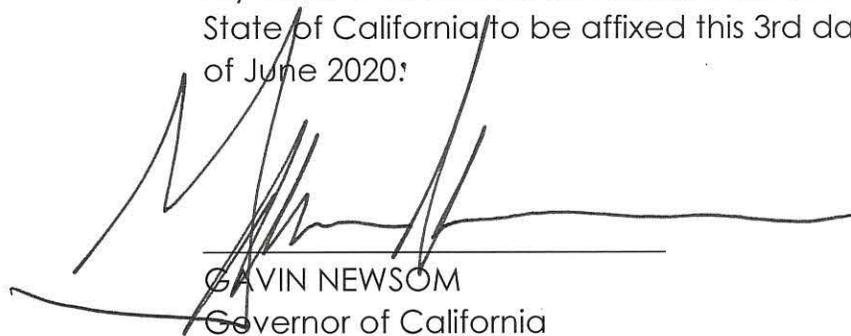
- a) At least one polling place per 10,000 registered voters is made available for voting during the following hours:
    - i) From Saturday, October 31, 2020, through Monday, November 2, 2020, for at least eight hours (during regular hours convenient for members of the public) each day; and
    - ii) On Tuesday, November 3, 2020, from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.
  - b) At least the following number of vote-by-mail ballot drop-off locations (as defined in Elections Code section 3025(a)(2)) is made available for ballot drop-off beginning no later than 9 a.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, and continuing during regular business hours each day through the close of voting on Tuesday, November 3, 2020:
    - i) At least one vote-by-mail ballot drop-off location per 15,000 registered voters; and
    - ii) Not less than two vote-by-mail ballot drop-off locations regardless of the number of registered voters; and
  - c) At least one vote-by-mail ballot drop-off location required by subparagraph (b) is fully accessible to the public for at least twelve hours each day (during regular hours convenient for members of the public) between Tuesday, October 6, 2020 and Tuesday, November 3, 2020, inclusive.
- 4) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of state law (including, but not limited to, any such provision of Elections Code section 4005 or section 4007, as applicable), a county that is subject to the California Voter's Choice Act shall not, in connection with the November 3, 2020 General Election, be required to open any vote center (as that term is used in Elections Code sections 357.5, 4005, and 4007) prior to Saturday, October 31, 2020. Counties are nevertheless encouraged to open vote centers earlier, where feasible and as conditions warrant, to maximize opportunities for voter participation in the November 3, 2020 General Election.
- 5) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of state law (including, but not limited to, any such provision of Elections Code section 4005(a)(10)), no county elections official shall be required to conduct any in-person public meetings or workshops in connection with the preparation of plans for the administration of the November 3, 2020 General Election, as long as a draft of each such plan is posted on the relevant county election official's website in a manner consistent with Elections Code section 4005(a)(10)(E)(iii) and the relevant county elections official accepts public comment on the draft plan for at least 10 days. Counties are encouraged to take additional steps, where feasible, to facilitate and encourage public participation in the development of such plans.

- 6) Nothing in this Order is intended, or shall be construed, to limit a county's ability to fulfill the requirements imposed on that county by existing law (including, but not limited to, any provision of law conditionally suspended by Paragraph 3 as to counties not subject to the California Voter's Choice Act) concerning procedures for the November 3, 2020 General Election. In particular, any county described in Paragraph 3 that complies with all such requirements applicable to that county (and that therefore need not avail itself of the conditional suspension set forth in Paragraph 3) may do so without additionally satisfying any separate requirements that would otherwise be imposed by Paragraph 3. Additionally, where feasible, counties are encouraged to exceed the minimum requirements imposed by this Order, or otherwise imposed by law in connection with the administration of the November 3, 2020 General Election, to maximize opportunities for voter participation in that election.
- 7) The Legislature and the Secretary of State are requested to continue working in partnership with my Administration to ensure that the November 3, 2020 General Election is safe, secure, and accessible for all, including by ensuring (and by working with county elections officials to ensure) that there is sufficient voter education and outreach to prepare voters to participate in that election. Nothing in this Order is intended, or shall be construed, to limit in any way the enactment of legislation concerning the November 3, 2020 General Election.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 3rd day of June 2020:



\_\_\_\_\_  
GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT****(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

**ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

DEPARTMENT NAME Secretary of State	CONTACT PERSON Raj Bathla	EMAIL ADDRESS rbathla@sos.ca.gov	TELEPHONE NUMBER 916-695-1597
DESCRIPTIVE TITLE FROM NOTICE REGISTER OR FORM 400 Vote-by-Mail Ballot Drop Boxes and Vote-by-Mail Drop-Off Locations			NOTICE FILE NUMBER Z

**A. ESTIMATED PRIVATE SECTOR COST IMPACTS** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.*

1. Check the appropriate box(es) below to indicate whether this regulation:

- a. Impacts business and/or employees
- b. Impacts small businesses
- c. Impacts jobs or occupations
- d. Impacts California competitiveness
- e. Imposes reporting requirements
- f. Imposes prescriptive instead of performance
- g. Impacts individuals
- h. None of the above (Explain below):

These regulations increase the time frame to retrieve the ballots from understaffed drop boxes.

*If any box in Items 1 a through g is checked, complete this Economic Impact Statement.*

*If box in Item 1.h. is checked, complete the Fiscal Impact Statement as appropriate.*

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ estimates that the economic impact of this regulation (which includes the fiscal impact) is:

(Agency/Department)

- Below \$10 million
- Between \$10 and \$25 million
- Between \$25 and \$50 million
- Over \$50 million *[If the economic impact is over \$50 million, agencies are required to submit a Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment as specified in Government Code Section 11346.3(c)]*

3. Enter the total number of businesses impacted: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the types of businesses (Include nonprofits): \_\_\_\_\_

Enter the number or percentage of total businesses impacted that are small businesses: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Enter the number of businesses that will be created: \_\_\_\_\_ eliminated: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Indicate the geographic extent of impacts:  Statewide

Local or regional (List areas): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Enter the number of jobs created: \_\_\_\_\_ and eliminated: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the types of jobs or occupations impacted: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Will the regulation affect the ability of California businesses to compete with other states by making it more costly to produce goods or services here?  YES  NO

If YES, explain briefly: \_\_\_\_\_

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

**ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**B. ESTIMATED COSTS** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.*

1. What are the total statewide dollar costs that businesses and individuals may incur to comply with this regulation over its lifetime? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

a. Initial costs for a small business: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annual ongoing costs: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Years: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Initial costs for a typical business: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annual ongoing costs: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Years: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Initial costs for an individual: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annual ongoing costs: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Years: \_\_\_\_\_

d. Describe other economic costs that may occur: \_\_\_\_\_

2. If multiple industries are impacted, enter the share of total costs for each industry: \_\_\_\_\_

3. If the regulation imposes reporting requirements, enter the annual costs a typical business may incur to comply with these requirements. *Include the dollar costs to do programming, record keeping, reporting, and other paperwork, whether or not the paperwork must be submitted.* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4. Will this regulation directly impact housing costs?  YES  NO

If YES, enter the annual dollar cost per housing unit: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of units: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are there comparable Federal regulations?  YES  NO

Explain the need for State regulation given the existence or absence of Federal regulations: \_\_\_\_\_

Enter any additional costs to businesses and/or individuals that may be due to State - Federal differences: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**C. ESTIMATED BENEFITS** *Estimation of the dollar value of benefits is not specifically required by rulemaking law, but encouraged.*

1. Briefly summarize the benefits of the regulation, which may include among others, the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety and the State's environment: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Are the benefits the result of:  specific statutory requirements, or  goals developed by the agency based on broad statutory authority?

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

3. What are the total statewide benefits from this regulation over its lifetime? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4. Briefly describe any expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California that would result from this regulation: \_\_\_\_\_

**D. ALTERNATIVES TO THE REGULATION** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record. Estimation of the dollar value of benefits is not specifically required by rulemaking law, but encouraged.*

1. List alternatives considered and describe them below. If no alternatives were considered, explain why not: \_\_\_\_\_

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

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**ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

2. Summarize the total statewide costs and benefits from this regulation and each alternative considered:

Regulation: Benefit: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative 1: Benefit: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative 2: Benefit: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3. Briefly discuss any quantification issues that are relevant to a comparison of estimated costs and benefits for this regulation or alternatives:

4. Rulemaking law requires agencies to consider performance standards as an alternative, if a regulation mandates the use of specific technologies or equipment, or prescribes specific actions or procedures. Were performance standards considered to lower compliance costs?  YES  NO

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**E. MAJOR REGULATIONS** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.*

***California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) boards, offices and departments are required to submit the following (per Health and Safety Code section 57005). Otherwise, skip to E4.***

1. Will the estimated costs of this regulation to California business enterprises exceed \$10 million?  YES  NO

***If YES, complete E2. and E3  
If NO, skip to E4***

2. Briefly describe each alternative, or combination of alternatives, for which a cost-effectiveness analysis was performed:

Alternative 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative 2: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Attach additional pages for other alternatives)*

3. For the regulation, and each alternative just described, enter the estimated total cost and overall cost-effectiveness ratio:

Regulation: Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative 1: Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative 2: Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4. Will the regulation subject to OAL review have an estimated economic impact to business enterprises and individuals located in or doing business in California exceeding \$50 million in any 12-month period between the date the major regulation is estimated to be filed with the Secretary of State through 12 months after the major regulation is estimated to be fully implemented?

YES  NO

*If YES, agencies are required to submit a Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment (SRIA) as specified in Government Code Section 11346.3(c) and to include the SRIA in the Initial Statement of Reasons.*

5. Briefly describe the following:

The increase or decrease of investment in the State: \_\_\_\_\_

The incentive for innovation in products, materials or processes: \_\_\_\_\_

The benefits of the regulations, including, but not limited to, benefits to the health, safety, and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment and quality of life, among any other benefits identified by the agency: \_\_\_\_\_

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**A. FISCAL EFFECT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 6 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*

1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year which are reimbursable by the State. (Approximate)  
(Pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution and Sections 17500 et seq. of the Government Code).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

a. Funding provided in \_\_\_\_\_  
Budget Act of \_\_\_\_\_ or Chapter \_\_\_\_\_, Statutes of \_\_\_\_\_

b. Funding will be requested in the Governor's Budget Act of \_\_\_\_\_  
Fiscal Year: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year which are NOT reimbursable by the State. (Approximate)  
(Pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution and Sections 17500 et seq. of the Government Code).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Check reason(s) this regulation is not reimbursable and provide the appropriate information:*

a. Implements the Federal mandate contained in \_\_\_\_\_

b. Implements the court mandate set forth by the \_\_\_\_\_ Court.

Case of: \_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_

c. Implements a mandate of the people of this State expressed in their approval of Proposition No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Election: \_\_\_\_\_

d. Issued only in response to a specific request from affected local entity(s).

Local entity(s) affected: \_\_\_\_\_

e. Will be fully financed from the fees, revenue, etc. from: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized by Section: \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ Code;

f. Provides for savings to each affected unit of local government which will, at a minimum, offset any additional costs to each;

g. Creates, eliminates, or changes the penalty for a new crime or infraction contained in \_\_\_\_\_

3. Annual Savings. (approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

4. No additional costs or savings. This regulation makes only technical, non-substantive or clarifying changes to current law regulations.

5. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any local entity or program.

6. Other. Explain These regulations increase the time frame to retrieve the ballots from understaffed drop boxes. They do not have any additional affect on any local entity or program.

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**B. FISCAL EFFECT ON STATE GOVERNMENT** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*

1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*It is anticipated that State agencies will:*

a. Absorb these additional costs within their existing budgets and resources.

b. Increase the currently authorized budget level for the \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year

2. Savings in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

3. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any State agency or program.

4. Other. Explain These regulations increase the time frame to retrieve the ballots from understaffed drop boxes.

They do not have any additional affect on any state agency or program.

**C. FISCAL EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDING OF STATE PROGRAMS** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*

1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

2. Savings in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

3. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any federally funded State agency or program.

4. Other. Explain \_\_\_\_\_

FISCAL OFFICER SIGNATURE



DATE

*The signature attests that the agency has completed the STD. 399 according to the instructions in SAM sections 6601-6616, and understands the impacts of the proposed rulemaking. State boards, offices, or departments not under an Agency Secretary must have the form signed by the highest ranking official in the organization.*

AGENCY SECRETARY



DATE

*Finance approval and signature is required when SAM sections 6601-6616 require completion of Fiscal Impact Statement in the STD. 399.*

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PROGRAM BUDGET MANAGER



DATE

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**B. FISCAL EFFECT ON STATE GOVERNMENT** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*

1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*It is anticipated that State agencies will:*

a. Absorb these additional costs within their existing budgets and resources.

b. Increase the currently authorized budget level for the \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year

2. Savings in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

3. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any State agency or program.

4. Other. Explain These regulations increase the time frame to retrieve the ballots from understaffed drop boxes.

They do not have any additional affect on any state agency or program.

**C. FISCAL EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDING OF STATE PROGRAMS** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*

1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

2. Savings in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

3. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any federally funded State agency or program.

4. Other. Explain \_\_\_\_\_

FISCAL OFFICER SIGNATURE



DATE

6/15/2020

*The signature attests that the agency has completed the STD. 399 according to the instructions in SAM sections 6601-6616, and understands the impacts of the proposed rulemaking. State boards, offices, or departments not under an Agency Secretary must have the form signed by the highest ranking official in the organization.*

AGENCY SECRETARY



DATE

6/15/2020

*Finance approval and signature is required when SAM sections 6601-6616 require completion of Fiscal Impact Statement in the STD. 399.*

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PROGRAM BUDGET MANAGER



DATE