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August 18, 2017

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #17066

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: /s/ James Schwab
Chief, Legislative Affairs

RE: California Voter's Choice Act: Use of Regular Ballots at Vote Centers

A question has come up regarding how in-person voting at vote centers will be conducted under the California's Voter's Choice Act (SB 450, Ch. 832, Stats. of 2016).

The intent of the Voter's Choice Act is to provide voters with more choices to cast and return their ballots. This includes preserving the traditional experience of casting a regular ballot at an in-person voting location. A "regular" ballot is a ballot a voter can cast by placing it directly into a ballot box and without having to use a vote-by-mail envelope, a provisional envelope, or a conditional envelope. Casting a regular ballot is important to ensure a voter with a disability can vote privately and independently.

Therefore, in addition to allowing a voter to return their vote-by-mail ballot, cast a provisional ballot, or conditionally register and vote at a vote center, voters shall be permitted to vote a "regular" ballot pursuant to Elections Code section 4005(a)(2)(A)(v) of the California Voter's Choice Act, which states a county elections official shall permit a voter residing in the county to "vote a regular, provisional, or replacement ballot using accessible voting equipment" at any vote center.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 653-7244 or James.Schwab@sos.ca.gov.