



**ALEX PADILLA | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
ELECTIONS DIVISION**  
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September 19, 2017

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #17078

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: /s/ Jennifer Curtis  
Military and Overseas Voting Program Manager

RE: Military or Overseas Voter Return Envelope

As you are aware, Senate Bill 450 (Chapter 832 of the Statutes of 2016) became effective on January 1, 2017, and affects how voted vote-by-mail ballots may be returned.

Prior to SB 450, the Elections Code restricted who could return the voted vote-by-mail ballot of a voter who is unable to return their own ballot. Now, Elections Code section 3017(a) provides the following:

“...a vote by mail voter who is unable to return the ballot may designate any person to return the ballot to the elections official who issued the ballot...”

To reflect this change, the Secretary of State has amended the Military or Overseas Voter Return Envelope language. In addition, we have amended the language regarding returning a vote-by-mail ballot (postmark +3).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [jcurtis@sos.ca.gov](mailto:jcurtis@sos.ca.gov) or (916) 657-2166. Thank you.

## Military or Overseas Voter Return Envelope

**Official Vote-By-Mail Ballot – to be opened ONLY BY Election Canvassing Board.  
Voting more than once in the same election is a crime.**

Vote-by-mail ballots that are mailed must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by your county elections office no later than 3 days after Election Day

**WARNING:** Your ballot will not be counted unless you sign below in your own handwriting and your signature compares with your signature on your voter registration card.

I declare as follows:

- I am absent from the California county where I am registered to vote; and
- I am a 1) member of the active or reserve components of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard; a Merchant Marine; a member of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps; a member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Corps of the United States; or a member on activated status of the National Guard or state militia; or 2) an eligible spouse or dependent of such person; or 3) an eligible United States citizen living outside of the territorial limits of the United States or the District of Columbia; and
- I am a United States citizen, at least 18 years of age or older on Election Day, and I am eligible to vote in the California jurisdiction in which I am voting with the enclosed/attached voted ballot; and
- I am not currently in state or federal prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony; and
- I have not been found mentally incompetent to vote by a court, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated; and
- I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the United States, except the California jurisdiction cited in this enclosed/attached ballot; and
- I am the person whose name appears on this envelope.

I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completing this envelope may be grounds for conviction of perjury under the laws of the State of California or the United States.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California or the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

**YOU MUST SIGN BELOW OR YOUR BALLOT CANNOT BE COUNTED**

**X** \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature as registered to vote (Power of Attorney NOT ACCEPTABLE)

Print your name

Date of signing

Residence address as registered in

(insert)

County – NOT Mailing Address

### AUTHORIZED AGENT

I am unable to return my ballot and hereby authorize:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of person returning ballot)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of person returning ballot)

Relationship to voter: \_\_\_\_\_