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ELECTIONS DIVISION

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April 1, 2021

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #21038

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: /s/ Jess Neasbitt  
Elections Analyst

RE: Voter Registration: Postage Reimbursement and Replenishment  
Claims (FY 2020/2021 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter)

The attached “Voter Registration: Postage Reimbursement and Replenishment Claims” package includes guidelines, a quarterly postage claims deadline schedule, a postage reimbursement claim for mailings sent to voters, a postage replenishment claim for mailings received from voters through the business reply mail account, and a monthly activity report, so that we may also track costs by month.

SB 74 (Ch. 6, Statutes of 2020) continued several elections-related mandate suspensions for the 2020-21 fiscal year. One of the suspended mandates is Elections Code section 2105 which requires county elections officials to design and conduct outreach efforts to identify unregistered, eligible citizens and register them to vote. Therefore, the Secretary of State will not be reimbursing counties for the mailing of blank voter registration cards mailed for outreach activities under Section 2164(a)(4) during the current fiscal year (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021).

As a reminder, any additional voter registration card related postage costs (such as when a card is received unsealed) will continue to be reimbursed or covered through the replenishment of your postage account.

In order to timely process postage reimbursement and replenishment claims for voter registration activities performed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of fiscal year 2020/2021, please complete the enclosed quarterly postage reporting forms and return them to me by **May 3, 2021**.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, our office will accept the attached electronic fillable forms with an electronic signature. The forms can be submitted by email or fax. It will not be necessary to mail the original forms to our office for processing.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 695-1628.

Attachments

## Voter Registration Postage Reimbursement and Replenishment Claims

Voter Registration Postage Reimbursement and Replenishment Claims Package includes the following:

- Voter Registration Postage Claim Guidelines
- Voter Registration Postage Reimbursement Claim Form
- Voter Registration Postage Replenishment Claim Form
- Voter Registration Postage Claim – Monthly Activity Report

### VOTER REGISTRATION POSTAGE CLAIM GUIDELINES

In order to timely process postage reimbursement and replenishment claims for postage costs related to voter registration activities for each quarter of a fiscal year, please complete the Voter Registration Postage Reimbursement Claim Form, Voter Registration Postage Replenishment Claim Form, and the Voter Registration Postage Claim - Monthly Activity Report and return to the Secretary of State by the quarter's claims deadline.

<b>Postage Quarter</b>	<b>Claims Deadline</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter (July 1 – September 30)	November 2, 2020
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter (October 1 – December 31)	February 1, 2021
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter (January 1 – March 31)	May 3, 2021
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter (April 1 – June 30)	August 2, 2021

Please note: SB 74 (Ch. 6, Statutes of 2020) suspended several elections-related mandates for the fiscal year. One of the suspended mandates is Elections Code section 2105 which requires county elections officials to design and conduct outreach efforts to identify unregistered, eligible citizens and register them to vote. Therefore, the Secretary of State will not be reimbursing counties for the mailing of blank voter registration cards mailed for outreach activities under Section 2164(a)(4) during the current fiscal year (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021).

### **Voter Registration Postage Reimbursement and Replenishment Claims**

#### 1. Reimbursement for Mailing Voter Registration Cards (VRCs)

The Secretary of State is required to reimburse county elections offices for postage paid on voter registration cards:

<b>REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWANCE</b>	<b>ELECTIONS CODE SECTION</b>
Mailed to voters per their request pursuant to § 2158(c)	2164(a)(3)
*Mailed per outreach activities pursuant to § 2105	2164(a)(4)
Mailed to obtain information required to complete a registration form pursuant to § 2153(c)	2164(a)(1)

\*SB 74 has suspended the reimbursement for postage related to outreach activities. There will be no reimbursement for any postage paid on registration cards for outreach activities for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

The quantities and costs for postage paid for mailing voter registration cards under these code sections are to be itemized on the quarterly **Voter Registration Postage Reimbursement Claim Form** and submitted to the Secretary of State by the claims deadline for that fiscal quarter.

2. Reimbursement for Mailing Voter Notification Cards (VNCs)

The Secretary of State is required to reimburse county elections offices for postage paid on voter notification cards:

<b>REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWANCE</b>	<b>ELECTIONS CODE SECTION</b>
Mailed to new registrants pursuant to § 2153	2164(a)(1)
Mailed per USPS Address Correction pursuant to § 2153(c)	2164(a)(1)

The quantities and costs for postage paid for mailing voter notification cards under these code sections are to be itemized on the quarterly **Voter Registration Postage Reimbursement Claim Form** and submitted to the Secretary of State by the claims deadline for that fiscal quarter.

3. Replenishment of Postage Account for Mailing Voter Registration Cards

The Secretary of State is required to replenish the local county business reply mail account for the return of county specific voter registration cards that are mailed to the county elections office.

<b>REPLENISHMENT ALLOWANCE</b>	<b>ELECTIONS CODE SECTION</b>
Mailed by voter to county pursuant to § 2157(a)(7)	2164(a)(2)

The number of forms and the cost associated with the local county business reply mail account for the return of county specific voter registration cards to the county elections office should be itemized on the quarterly **Voter Registration Postage Replenishment Claim Form** and submitted to the Secretary of State by the claims deadline for that fiscal quarter.

**Voter Registration Monthly Activity Report**

The Secretary of State is compiling data on monthly postage claims within each quarter. The **Voter Registration Postage Claim – Monthly Activity Report** should be completed and submitted with each claim. The Monthly Activity Report Quarter Totals must balance with the totals itemized on the Postage Reimbursement Claim and the Postage Replenishment Claim forms.

## **Filing of Claims**

In order to partner with county offices in maintaining safe practices during the current COVID-19 pandemic, our office will accept the attached electronic fillable forms with an electronic signature. The forms can be submitted by email or fax; this quarter, it will not be necessary to mail the original forms to our office for processing.

To submit the Voter Registration Postage Reimbursement and Replenishment Claims package by mail, fax, or email, please use the following contact information:

ATTN: Jess Neasbitt  
Secretary of State – Elections Division  
1500 11th Street, 5th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 695-1628  
Fax: (916) 653-3214  
Email: [VRC-VNC@sos.ca.gov](mailto:VRC-VNC@sos.ca.gov)

**THIRD QUARTER  
VOTER REGISTRATION POSTAGE REIMBURSEMENT CLAIM FORM**

FISCAL YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (January 1 – March 31)

Elections Code section 2164 requires the Secretary of State to reimburse counties postage costs for mailing voter registration and voter notification cards as referenced below.

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Not necessary to reimburse postage costs at this time. Please complete and sign form even if county is not requesting reimbursement.

**VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS (VRCs)**

	Quantity	Postage Rate/ Actual Cost	TOTALS
Mailed per Voters Request:	_____ X	\$ _____	\$ _____
(EC § 2158(c))	_____ X	\$ _____	\$ _____
			Sub-Total \$ _____
Mailed per Incomplete VRC:	_____ X	\$ _____	\$ _____
(EC § 2153)	_____ X	\$ _____	\$ _____
			Sub-Total \$ _____
			<b>TOTAL 1: \$ _____</b>

**\*SB 74 has suspended the reimbursement for postage related to outreach activities. There will be no reimbursement for any postage paid on registration cards for outreach activities for the 2020-21 fiscal year.**

**VOTER NOTIFICATION CARDS (VNCs)**

Mailed to New Registrants:	_____ X	\$ _____	\$ _____
(EC § 2153)	_____ X	\$ _____	\$ _____
			Sub-Total \$ _____
USPS Address Correction:	_____ X	\$ _____	\$ _____
(EC § 2153(c))	_____ X	\$ _____	\$ _____
			Sub-Total \$ _____
			<b>TOTAL 2: \$ _____</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (1 &amp; 2):</b>			<b>\$ _____</b>

I certify that this record is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that documentation is on file in my office to substantiate these figures. Please make check payable to this County and direct it to:

County Name \_\_\_\_\_

County Elections Official \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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**THIRD QUARTER  
VOTER REGISTRATION POSTAGE REPLENISHMENT CLAIM FORM**

FISCAL YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (January 1 – March 31)

Authority for replenishment of postal account funds  
for voter registration cards mailed by voter to county  
elections office:  
Election Code §§ 2157(a)(8), 2164(a)(2)

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL (BRM)  
PERMIT # 85814

County: \_\_\_\_\_  
Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Not necessary to replenish account at this time. Please complete and sign form even if county is not requesting replenishment.

Prior Quarterly Ending Balance..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Prior Deposits Received from Secretary of State.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Affidavits Received through BRMA X \_\_\_\_\_

Postage Rate..... \_\_\_\_\_

New Quarterly Balance in Account.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Replenish Account with a Check in the Amount of.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Make Check Payable to:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The number of items reported above represents the actual number of affidavits received through the business reply mail account by this office.

**The total cost reported above represents the amount reportedly charged to the account by your Postmaster. Please provide the last business reply mail trust account invoice received by your office. I certify that this record is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that documentation is on file in my office to substantiate these figures.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Elections Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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(QTR. PR Revised 9/23/19)

**THIRD QUARTER  
VOTER REGISTRATION POSTAGE CLAIM - MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT**

FISCAL YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (January 1 – March 31)

This form must be completed even if your county is not requesting reimbursement or replenishment.

County: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**REIMBURSEMENT CLAIM**

Voter Registration Activity	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	QUARTER TOTAL
*Number Mailed Per Voter Request (EC §2158 (c))				
**Number Mailed per Outreach Activity (EC §2105)				
*Number Mailed per Incomplete VRC (EC § 2153)				
Voter Notification Activity	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	QUARTER TOTAL
*Number Mailed to New Registrants (EC §§ 2153 & 2164(a)(1))				
*Number of USPS Address Corrections (EC § 2153 (c))				

**\*The Quarter Total reported must balance the total itemized on the Reimbursement Claim Form.**

**\*\*SB 74 has suspended the reimbursement for postage related to outreach activities. There will be no reimbursement for any postage paid on registration cards for outreach activities for the 2020-21 fiscal year.**

**REPLENISHMENT CLAIM**

Voter Registration Activity	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	QUARTER TOTAL
***Number of Affidavits Received through the Business Reply Mail Permit #85814 (EC §§ 2157(a)(8) & 2164(a)(2))				

**\*\*\*The Quarter Total reported must balance the total itemized on the Replenishment Claim Form.**

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