August 11, 2021

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #21127

 TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: /s/ Susan Lapsley
             Deputy Secretary of State, HAVA Director and Counsel

RE: California Gubernatorial Recall Election: Remote Access Vote-by-Mail

This memorandum details various topics around Remote Access Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM).

Senate Bill 152 (SB 152) (Chapter 34 of the Statutes of 2021), added 1605 (c) to
Elections Code for the September 14, 2021, California Gubernatorial Recall Election,
to permit any voter to cast a ballot using a certified RAVBM system, regardless of
whether the voter is a voter with disabilities or a military or overseas voter.

Requesting an RAVBM

A voter can contact a county election official directly to request RAVBM. Additionally,
for voters requesting the delivery of an Emergency Ballot pursuant to Elections Code
section 3021, RAVBM access can also be provided as a form of delivery of the ballot by
the elections official. Accordingly, all RAVBM systems must have the following modified
attestation language:

> For the September 14, 2021, California Gubernatorial Recall Election, all
> registered voters in California are eligible to use this accessible vote-by-mail
> system.
>
> ☐ I am a California registered voter, therefore I am eligible to use this accessible
>   vote-by-mail system.
> ☐ I understand that my ballot selections marked by this system must be printed
>   by me and submitted to my county elections official, [insert local election
>   jurisdiction name].
> ☐ I understand that I must submit my printed and signed selections no later than
>   8:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on September 14, 2021, - Election Day - by
>   either:

- o Mailing it via U.S. Postal Service with a postmark on or before September 14, 2021; or
- o Hand delivering it to the office of my county elections official; or
- o Dropping it off at any polling place, vote center, vote-by-mail drop-off location, or drop box in the state.
- o Returning by fax for military and overseas voters (UOCAVA) only.

- o I understand that my ballot selections marked by this system and submitted to [insert local election jurisdiction name] will be transferred onto a ballot by an election official in order to be tabulated.

☐ I certify that all of the above are true.

Additionally, voters can return an RAVBM using their own envelope, as long as the envelope is signed by the voter.

Enabling RAVBM Request on My Voter Status

A voter will be able to request an RAVBM for the Gubernatorial Recall Election, on My Voter Status beginning on August 16, 2021 (E- 29) through the close of polls on Election Day.

If a voter requests an RAVBM on My Voter Status, VoteCal will send the county Election Management System (EMS) a notice that the voter has submitted a request for an RAVBM for this election. VoteCal will not store this request in the voter's record. Voters who are requesting an RAVBM are also required to provide an email address if they don't currently have one on file and are asked to provide a phone number, however, the phone number is not required.

Counties are expected to receive the request and issue an RAVBM to the voter in a manner consistent with the county's current process.

Indicating RAVBM Issued in EMS and VoteCal

When a county issues an RAVBM, the county must indicate the voter was issued an RAVBM by providing VoteCal with a vote-by-mail ballot record and include the flag "isRAVBM" set to True.

Reporting RAVBM Usage

Certification of RAVBMs requires California jurisdictions that use an RAVBM system to provide a report to the Secretary of State, within 30 calendar days of certifying the election results, listing the number of voters that used the system and all technical issues reported (if any) along with any mitigations.

If you have questions on any of the above information, please contact NaKesha Robinson at nrobinson@sos.ca.gov. Thank you.