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CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

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April 3, 2023

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #23030

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: Ryan Johnson
VRC-VNC Coordinator

RE: Voter Registration: Postage Reimbursement and Replenishment
Claims (FY 2022/2023 – 3rd Quarter)

The attached Voter Registration: Postage Reimbursement and Replenishment Claims package includes guidelines, a quarterly postage claims deadline schedule, a postage reimbursement claim form for mailings sent to voters, a postage replenishment claim form for mailings received from voters through the business reply mail account, and a monthly activity report.

SB 154 (Ch. 43, Statutes of 2022) continued several elections-related mandate suspensions for the 2022-2023 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 reimburse 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, 2022 – June 30, 2023).

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 3rd quarter of fiscal year 2022-2023, please complete the enclosed quarterly postage reporting forms and return them to our office by **May 2, 2023**.

Our office will accept the attached electronic fillable forms with an electronic signature. The forms can be submitted by **email or fax**. It is not necessary to mail the original forms to our office for processing.

If you have any questions, please contact us by email at VRC-VNC@sos.ca.gov or by calling (916) 695-1561.

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 claim’s deadline.

Postage Quarter

1st Quarter (July 1 – September 30)
 2nd Quarter (October 1 – December 31)
 3rd Quarter (January 1 – March 31)
 4th Quarter (April 1 – June 30)

Claims Deadline

November 1, 2022
 February 3, 2023
 May 2, 2023
 August 1, 2023

SB 154 (Ch. 43, Statutes of 2022) suspended several elections-related mandates for the 2022-2023 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, 2022 – June 30, 2023).

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:

REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWANCE	ELECTIONS CODE SECTION
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 154 (Ch. 43, Statutes of 2022) 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 2022-23 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 claim's 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:

REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWANCE	ELECTIONS CODE SECTION
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 claim's 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.

REPLENISHMENT ALLOWANCE	ELECTIONS CODE SECTION
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 claim's deadline for that fiscal quarter.

VOTER REGISTRATION MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

The Secretary of State is compiling monthly data on 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

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.

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

Email: VRC-VNC@sos.ca.gov

OR

Fax: (916) 653-3214

OR

California Secretary of State
Elections Division
Attn: VRC-VNC Coordinator
1500 11th Street, Fifth Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

FISCAL YEAR _____

3rd 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 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	\$ _____
			TOTAL 1: \$ _____

***SB 154 (Ch. 43, Statutes of 2022) 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 2022-23 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	\$ _____
			TOTAL 2: \$ _____
GRAND TOTAL (1 & 2):			\$ _____

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

 Business Address

 City, State, Zip Code

 County Elections Official

 Date

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

FISCAL YEAR _____

3rd 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 if county is not requesting replenishment.

Prior Quarterly Ending Balance..... \$ _____

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

TOTAL \$ _____

Number of Affidavits Received through BRMA..... _____

Postage Rate..... X _____

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

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

Please Make Check Payable to:
USPS Postmaster

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

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

FISCAL YEAR _____

3rd 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 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 154 (Ch. 43, Statutes of 2022) 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 2022-23 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.**