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## California Secretary of State

### Elections Division

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County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #25061

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: /s/ Victoria Estrada  
Elections Analyst

RE: Best Practices for Curbside Voting

The Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) in collaboration with the California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials (CACEO) Voters with Specific Needs subcommittee have developed guidelines that are attached to assist county elections officials meet the requirements of [Assembly Bill 545](#) (Chapter 658, Statutes of 2023) and further provide an inclusive voting experience. We are sharing these best practices as they may be a helpful resource for the upcoming 2026 election year.

If you have any questions, please contact Victoria Estrada at [vestrada@sos.ca.gov](mailto:vestrada@sos.ca.gov).

Thank you.

## **Recommendations for County Elections Officials on Offering Curbside Voting**

### **Introduction**

In compliance with AB 545 (2023), California counties must offer curbside voting to enhance accessibility. Curbside voting allows voters to cast their ballot from their vehicle or near the polling place entrance. This guide provides instructions based on the [EAC Quick Start Guide](#) and other resources to ensure curbside voting is efficient and accessible for all voters with disabilities.

### **Best practices for Curbside Voting**

#### **1. Signage and Communication:**

- Place clear signage with instructions for how to contact election workers for curbside assistance adjacent to the curbside voting area. Signs should be large enough to be read from a distance, provided in all of the mandated languages, and sturdy enough to remain upright.
- Provide clear and easy ways for voters to notify election workers from their vehicles or at a clearly marked designated location, including a phone number to a phone in the voting location and a method for voters without cell phones such as an attendant and/or a doorbell. If there is no way to post a phone number to a phone in the voting location, post a phone number for the elections office so someone can alert someone in the voting location.
- Alternatively, election workers may be stationed in front of the polling place, in parking lot, and/or at curbside voting areas during voting hours.

#### **2. Accessible Parking:**

- Ensure at least one curbside voting area of sufficient space is designated at every polling place. This must be in addition to any designated accessible parking at the location.
- Do not place signs, cones, or doorbells where they will block the parking access aisle, including the blue striped areas or red zones.

## Curbside Voting Working Group – Best Practices Recommendations

### **3. Preparation:**

- Include information about the County's curbside voting option and the steps to cast a ballot in the voter information guide and on the County's website. It is also a best practice to offer an option for voters to schedule an appointment for curbside voting to reduce wait times, although an appointment should not be required.
- Train poll workers in assisting curbside voters, including using accessible devices and understanding election laws.
- It is a best practice to dedicate specific voting machines, accessibility tools, and poll books or rosters for curbside use, if possible.

### **4. Assistance:**

- Allow voters to choose their communication method and ensure privacy.
- Speak directly to the voter, not to any accompanying person, and avoid discussing the voter's disability unless they initiate it.
- Ask voters if they need help marking their ballot or using an accessible voting machine.

### **5. Voting Process:**

- Ensure at least two election workers accompany all voting materials.
- Provide any necessary items such as voting equipment, clipboards and secrecy sleeves to maintain voter privacy.
- Post a notice that electioneering is prohibited 100 ft from the curbside voting area and monitor the area on a regular basis.

## **Conclusion**

Implementing curbside voting is a crucial step in making elections accessible to all voters. By following these guidelines, California counties can meet the requirements of Elections Code Sections 14105 and 14282 (AB 545) and provide a more inclusive voting experience.