



ALEX PADILLA | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ELECTIONS DIVISION

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October 25, 2019

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #19112

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: /s/ Jana M. Lean
Chief, Elections Division

RE: Weather-Related Power Outages

We are aware that several counties with upcoming elections may be affected by weather-related power outages.

The Secretary of State has requested meetings with state utility companies to communicate that election systems have been designated as [critical infrastructure](#) vital to this nation and our democracy, and to communicate the impact that power outages may have on elections in the State of California. We want to ensure that these utilities take appropriate and timely steps to notify our office and county elections officials about potential power outages and assist in efforts to mitigate the impact of any outages for the upcoming elections.

The Secretary of State's Office encourages all counties to review their emergency disaster plans and internal procedures, including any poll worker and staff training guides. Our office, in collaboration with county elections officials, developed [Procedures and Guidelines for Voting in a State of Emergency or Natural Disaster](#), which may be helpful in updating your procedures.

Please be aware that under your current HAVA and voting system replacement contracts, counties may be reimbursed for the purchase of emergency equipment to keep election systems running during early voting and on Election Day, such as back-up generators and voting system batteries, flashlights, extra lighting, etc. For more information on this funding please refer to [CCROV #18206](#). If you have specific questions on these contracts, please contact Susan Lapsley at SLapsley@sos.ca.gov.

Please contact our office if your county will be affected by these power outages or expect to open early voting sites for the upcoming November 5, 2019, Election, so we can be of further assistance. I can be reached at (916) 653-5144 or via email at JLean@sos.ca.gov.