



SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D. | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ELECTIONS DIVISION
1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Tel 916.657.2166 | Fax 916.653.3214 | www.sos.ca.gov

July 23, 2021

Michelle Baldwin, Registrar of Voters
Tulare County
5951 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277

Dear Ms. Baldwin,

The Secretary of State's Office has received and reviewed the Tulare County Registrar of Voter's application for an election administration waiver during the September 14, 2021, California Gubernatorial Recall Election. Your request was for a waiver of precinct consolidation requirements.

After reviewing your request and documentation, the Secretary of State's Office accepts your waiver request. The Secretary of State's office has determined that your request warrants the requested relief.

Should you have any questions or need assistance during this election, please feel free to reach out to me or my staff regarding election activities and information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jana M. Lean".

Jana M. Lean
Chief of Elections
Secretary of State's Office



**CALIFORNIA GUBERNATORIAL RECALL ELECTION
 SEPTEMBER 14, 2021,
 SECTION 1604 WAIVER REQUEST FORM**

County elections officials conducting their elections pursuant to Methods #3 and #4 may seek to adjust or partially waive the minimally required number, location, and/or operational duration of their “VCA-like” consolidated polling places or their ballot drop-off locations as described in Section 1602. (Elec. Code, § 1604(a)) County elections officials conducting their elections pursuant to Method #5 may seek to partially waive the provisions regarding the maximum number of voters in a precinct as required by Section 12223. (Elec. Code, § 1604(a))

For descriptions of Methods #3, #4, and #5, [please review the guidance document](#). Additional [information and updates for the recall](#) can be found on the SOS website.

Please complete and email this Waiver Request Form with required attachments to the following address: 2021RecallWaiverRequest@sos.ca.gov. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Mike Somers at (916) 695-1563 or msomers@sos.ca.gov

Date of Request	
County Name	
Contact Name	
Contact Phone	
Contact Email	
Waiver Request Form – Select all that apply	
1) “VCA-like” consolidated polling place Number Location Operational duration 2) Ballot drop-off location Number Location Operational duration 3) Precinct consolidation Consolidation Waiver [Maximum number of voters in a precinct not to exceed 3,000]	



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Additional Information Required for Waiver Request

To complete your waiver request please fill out a separate document that addresses the questions detailed below. You need only address the questions relevant to the kind of waiver being requested.

Please add this documentation as an attachment to your Waiver Request Form.

For all waiver requests, please provide your county’s plan analyzing the impact of this waiver request on your in-person voting needs, as detailed pursuant to California Elections Code section 1604(b). Overall, this final plan must address how your proposed levels of in-person voting are designed to provide the following:

- a) Detailed efforts to secure the otherwise required number of voting locations;
- b) How you will prevent a negative disparate impact on any protected class* of voters with respect to availability of voting locations and machines as well as language accessibility, including, but not limited to, the needs of disabled voters and individuals who do not have a history of voting by mail; and
- c) That the plan will not reduce in-person voting locations below a number of locations necessary to safely and efficiently accommodate the anticipated demand for in-person voting services.

* “Protected class” means a class of voters who are members of a race, color, or language minority group, as referenced and defined in the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.).

If you are requesting a waiver for the number of “VCA-like” consolidated polling places:

How many locations are you required to have?
How many locations have you secured?
For how many locations are you currently seeking a waiver?

If you are requesting a waiver for the location of “VCA-like” consolidated polling places:

Where are polling places required to be located?
Where do you want them to be located?
For how many locations are you currently seeking a waiver?

If you are requesting a waiver for the operational duration of “VCA-like” consolidated polling places:

How are you seeking to change what is required?
For what time period?

If you are requesting a waiver for the number of ballot drop-off locations:

How many locations are you required to have?
How many locations have you secured?
For how many locations are you currently seeking a waiver?



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If you are requesting a waiver for the location of ballot drop-off locations:

Where are the drop-offs required to be located?

Where do you want them to be located?

For how many drop-off locations are you currently seeking a waiver?

If you are requesting a waiver for the operational duration of ballot drop-off locations:

How are you seeking to change what is required?

For what dates?

If you are seeking a waiver for precinct consolidation:

How many precincts are you attempting to consolidate?

Thank you for your submission. The Secretary of State's office (SOS) will review the information provided and may request additional information. As part of the review, SOS staff may also contact you to offer additional assistance before making a waiver determination.

To be completed by SOS:

Waiver has been approved.

Waiver has been denied.

Waiver has been approved with the following modifications:

Date Request Received:

Date Decision Transmitted:

SOS Staff Contact Information

Name:

Email:

Phone:

TULARE COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS



MICHELLE BALDWIN
Registrar of Voters

5951 South Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277
TEL: (559) 624-7300 FAX: (559) 737-4498
www.tularecoelections.org

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Elections Code Section 1604(a), Tulare County would like to request a waiver for precinct consolidation for the maximum voters in a precinct not to exceed 3,000 for the September 14, 2021 Statewide Gubernatorial Recall Election.

Efforts to Secure the Otherwise Required Number of Voting Locations

We began contacting facilities in May asking for availability as a polling place for a recall election expected to happen in September, October or November of this year. We contacted 60 polling places and received confirmation from 28. Several of our regular polling places were unavailable. With the consolidation, we would only need to have 38 polling places, which have already been confirmed.

We have 83 precincts that have been consolidated with 7 of those having between 2,100 – 2,691 registered poll voters. Larger polling places have been confirmed to handle the increased volume.

Traditionally, we have used 48 to 50 polling places for an election. At this point, there is not enough time to secure the number of polling places for this election using the precinct consolidation for the maximum voters not to exceed 1,000 and meet all election deadlines.

Prevent a Negative Disparate Impact on any Protected Class of Voters

All of the polling locations will have at least one accessible ballot marking device. Our larger sites will have at least 2 or 3. All of our ballots and voting materials are required to be in English and Spanish. We will have facsimile ballots in Tagalog, Burmese, Laotian and Illacono at specified polling locations. All of our polling places have been assessed and meet ADA compliance.

All of the polling places that have been selected are predominantly located within the precincts being served. Larger sites are being used when more than one consolidated voting precinct will be assigned to that location.

We will have 12 official ballot drop boxes located throughout the County with 24/7 accessibility beginning on August 16th (E-29) allowing more options for voters to return their vote by mail ballots.

Plan will not Reduce In-person Voting Locations

In Tulare County, 75 percent of our voters are permanent vote by mail voters, which leaves 25 percent voting at polling places. Additionally, all registered voters will be receiving a vote by mail ballot for the Statewide Gubernatorial Recall Election that can potentially reduce the amount of in-person voting. We are confident that we will be able to provide a safe and efficient number of polling places to accommodate the anticipated demand for in-person voting services.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Michelle Baldwin
Registrar of Voters