

Curbside Voting Working Group – Best Practices Recommendations

1. Description of the recommendation

Best practices recommendations (see Appendix A).

2. Reason for this recommendation

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 AB 545 (2023, Pellerin) and provide a more inclusive voting experience. Curbside voting procedures differed by county during the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election.

3. Where this recommendation should be sent to or updated at (i.e., SOS webpage or sent to counties as a voluntary survey)

- Secretary of State to get them to counties through a County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) advisory memorandum
 - At least, If the Secretary of State cannot get a CC/ROV advisory memorandum out in time, post on the Secretary of State website and inform counties of that.
- Get them on county VAAC agendas

4. Proposed timeline for this recommendation to be implemented (i.e., before the November 2024 General Election)

We would like these best practices recommendations out to counties prior to the November 2024 election. If this document can be posted on the Secretary of State's webpage and sent out in time to be talked about at the County VAACs, that would be ideal.

APPENDIX A

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 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 during voting hours

2. Accessible Parking:

- Ensure at least one curbside voting area is designated at every polling place.
- Do not place signs, cones, or doorbells where they will block the parking access aisle, including the blue striped areas or red zones.

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

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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:

- 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.
- Allow voters to choose their communication method and ensure privacy.

5. Voting Process:

- Ensure at least two election workers accompany all voting materials.
- Provide 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 AB 545 and provide a more inclusive voting experience.