2024 NEW ELECTION LAWS

New California Election Laws

**ORANGE COUNTY
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION

This Chaptered Legislation is a Quick Reference Guide to the California Election Code Chaptered Bills signed by the Governor in 2023 to be in effect immediately and in 2024 that will impact California Elections. It includes Legislative Counsel's Digest. More information on Chaptered Legislation can be found at the California Legislative Information Website www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov

CHAPTERED BILLS

<u>AB 34, Valencia. Elections: County of Orange Citizens Redistricting Commission.</u> **(Chapter 315)**

An act to add Chapter 6.9 (commencing with Section 21580) to Division 21 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law requires the board of supervisors, following a county's decision to elect its board using district-based elections or following each decennial federal census for a county whose board is already elected using district-based elections, by ordinance or resolution, to adjust the boundaries of all of the supervisorial districts of the county so that the districts are as nearly equal in population as possible and comply with applicable federal law, and specifies the procedures the board of supervisors must follow in adjusting those boundaries. Existing law establishes the Citizens Redistricting Commission in the County of Riverside and the Citizens Redistricting Commission in the County of Fresno, which are charged with adjusting the supervisorial district boundaries for their respective counties.

This bill would establish the Citizens Redistricting Commission in the County of Orange, which would be charged with adjusting the boundary lines of the districts of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Orange in accordance with specified criteria. The commission would consist of 14 voting members and 2 nonvoting, alternate members who meet specified qualifications. The bill would require each commission member to attend all public hearings and meetings of the commission, except as specified, and would create specified procedures by which the commission may remove a member for substantial neglect of duty, gross misconduct of office, inability to discharge the duties of the office, or if it is later discovered that the commission member did not meet the required qualifications at the time of appointment or no longer meets those qualifications while serving on the commission. The bill would provide that if the commission is unable to act because it does not have nine voting members to constitute a quorum, then the Auditor-Controller of the County of Orange and the commission must fill the vacancies to bring the commission to nine voting members, as specified. By increasing the duties on local officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

If Assembly Bill 1248 of the 2023–24 Regular Session is enacted and takes effect on or before January 1, 2024, this bill would provide that the provisions of AB 1248 do not apply to the Citizens Redistricting Commission in the County of Orange, which instead would be governed by the provisions of this bill.

If Assembly Bill 764 of the 2023–24 Regular Session is enacted and takes effect on or before January 1, 2024, this bill would make conforming changes as specified.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the unique circumstances facing the County of Orange.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

AB 63, Cervantes. Canvass of the vote: reporting results. **(Chapter 514)**

An act to add Sections 15306 and 15504.5 to the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law requires the official canvass for an election to begin no later than the Thursday following the election and to be continued daily until completed. Existing law requires the elections official to submit a certified statement of the results of the election to the governing body within 30 days of the election, except as specified, and to post the statement on the elections official's internet website. Existing law also requires the elections official, on the 2nd day after the election, to send a report to the Secretary of State containing the estimated number of outstanding unprocessed ballots, and beginning on the 6th day after the election, to send an updated report on any day that the elections official publicly releases updated election results.

Under the California Constitution, a person is ineligible to serve as a State Assembly Member or State Senator if they have not been a resident of their legislative district for one year immediately preceding the election. Existing statutory law also requires the Secretary of State to compile the results of an election for State Assembly Member and State Senator, as specified, and to transmit a certificate of election to each person who is elected.

This bill would require the elections official, beginning no later than the Thursday following the election until submission of a certified statement of the results, to post updated information regarding the election on their internet website at least once per week. The information must at a minimum include updated results for any candidate for office or measure appearing on the ballot, the number of ballots processed and an estimated number of outstanding unprocessed ballots, according to specified categories, and the date and time when it is expected that the next results will be posted. The bill would permit the elections official to stop posting the results when either a certified statement of results is published or the only ballots left to count are vote by mail ballots for which a voter has the opportunity to cure their ballot by verifying or providing their signature.

This bill would require the Secretary of State, when transmitting a certificate of election or unofficial election results to the State Assembly or State Senate regarding a person who appears to have received the plurality of votes in an election for legislative office, to include a notation, if applicable, that the person was not continuously registered to vote in the district in which the person appears to have received a plurality of votes from the date the candidate filed their declaration of candidacy to the date on which the Secretary of State transmits the certificate of election or unofficial election results.

By imposing new duties on local elections officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

AB 292, Pellerin. Primary elections: ballots. **(Chapter 646)**

An act to amend Section 13502 of, and to add Section 13502.5 to, the Elections Code, relating to elections.

(1) Existing law prohibits a voter who has declined to disclose a political party preference from voting in a particular party's primary election, including a presidential primary election, unless the party has authorized such a voter to vote in that party's primary election.

This bill would require, for any nonpartisan ballot provided to a voter who has declined to disclose a political party preference for use in a presidential primary election, that the ballot provide specified information regarding how a voter may request and vote a partisan ballot.

(2) Existing law requires a county elections official, prior to each partisan primary election, to mail to every voter who has declined to disclose a political party preference a notice and application by which the voter can request a vote by mail ballot of a party that has authorized such voters to vote in its primary election. Existing law specifies other means by which a voter who has declined to disclose a political party preference can request the ballot of a political party that has authorized such a voter to vote in its primary election.

This bill would require the above-described application to contain a list of political parties that have authorized a voter who has declined to disclose a political party preference to vote in that party's primary election, along with a box next to each party's name for the voter to mark to request a vote by mail ballot for that party. The bill would authorize such a voter to request a party's ballot by text message to the appropriate elections official, if the county has established a system for processing such a request. The bill would also require a voter requesting another party's ballot to provide specified personal identifying information.

By imposing new duties on local elections officials, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

<u>AB 398, Pellerin. Voting: replacement ballots.</u> **(Chapter 650)**

An act to amend Sections 3014 and 3109 of the Elections Code, relating to voting.

Existing law requires an elections official to provide a 2nd vote by mail voter ballot to any voter upon receipt of a statement under penalty of perjury that the voter has failed to receive, lost, or destroyed their original ballot.

This bill would remove the requirement that the voter provide a statement under penalty of perjury, and instead require the elections official to provide a replacement ballot upon request. The bill would require the voter making the request to provide the elections official with specified personal identifying information. The bill would also require the elections official, prior to issuing the replacement ballot, to advise the requester that a request for a replacement ballot made by a person other than the registered voter is a criminal offense. By imposing new duties on local elections officials, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

<u>AB 421, Bryan. Elections: referendum measures.</u> **(Chapter 162)**

*An act to amend Sections 303.5, 9033, 9050, 9051, 9086, 13120, and 13247 of, and to add Section 303.1 to, the Elections Code, and to amend Section 88002 of the Government Code, relating to elections, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately. (*Urgency clause adopted *9/5/23 – General Election, November 5, 2024)*

(1) Existing law imposes ballot layout specifications, including, among other things, the content of the ballot label, defined as that portion of the ballot containing the names of the candidates or the statement of a measure. Existing law requires the ballot label to include, among other things, a condensed version of the ballot title and summary and a list of the names of supporters and opponents, as specified. Existing law defines the ballot title and summary and requires that it include a summary of the chief purpose and points, including the fiscal impact, of any measure that appears in the state voter information guide. Existing law requires the ballots used when voting on a statute referred to the voters as a referendum measure to use words asking the voter whether the statute that is the subject to referendum should be adopted, followed by the choices "Yes" and "No."

This bill would revise the ballot title and summary and ballot label requirements for statewide referendum measures by instead requiring that the ballot title and summary be posed in the form of a question asking whether the state should keep or overturn the law that is proposed to be overturned, followed by a summary of the chief purposes and points of the law. The bill would require this question and a condensed version of the summary to be included on the ballot label. The bill would require the ballot title and summary that appears in the state voter information guide for a statewide referendum measure to be

followed by the measure's top funders, as specified. Commencing January 1, 2025, the bill would additionally require the names of supporters and opponents in the ballot arguments printed in the state voter information guide to be listed on the ballot label, as specified. The bill would require the ballot label for statewide referendum measures to be followed by the choices "Keep the law" and "Overturn the law."

(2) Existing law requires the Secretary of State, upon receipt of a referendum measure petition certified to have been signed by the requisite number of qualified voters to issue a certificate of qualification certifying that the referendum measure is qualified for the ballot, notify the proponents of the referendum measure and the elections official of each county that the measure is qualified for the ballot, and include the referendum measure in a list of all statewide referendum measures that have qualified for the ballot, as specified.

This bill would, for a referendum measure, require the Secretary of State to identify the date of the next statewide general election or the next special statewide election that will occur not less than 31 days after the date the Secretary of State receives a petition certified to have been signed by the requisite number of qualified voters. The bill would, on the 131st day prior to the date of the identified election, or upon receipt of a certified petition described above, require the Secretary of State to take the steps described above. The bill would void a certificate of qualification for a referendum measure pending on the effective date of this bill and would require the Secretary of State to reissue a new certificate pursuant to these provisions, and permit the proponents of the measure to withdraw the measure, as specified. The bill would, upon the Secretary of State's transmission of notification to the proponents and elections officials, provide that the statute that is the subject of the referendum measure ceases to have effect unless and until the Secretary of State or a court of competent jurisdiction concludes that the petition was not signed by the requisite number of qualified voters, the proponents of the referendum measure withdraw the measure, or the voters vote to keep the statute that is the subject of the referendum at the statewide election in which the referendum measure appears on the ballot.

This bill would require any judicial action or proceeding to challenge, review, set aside, void, or annul this bill or any portion of this bill to be commenced within 45 days after the date this bill would become effective, and would prohibit relief granted by the court from interfering with the November 5, 2024, statewide general election or any special election held after the date this bill would become effective.

(3) Existing law requires the state voter information guide to contain, as to each state measure to be voted upon, the official summary prepared by the Attorney General, among other things.

This bill would require, in the state voter information guide for a statewide referendum measure, that the official summary prepared by the Attorney General be followed by a blank horizontal line and a listing of the top funders of the petition to overturn the law, as specified. The bill would require the Secretary of State to determine the list of top funders no later than the date a referendum qualifies for the ballot.

The Political Reform Act of 1974, an initiative measure, authorizes the Legislature, without following the procedures required for amending the act absent voter approval, to add to the ballot pamphlet information regarding candidates or other information.

This bill would declare that it permits or requires the inclusion of additional information in the ballot pamphlet in accordance with the above-described authority.

(4) Because this bill would impose new requirements on local elections officials, it would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

(5) This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

AB 507, Bryan. Presidential electors. **(Chapter 88)**

An act to amend Sections 6904, 6909, 6918, and 16003 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing federal law requires a state's electors for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States to meet and vote on the first Tuesday after the second Wednesday in December immediately following their appointment at a location specified by the legislature of that state. Existing state law requires California's presidential electors to assemble at the State Capitol for this purpose.

This bill would update state law to conform to the requirement that presidential electors meet and vote on the first Tuesday after the second Wednesday in December. The bill would also require the Governor to designate an alternative location for the electors to assemble if it is unsafe to meet in the State Capitol due to a proclaimed state of emergency.

AB 545, Pellerin. Elections: access for voters with disabilities. **(Chapter 658)**

An act to amend Sections 14105 and 14282 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

(1) Existing law requires elections officials to furnish each polling place with specified supplies for an election.

This bill would expand the list of required supplies to include specified items to assist voters with disabilities.

(2) Existing law restricts who may be within the voting booth area and who may occupy a voting both or compartment. Existing law allows a voter, after declaring under oath before a member of the precinct board that the voter is unable to mark a ballot, to receive assistance of up to two persons selected by the voter, as specified.

This bill would eliminate the requirement that the voter issue a declaration under oath before receiving assistance, as specified.

(3) In certain inaccessible polling places, existing law allows a voter with a disability to appear outside the polling place and vote by regular ballot. Where it is impractical to vote a regular ballot outside the polling place, existing law requires vote by mail ballots to be provided in sufficient numbers to accommodate

voters with disabilities who present themselves on election day, and authorizes a voter with a disability to vote a vote by mail ballot in the same manner as a regular ballot may be voted by that person outside the polling place.

This bill would expand that authority to allow a voter with a disability to vote by regular ballot outside any polling place, regardless of whether the polling place is inaccessible. The bill would require the posting of signage in specified areas indicating that the option is available for a voter with a disability to vote there, and the establishment of a method for a voter with a disability to contact a precinct board member in order to vote outside the polling place. The bill would require elections officials to include information regarding this option in the county elections internet website and the county voter information guide.

(4) By imposing additional duties on local elections officials, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

AB 626, Pellerin. Voting: returning vote by mail ballots in person. **(Chapter 661)**

An act to add Section 3016.5 to the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law authorizes any county to conduct an election as an all-mailed ballot election if certain requirements are met, including that the county establishes vote centers throughout the county for voters to, among other things, vote and return the voter's vote by mail ballot. Under existing law, a person who votes a vote by mail ballot is required to place the ballot in the identification envelope provided to the voter, sign the envelope, and return the ballot by mail or in person.

This bill would authorize a voter to vote their vote by mail ballot without the identification envelope if the voter returns the ballot in person at the polling place designated for the voter's home precinct or a vote center, if specified conditions are met. The bill would require a ballot cast in this manner to be processed and counted like a nonprovisional ballot cast in person at the polling place or vote center. By imposing additional duties on county elections officials, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

<u>AB 764, Bryan. Local redistricting.</u> **(Chapter 343)**

An act to amend Section 35 of the Code of Civil Procedure, to amend Sections 1002, 5019, 5019.5, 5020, 5021, 5023, 5027, and 5028 of, to repeal Section 5019.7 of, and to repeal and add Section 1005 of, the Education Code, to amend Sections 21500, 21500.1, 21503, 21506, 21534, 21544, 21552, 21564, 21574, 21600, 21601, 21603, 21605, 21606, 21620, 21621, 21623, 21625, 21626, 21630, 22000, 23002, and 23003 of, to add Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 21100) to Division 21 of, to repeal Sections 21501, 21507, 21507.1, 21508, 21509, 21602, 21607, 21607.1, 21608, 21609, 21622, 21627, 21627.1, 21628, 21629, and 22002 of, and to repeal and add Section 22001 of, the Elections Code, and to amend Sections 34874, 34877.5, 34884, 34886, and 57301 of the Government Code, relating to elections.

Existing law requires counties, general law and charter cities, and special districts that elect their governing boards using district-based elections to adopt, in a prescribed manner, new district boundaries following each federal decennial census. Existing law also requires county boards of education, and the governing boards of school districts and community college districts in which trustee areas have been established, to adopt new boundaries for their trustee areas following each federal decennial census.

This bill would revise and recast these provisions. The bill would require counties, county boards of education, cities, school districts, community college districts, and special districts, if the governing body of these local jurisdictions is elected by districts, to comply with uniform requirements related to redistricting. The bill would require local jurisdictions to adopt district boundaries, using specified criteria, following the decision to establish district-based elections and following each federal decennial census.

This bill would define the term "districting body," as specified, and clarify requirements applicable to advisory or hybrid redistricting commissions. This bill would require an advisory or hybrid redistricting commission to comply with specified requirements when recommending changes to the legislative body's district boundaries.

The bill would require a local jurisdiction, before adopting new district boundaries, to hold at least one public workshop and at least 5 public hearings, except as specified. This bill would require all public hearings held by an advisory or hybrid redistricting commission to comply with the same requirements applicable to hearings held by the districting body. This bill would impose requirements relating to workshops and public hearings upon local jurisdictions, districting bodies, and advisory and hybrid redistricting commissions, as specified. The bill would require the local jurisdiction to adopt a redistricting public education and outreach plan before holding a hearing or workshop, as specified. If a local jurisdiction establishes a hybrid redistricting commission to recommend changes to the legislative body's district boundaries, this bill would require the local jurisdiction, not the hybrid redistricting commission, to adopt the public education and outreach plan, as specified. The bill would also require the local jurisdiction to establish and maintain an accessible internet web page dedicated to redistricting to provide specified information to the public. The bill would require a local jurisdiction to make available on its redistricting web page, within specified time frames, both of the following: (1) recordings or written summaries of oral public comments made at workshops or public hearings, and (2) written comments and draft maps. The bill would require the Secretary of State to develop templates for such web pages and to provide a redistricting training for local jurisdictions. This bill would also require the Secretary of State to make available to the public a free electronic mapping tool, as specified.

For redistricting occurring in 2031 and thereafter, the bill would require district boundaries to be adopted no later than 204 days before the local jurisdiction's next regular election occurring after January 1 in each year ending in the number 2. If the responsible body misses that deadline, the bill would require the body to immediately petition a superior court in a county in which the local jurisdiction is located for an order adopting election district boundaries, and if the body does not petition a superior court, a resident of the local jurisdiction would be permitted to file that petition. If the court grants a petition, the bill would permit the court to appoint a special master to assist with adopting district boundaries.

Under existing law, county boards of supervisors and city councils that have adopted district-based elections are prohibited from adopting new district boundaries until after the next federal decennial census, except under certain circumstances.

This bill would authorize the adoption of new district boundaries before the next federal decennial census if the number of supervisors or city council members elected by districts changes or if an independent redistricting commission is established to adopt new districts before the next census.

The bill would provide that a member of the governing body of a local jurisdiction continues to represent the constituents residing in the district boundaries from which the member was elected for the duration of that term of office. The bill would specify that a local jurisdiction may assign a public official, as specified, to provide constituent services to residents of an area that is temporarily not represented by a member of the governing body of the local jurisdiction due to redistricting.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 23003 of the Elections Code proposed by Assembly Bill 1248 to be operative only if this bill and Assembly Bill 1248 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

By increasing the duties of local officials with respect to redistricting, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

AB 773, Pellerin. Elections: filings. **(Chapter 664)**

An act to amend Section 13307.7 of, and to add Section 9611 to, the Elections Code, relating to elections, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately. (Urgency clause adopted 9/7/23 – 2023 Candidate Filing Deadlines)

Existing law establishes procedures for authors to submit arguments for and against local ballot measures, and rebuttals to those arguments, in accordance with deadlines set by local elections officials. Existing law requires elections officials to select arguments from those submitted for publication in the voter information guide.

This bill would establish a lead county, as defined, for the purposes of district or school district elections when the boundaries of the district or school district encompass more than one county. The bill would require authors of arguments for or against district or school district measures, and related rebuttal arguments, to submit the arguments to the elections official of the lead county. The bill would require the elections official of the lead county to work with the other counties within the district bounds to establish deadlines for receipt of the arguments. The bill would require the elections official of the lead county to select the arguments for publication in the county voter information guide, and to transmit copies of the selected arguments to elections officials in the other counties within the district or school district, as specified. The bill would require an elections official who receives arguments selected by the lead county to include the arguments in their county voter information guide.

Existing law permits an elections official to post a form on their internet website for a candidate to use to submit the candidate's statement for the voter information portion of the county voter information guide. If the elections official posts the form, existing law requires the elections official to accept that form by electronic submission if it is submitted in accordance with certain timeframes and procedures for the preparation of the voter information portion of the county voter information guide. Existing law requires a candidate running in a multicounty district to provide to each county a hardcopy of the candidate statement form from the candidate's county of residence and payment of the requisite fee.

This bill would require elections officials to post and accept electronic submission of a form for candidates to submit a candidate statement for the voter information portion of the county voter information guide. The bill would authorize a candidate running in a multicounty district to submit to each county an electronic copy of the form from the candidate's county of residence, and would require the candidate to transmit hardcopies of the candidate statement form, any accompanying form, and payment of the requisite fee to each county by overnight mail within 72 hours of filing the statement electronically.

By increasing the duties of local elections officials, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

AB 910, Wilson. County officers: auditors: qualifications. **(Chapter 669)**

An act to amend Sections 13.5 and 8020 of the Elections Code, and to amend Section 26945 of the Government Code, relating to county officers.

Existing law prohibits a person from being considered a legally qualified candidate for specified county offices and the office judge of the superior court unless the person has filed a declaration of candidacy, nomination paper, or statement of write-in candidacy, accompanied by documentation, which includes, among other things, declarations under penalty of perjury, sufficient to establish, in the determination of

the official with whom the declaration or statement is filed, that the person meets each qualification established by specified provisions for service in that office.

This bill would recast these provisions to expand the documentation to include college transcripts that include training courses taken, degrees, and other supporting documents and to specify that the filed documentation establish that the person meets the above-described qualifications for service in that office. The bill would require the person to file a declaration, under penalty of perjury, that the information contained within the filed documents is true and correct. The bill would specify that the official receiving the documentation is not required to verify specified information, including, the authenticity or accuracy of the submitted documentation.

Existing law prohibits a candidate's name from being printed on a ballot for a direct primary unless specified documents are filed with the county elections official.

This bill would require that the above-described documentation be filed with the county elections official, if applicable.

By imposing new duties on local election officials and by expanding the crime of perjury, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

For a county that has elected to enact an ordinance that adopts certain provisions relative to the county auditor, existing law requires a person elected or appointed to the office of county auditor to meet at least one of specified criteria, including possession of a valid certificate showing a person to be a certified public accountant or a public accountant, as specified.

This bill would require that the certificate be an active certificate. The bill would remove public accountant from the above-described criteria.

Existing law also includes in the above-described criteria the possession of a baccalaureate degree with a major in accounting, or its equivalent, as specified, if a person has served within the last 5 years in a senior fiscal management position in specified organizations, including a private firm, with similar fiscal responsibilities, as specified.

This bill would instead require the person to possess a baccalaureate degree with a major in accounting or a business-related degree, as specified, if the person has served within the last 5 years in a senior fiscal management position in a county, city, or other public agency, or a nonprofit organization, dealing with similar fiscal responsibilities, as described.

Existing law also includes in the above-described criteria possession of a certificate issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors showing the person to be a designated professional auditor with 16 college semester units, or their equivalent, in accounting, auditing, or finance.

This bill would delete the requirement for possession of a certificate relation to 16 college semester units.

Existing law also includes in the above-described criteria service as a county auditor, chief deputy county auditor, or chief assistant county auditor for a continuous period of not less than 3 years.

This bill would revise this criteria to delete service as a chief assistant county auditor, and instead include service as an assistant county auditor or an equivalent position.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that with regard to certain mandates no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

With regard to any other mandates, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs so mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

AB 969, Pellerin. Elections: voting systems. **(Chapter 300)**

An act to add Sections 15270.1, 15270.2, 15270.3, and 19207.5 to, the Elections Code, relating to elections, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately. (Urgency clause adopted 9/8/23 – Presidential Primary, March 2024)

Existing law specifies procedures for manual vote counts for a semifinal official canvass in a precinct, including, among others, after the polls have closed, commencing a public count of the ballots cast, unopened, to ascertain whether the number of ballots corresponds with the number of signatures on the roster. These manual vote count procedures apply to all elections in which ballots are counted by hand. Ballots counted manually in a central place are required to be counted by precinct, separately, under the direction of the elections official or their authorized deputies, in the same manner as provided where ballots are counted at the polling place.

This bill would prohibit an elections official from performing a manual vote count in a semifinal official canvass pursuant to the above procedures in any contest held on an established election date, as specified, where there are more than 1,000 registered voters eligible to participate in that election as of 154 days in advance of the election, or in any contest held on a date other than an established election date, where there are more than 5,000 registered voters eligible to participate in that election as of 154 days in advance of the election. The bill would only allow an elections official to conduct a manual vote count for a semifinal official canvass in a precinct pursuant to the above procedures if the count is conducted pursuant to a plan approved by the Secretary of State, as specified. The bill would require the Secretary of State to adopt regulations regarding manual vote counts.

Existing law authorizes the governing board of a local jurisdiction to adopt a voting system for use in an election if the system has been certified or conditionally approved by the Secretary of State.

This bill would require an elections official or the governing body of a jurisdiction that administers elections to use a certified voting system, as specified. This bill would make the termination of a contract for a certified voting system provisional unless and until the jurisdiction has a transition plan and has finalized and signed a new contract for a certified voting system.

By requiring local elections officials to perform additional duties, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

AB 1037, Berman. Vote by mail ballots: signature verification. **(Chapter 673)**

An act to amend Section 3019 of the Elections Code, relating to voting.

Existing law requires a county elections official, upon receiving a vote by mail ballot, to compare the signature on the identification envelope with the voter's signature appearing on specified voter registration records. If the elections official determines that the signatures do not match, or if the identification envelope does not contain a signature, existing law requires the elections official to permit the voter to submit a signature verification statement or unsigned identification envelopment statement, respectively, that contains the voter's signature. Existing law requires instructions to be sent to the voter specifying that they may submit these statements by email, by facsimile transmission, or in person at a polling place within the county or a ballot dropoff box.

This bill would additionally require the instructions sent to voters to state that they may submit a signature verification statement or unsigned identification envelope statement by other electronic means made available by the local elections official. This bill would require a local elections official who offers other electronic means for submission to establish appropriate privacy and security protocols so that the information transmitted is received by the elections official and is only used to verify the signature on the voter's ballot. By imposing duties on local elections officials, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 3019 of the Elections Code proposed by SB 77 to be operative only if this bill and SB 77 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

AB 1219, Berman. Elections: ballots. **(Chapter 676)**

An act to amend Sections 302, 303.3, 305, 6821, 10704, 11320, 11322, 11323, 13105, 13200, 13202, 13203, 13206.5, 13208, 13209, 13210, 13211, 13211.5, 13212, 13213, 13214, 13233, 14286, 14443, 15210, and 15360 of, to add Section 11322.5 to, to repeal Sections 13216.5, 13260, 13261, 13262, 13263, 13264, 13265, 13266, 13267, and 15211 of, and to repeal and add Sections 301, 303, 13204, 13206, 13216, 14284, and 14285 of, the Elections Code, relating to elections.

(1) Existing law imposes ballot layout specifications, including specific requirements relating to the placement of certain contests, the size and font of text, and the instructions provided to voters.

This bill would revise and recast these provisions. The bill would specify the font and location of certain text and would revise the ballot instructions provided to voters. The bill would require those instructions to communicate to voters, in plain language, how to cast a vote in a contest, how to write in a candidate, and what to do if a mistake is made.

(2) Existing law requires a ballot for a recall election for a state officer to include the names of the candidates nominated to succeed the officer sought to be recalled and a space to enter the name of a write-in candidate.

This bill would additionally require a ballot for a recall election for a state officer to include instructions explaining that the recall election includes two contests, one for whether to recall the officer and the other for the officer's successor if the recall is successful, and that voters may cast a vote in either or both of those contests.

(3) Existing law prohibits casting or counting in any election ballots not printed in accordance with the ballot layout specifications prescribed in state law.

This bill would instead prohibit casting or counting ballots not printed in substantial compliance with the ballot layout specifications.

(4) To the extent the bill would impose additional duties on county elections officials relating to the preparation of ballots, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

AB 1539, Berman. Elections: double voting. **(Chapter 692)**

An act to add Section 18560.1 to the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law permits a person to vote at any election held within the territory within which the person resides and the election is held if the person is qualified and registered to vote. If a person is entitled to vote at an election, existing law makes voting more than once, or attempting to vote more than once, a crime.

This bill would make it a misdemeanor for any person to vote or to attempt to vote both in an election held in this state and in an election held in another state on the same date. The bill would not prohibit a voter from voting in an election held in this state and in another state if one of the elections is an election held in a landowner voting district or any other district for which an elector is not required to be a resident of the district. By creating a new crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

AB 1754, Committee on Judiciary. Maintenance of the codes. **(Chapter 131)**

To amend Sections 2194, 2196, 7300, 12303, 13312, and 21575 of the Elections Code

Existing law directs the Legislative Counsel to advise the Legislature from time to time as to legislation necessary to maintain the codes.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes in various provisions of the law to effectuate the recommendations made by the Legislative Counsel to the Legislature.

AB 1761, Committee on Elections. Citizens Redistricting Commission: governance. **(Chapter 146)**

An act to amend Sections 8251 and 8253 of the Government Code, relating to redistricting.

Existing provisions of the California Constitution, enacted by the Voters FIRST Act, an initiative approved by the electors in the November 4, 2008, statewide general election, require the Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw district lines for the election of Members of the State Senate, Assembly, Congress, and the State Board of Equalization.

Existing statutory provisions added by the Voters FIRST Act establish the process for the selection and governance of the commission. Existing law defines "day" for purposes of those statutory provisions as a calendar day, except that if the final day of a period within which an act is to be performed is a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the period is extended to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday.

This bill would revise that definition to clarify that a calendar day is calculated as the period of elapsed time that begins at midnight and ends 24 hours later at the next midnight.

Existing law requires the commission to select, by a specified voting process, one of their members to serve as the chair, and one to serve as vice chair. Existing law prohibits the chair and vice chair from being of the same political party.

This bill would, notwithstanding any other law, authorize the commission to rotate the members serving as chair and vice chair as part of the process described above.

The Voters FIRST Act authorizes the Legislature to amend its provisions to further the act's purposes upon a $^2/_3$ vote of each house of the Legislature and compliance with specified procedural requirements.

This bill would declare that it furthers the purposes of the act.

AB 1762, Committee on Elections. Elections omnibus bill. **(Chapter 479)**

An act to amend Sections 9, 357.5, 2170, 3025.5, 3025.7, 4005, 4005.6, 13107, 14212, 15621, 15646, 16401, 16421 of, and to repeal Section 4007 of, the Elections Code, relating to elections.

(1) Existing law sets forth rules for counting words for the purposes of the Elections Code generally and for the specific purposes of ballot designations. For both purposes, existing law provides that hyphenated words appearing in a generally available standard reference dictionary, as specified, are considered as one word.

This bill would provide that for the purposes of counting hyphenated words in the Elections Code, generally, and for the purposes of ballot designations, specifically, reference may be made to a standard reference dictionary published online.

(2) Existing law authorizes any county to conduct any election as an all-mailed ballot election if specified conditions apply, including that at least one vote center is provided for every 10,000 registered voters. Existing law authorizes the County of Los Angeles to conduct a vote center election if, among other things, every permanent vote by mail voter receives a ballot.

This bill would repeal those provisions relating to the County of Los Angeles and make conforming changes.

(3) Existing law authorizes a candidate for elective office to have the designation "incumbent" appear immediately under their name on an election ballot if the candidate is a candidate for the same office that the candidate currently holds by election of the people.

This bill would prohibit a candidate who was elected in an at-large election from using this designation if they are a candidate in a district-based election.

(4) Existing law establishes procedures by which a voter may request a recount of the votes cast in an election and how a voter may contest an election. Former law, which was repealed on January 1, 2019, authorized the Secretary of State to create a post canvass risk-limiting audit pilot program.

This bill would delete obsolete references to the pilot program.

(5) Existing law requires, upon the Governor or Secretary of State ordering a recount, the Secretary of State to notify the elections official of each county and direct the county elections officials to recount all the votes cast for the office or for and against the state ballot measure, as specified.

This bill would make a technical change to this provision.

ACA 13, Ward. Voting thresholds. **(Chapter 176)**

A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment to the Constitution of the State, by amending Section 10 of, and adding Section 10.5 to, Article II thereof, and adding Section 7.8 to Article XI thereof, relating to voting.

The California Constitution provides that a proposed constitutional amendment and a statewide initiative measure each take effect only if approved by a majority of the votes cast on the amendment or measure.

This measure would further provide that an initiative measure that includes one or more provisions that would amend the Constitution to increase the voter approval requirement to adopt any state or local measure would be approved by the voters only if the proportion of votes cast in favor of the initiative measure is equal to or greater than the highest voter approval requirement that the initiative measure would impose. The measure would specify that this voter approval requirement would apply to statewide initiative measures that appear on the ballot on or after January 1, 2024.

The California Constitution also permits initiative and referendum powers to be exercised by the voters of each city or county under procedures provided by the Legislature.

This measure would expressly authorize a local governing body to hold an advisory vote concerning any issue of governance for the purpose of allowing voters within the jurisdiction to voice their opinions on the issue. The measure would specify that an advisory question is approved only if a majority of the votes cast on the question are in favor.

This measure would further declare that its provisions are severable and that if any provision is held invalid, the other provisions of the act remain valid, as specified.

SB 25, Skinner. Declaration of candidacy: notary. **(Chapter 26)**

An act to amend Section 8040 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law requires a candidate for public office to file a declaration of candidacy that contains, among other things, the residence address of the candidate. Existing law requires the declaration to be subscribed and sworn before a notary public or other official.

This bill would authorize a candidate who will not be in the State of California during the entire nomination period to appear before a notary public of another state to complete the declaration of candidacy, as specified.

SB 29, Glazer. The Political Reform Act of 1974: Fair Political Practices Commission: political reform education program. **(Chapter 696)**

An act to amend Section 91013 of, and to add Section 83116.7 to, the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately. (Urgency clause adopted 9/11/23)

The Political Reform Act of 1974 provides for the comprehensive regulation of campaign financing, including requiring the reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures and imposing other reporting and recordkeeping requirements on campaign committees. Under existing law, the Fair Political Practices Commission has primary responsibility for the impartial, effective administration and implementation of the Political Reform Act of 1974. Existing law makes a knowing or willful violation of the Political Reform Act of 1974 a misdemeanor and subjects offenders to criminal penalties. Under existing law, a person who files an original statement or report after a deadline imposed by the Political Reform Act of 1974 is liable in the amount of $10 per day after the deadline until the statement or report

is filed, as specified. Existing law authorizes a filing officer to not impose this liability if the officer determines that the late filing was not willful and that enforcement of the liability will not further the purposes of the act, except as specified. Existing regulation directs the commission to develop a diversion program to allow for the education of a person who commits a minor violation of the act, as specified.

This bill would authorize the commission to establish and administer a political reform education program as an alternative to an administrative proceeding, as specified. The bill would establish eligibility requirements for the political reform education program, including that the person has little or no experience with the act and that the violation resulted in minimal or no public harm. If a person meets the requirements to participate in the political reform education program and completes the program, this bill would exempt the person from administrative, civil, or criminal penalties for the applicable violation of the Political Reform Act of 1974, as specified. The bill would authorize the commission to impose additional eligibility requirements for participation in the program. The bill would authorize the commission to charge a fee to program participants in an amount not to exceed the reasonable cost to administer the political reform education program. The bill would require the fee be paid to the General Fund. The bill would express the intent of the Legislature to appropriate funds annually to the commission to administer the political reform education program. The bill would prohibit a filing officer from imposing the $10 per day liability if the person who filed the late report or statement was unable to timely file due to serious illness or hospitalization or if the person completes the political reform education program, as specified.

The Political Reform Act of 1974, an initiative measure, provides that the Legislature may amend the act to further the act's purposes upon a $2/3$ vote of each house of the Legislature and compliance with specified procedural requirements.

This bill would declare that it furthers the purposes of the act.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

SB 77, Umberg. Voting: signature verification: notice. **(Chapter 701)**

An act to amend Sections 3019 and 3026 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law requires a county elections official, upon receiving a vote by mail ballot, to compare the signature on the identification envelope with the voter's signature appearing on specified voter registration records. If the elections official determines that the signatures do not match, or if the identification envelope does not contain a signature, existing law requires the elections official to mail a notice to the voter, no later than 8 days before the certification of the election, of the opportunity to verify the voter's signature or provide a signature, as applicable.

This bill would require the elections official to additionally notify the voter by telephone, a text message, or email, if the elections official has a telephone number or email address for the voter on file. By increasing the duties of county elections officials, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 3019 of the Elections Code proposed by AB 1037 to be operative only if this bill and AB 1037 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

SB 297, Allen. Elections: initiatives and referenda: withdrawal. **(Chapter 483)**

An act to amend Section 9604 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law authorizes the proponents of a statewide initiative or referendum measure to withdraw the measure after filing the initiative or referendum petition with the appropriate elections official at any time before the Secretary of State certifies that the measure has qualified for the ballot, as provided. Existing law requires, for the withdrawal of an initiative or referendum measure after the petition has been filed with the appropriate elections official, all of the proponents to file a written notice with the Secretary of State to withdraw the measure.

This bill would instead require a majority of the proponents to file a written notice with the Secretary of State to withdraw the statewide initiative or referendum measure after the petition has been filed with the appropriate elections official. The bill would also authorize the proponents of a statewide initiative or referendum measure to file a notice of withdrawal with the Secretary of State that is contingent upon the enactment of a particular legislative measure, as specified. The bill would require the Secretary of State to deem a written notice of contingent withdrawal of a statewide initiative or referendum effective if the legislative measure identified in the notice is enacted and given a chapter number by the Secretary of State before the Secretary of State has certified that the statewide initiative or referendum measure has qualified for the ballot, as specified. If the legislative measure is not given a chapter number by the Secretary of State before the Secretary of State has certified that the statewide initiative or referendum measure has qualified for the ballot, as specified, or is amended after the notice of contingent withdrawal is filed, the withdrawal of the initiative or referendum measure would not be given effect.

SB 386, Newman. Elections. **(Chapter 870)**

An act to amend Sections 9031, 9115, 9309, 11106, and 11225 of, to add Section 10224.5 to, and to repeal Section 13205 of, the Elections Code, relating to elections.

(1) Existing law establishes procedures for the filing of a state initiative or referendum petition with county elections officials and for county elections officials and the Secretary of State to determine the validity and numerical sufficiency of the signatures submitted with the petition. Under existing law, if the number of signatures filed with all county elections officials is 100% or more of the number of signatures required, the Secretary of State is required to immediately notify county elections officials, who must then preliminarily determine the number of qualified voters who signed the petition, including by use of random sampling if the number of signatures exceeds 500. Thereafter, if the random sampling shows that the number of valid signatures is within 95 to 110% of the requisite number of qualified voters, the

Secretary of State must order the examination and verification of the signatures filed, and within 30 days of this order, as specified, the elections official must determine the number of qualified voters who signed the petition.

Existing law also permits an elections official to use a random sampling method to determine the number of qualified voters who signed a county, city, or special district initiative or referendum petition, or a local recall petition, if the number of signatures on the petition exceeds 500. If an elections official uses this method and if a specified percentage of valid signatures is demonstrated, the elections official must complete the determination of the number of qualified voters, in the case of a county, city, or special district petition, within 60 days of the date the petition was filed, as specified, and in the case of a local recall petition, within 30 days of the date the petition was filed, as specified.

This bill would, with respect to an elections official using the random sampling method to verify signatures for any of the above petitions, extend by 30 days the period within which the official must complete their determination of the number of qualified voters, except when this extension could cause a recall election to be ineligible for consolidation with the next regularly scheduled election, as specified.

(2) Existing law requires a person, to be included on the ballot as a candidate for municipal office, to obtain nomination papers from a city elections official and submit the nomination papers, with a requisite number of signatures, by no later than the 88th day before the election.

This bill would require a city elections official to post or publish specified election information no later than 3 days before the deadline for the submission of nomination papers, as specified. The information required to be posted or published includes the list of open offices; whether the city elections official has provided nomination papers to incumbents to those offices; if, due to redistricting, there is no incumbent for an open office; the location where nomination papers may be obtained; and the location, dates, and hours of operation of the location where the nomination papers may be filed.

(3) Existing law prescribes the required content of ballots. Existing law requires ballots to contain specified instructions for voters in presidential elections.

This bill would repeal that requirement.

(4) By increasing the duties of local elections officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

SB 437, Dodd. Presidential elections: candidates. **(Chapter 72)**

An act to amend Section 13104 of, and to add Section 6901.5 to, the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law provides for the statewide election of a slate of electors to vote in the electoral college for the

President and Vice President of the United States. Existing law requires the Secretary of State to place the names of each qualified political party's candidates for President and Vice President on the ballot for the ensuing general election.

This bill would require each qualified political party, on or before the 75th day before a presidential general election, to notify the Secretary of State of the names of the party's nominees for President and Vice President or, if the party has not held its national convention by the 75th day before the election, the party's apparent nominees for President and Vice President.

If a candidate for elective office changes their name within one year of an election, existing law prohibits printing the candidate's new name on the ballot for that election unless the name change was made by marriage or a court decree.

This bill would exempt candidates for President and Vice President from that prohibition.

SB 485, Becker. Elections: election worker protections. **(Chapter 611)**

An act to amend Sections 18502 and 18540 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law makes interfering in any manner with the officers holding an election or conducting a canvass or with a voter lawfully exercising their right of voting at an election, in order to prevent the election or canvass from being fairly held and lawfully conducted, a crime punishable by imprisonment for 16 months or 2 or 3 years.

This bill would specify that for purposes of this crime, "officers holding an election or conducting a canvass" include, but are not limited to, the Secretary of State and their staff, in their performance of any of their duties related to administering the provisions of the Elections Code, an elections official and their staff, including temporary workers and poll workers, or a member of a precinct board, in their performance of any duty related to holding an election or conducting a canvass in order to prevent the election or canvass from being fairly held and lawfully conducted. The bill would clarify that "holding an election or conducting a canvass" for purposes of this crime includes the election observation process.

By expanding the scope of an existing crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

SB 658, McGuire. Nominations: tax return disclosures: candidates for Governor. **(Chapter 880)**

An act to amend Sections 8901, 8902, and 8903 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

Existing law prohibits the name of a candidate for Governor from being printed on the ballot of the direct primary election unless the candidate, at least 88 days before the direct primary election, files with the Secretary of State 2 copies of every income tax return, as defined, the candidate filed with the Internal Revenue Service in the 5 most recent taxable years. Existing law requires the candidate to redact specified information from one copy of each submitted return, and authorizes the candidate to redact additional information as specified. Existing law requires the Secretary of State, within 5 days of receipt, to make the redacted versions of the candidate's tax returns available to the public on the Secretary of State's internet website, and to continuously post the returns until the official canvass for the direct primary election is

completed. Existing law requires the Secretary of State to retain the paper copies of the submitted tax returns until the completion of the official canvass of the ensuing general election.

This bill would extend these requirements to general elections and recall elections in addition to direct primary elections. The bill would require and authorize redaction of additional information on the returns, as specified. The bill would require the Secretary of State to make the redacted copies of the tax returns public at the time the Secretary of State issues the certified list of candidates for the election. The bill would require the Secretary of State to continuously post the tax returns until the official canvass is completed for the election at which a candidate is elected to the office, except that the tax returns of a candidate who was not nominated to participate in the general election need only be posted until the official canvass for the direct primary election is completed. The bill would require the Secretary of State to retain paper copies of the submitted tax returns until the completion of the official canvass of the election at which a candidate is elected to the office. The bill would exclude transcripts from the Internal Revenue Service and accountant notes from the definition of "income tax return" for these purposes.

SB 678, Umberg. Elections: disclosures. **(Chapter 156)**

An act to add Section 84513 to the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

Existing law, the Political Reform Act of 1974, provides for the comprehensive regulation of campaign financing and related matters, including by prohibiting, limiting, or requiring disclosure of certain political activities and by regulating certain political advertisements.

This bill would require a person who is paid by a committee to support or oppose a candidate or ballot measure on an internet website, web application, or digital application, as specified, to include a disclaimer, if not already required as specified, stating that they were paid by the committee in connection with the post. The bill would also require a committee to notify the person posting the content of the disclaimer requirement. Under this bill, if a person fails to post the disclaimer, they would not be subject to administrative penalties, but the Commission would be authorized to seek injunctive relief to compel disclosure. This bill would also exempt the disclaimer requirement for content posted by a compensated employee of a committee on the employee's own social media page or account if the only expense or cost of the communication is compensated staff time, unless the person's principal duties as an employee are to post content on the person's own social media page or account.

The Political Reform Act of 1974, an initiative measure, provides that the Legislature may amend the act to further the act's purposes upon a $^2/_3$ vote of each house of the Legislature and compliance with specified procedural requirements.

This bill would declare that it furthers the purposes of the act.

SB 681, Allen. Political Reform Act of 1974: amendments. **(Chapter 499)**

An act to amend Section 81012 of, and to add Section 81012.5 to, the Government Code, relating to the Political Reform Act of 1974.

The Political Reform Act of 1974 may be amended by statute if, among other things, the bill in its final form has been delivered to the Fair Political Practices Commission for distribution to the news media and to persons who have requested to receive copies of such bills at least 12 days before passage in each house.

This bill instead would require bills amending the act be in final form at least 8 days before passage in each house. However, the bill would require bills amending the act to be in final form at least 12 days before passage in each house if the previous form of the bill did not amend the act.

Existing law requires the Legislative Counsel to make specified information pertaining to legislative measures publicly available in electronic form on a computer network, including the text, bill history, and bill status of each bill introduced in each current legislative session.

This bill would require the Legislative Counsel to make available to the public the option to sign up to receive email alerts any time a bill to amend the Political Reform Act of 1974 is introduced, amended, or otherwise subject to an action triggering a specified notification. The bill would require these email alerts to be sent as soon as feasible, but no later than 9 a.m. the calendar day after the legislative action that is the subject of the alert.

The Political Reform Act of 1974, an initiative measure, provides that the Legislature may amend the act to further the act's purposes upon a $^2/_3$ vote of each house of the Legislature and compliance with specified procedural requirements.

This bill would declare that it furthers the purposes of the act.

SB 789, Allen. Elections: Senate Constitutional Amendment 2 of the 2021–22 Regular Session and Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5 of the 2023–24 Regular Session. **(Chapter 787)**

An act relating to elections, and calling an election, to take effect immediately.

Existing law requires a constitutional amendment submitted to the people by the Legislature to appear on the ballot of the first statewide election occurring at least 131 days after the adoption of the proposal.

The Legislature adopted Senate Constitutional Amendment 2 (SCA 2) of the 2021–22 Regular Session, which, if approved by the voters, would repeal provisions of the California Constitution that prohibit the development, construction, or acquisition of a low-rent housing project, as defined, by any state public body unless the project is approved by a majority of the qualified electors in the jurisdiction in which the project is proposed. The Legislature adopted Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5 (ACA 5) of the 2023–24 Regular Session, which, if approved by the voters, would repeal a provision of the California Constitution that provides that only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California and would instead provide that the right to marry is a fundamental right. Pursuant to the existing law described above, SCA 2 and ACA 5 are scheduled to appear on the ballot at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1 (ACA 1) of the 2023–24 Regular Session, if approved by the voters, would amend and add provisions of the California Constitution to do both of the following for specified purposes relating to real property: (1) create an additional exception to the 1% limit on the ad valorem tax rate on real property that would authorize a local jurisdiction to levy an ad valorem tax to service bonded indebtedness incurred, if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of the voters in that local

jurisdiction; and (2) authorize a local jurisdiction to impose, extend, or increase a sales and use tax, if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of the voters in that local jurisdiction. ACA 1, if approved by the voters, would also amend the California Constitution to prohibit a special district from incurring any indebtedness or liability exceeding any applicable statutory limit, as prescribed by the statutes governing the special district. Pursuant to the existing law described above, if adopted by the Legislature, ACA 1 would appear on the ballot at the March 5, 2024, statewide primary election.

This bill would call a special election to be consolidated with the statewide general election scheduled for November 5, 2024, and would require the submission of SCA 2 and ACA 5 to the voters at that election. The bill would also require the submission of ACA 1 to the voters at that election if ACA 1 is adopted by the Legislature.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an act calling an election.

SB 798, Glazer. Elections: local bond measures: tax rate statement. **(Chapter 720)**

An act to amend Section 9401 of the Elections Code, relating to elections. (Urgency clause adopted 9/11/23 - SCA2, ACA 5 and ACA 1 – General Election, November 5, 2024)

Existing law requires local governments, when submitting a measure for voter approval for the issuance of bonds that will be secured by an ad valorem tax, to provide voters a statement that includes estimates of the tax rates required to fund the bonds. Under existing law, the estimated tax rate is expressed as the rate per $100 of assessed valuation on all property to be taxed to fund the bonds.

This bill would instead require that the estimated tax rate in the statement be expressed as the rate per $100,000 of assessed valuation on all property to be taxed to fund the bonds.

SB 882, Committee on Governance and Finance. Local Government Omnibus Act of 2023. **(Chapter 187)**

An act to amend Sections 27000.7, 27210, 27211, and 53601 of the Government Code, and to amend Section 4730.12 of, and to repeal Section 4730.11 of, the Health and Safety Code, relating to local government.

(1) Existing law prohibits a person from being eligible for election or appointment to the office of the county treasurer, county tax collector, or county treasurer-tax collector of any county unless that person meets at least one of several criteria, including that the person possess a valid certificate issued by the Treasury Management Association showing the person to be designated as a Certified Cash Manager, with a minimum of 16 college semester units, or their equivalent, in accounting, auditing, or finance.

This bill would remove, commencing January 1, 2024, that criterion as an option for eligibility for the above-described offices.