



*Election Integrity Project California*  
EVERY LAWFULLY CAST VOTE ACCURATELY COUNTED

**August 20, 2018**

## **IS YOUR VOTE SAFE?**

**[CLICK HERE](#)** for audio-visual presentation of this information)

The percentage of California voters choosing to receive and cast a mail ballot has grown steadily since the unrestricted option first became available in 1998. We have been told that its easier, more convenient, safer, cheaper, etc. Sound too good to be true? **You're right.**

So what attracts people to trust their valuable vote to excessive handling, processing and subjective verification?

First, the arrival of a ballot in the mail is a good reminder that an election is eminent. For people not politically “dialed in” on a regular basis, this could be a good thing, though the arrival of a sample ballot should serve the same purpose.

Second, receiving a mail ballot saves the voter the “inconvenience” of finding time to go to the polls on one specific day, and saves the voter from the potential of having to wait in line for a few minutes in order to vote in person.

**But EIPCa recommends NOT voting with a mail ballot unless absolutely necessary.** There are some very good reasons why, and those reasons should convince you that **none the arguments** in favor of mail ballots are good enough to overshadow the risks.

First, a mail ballot is **not a secret ballot**. Your name, address and zip code are on it. Imagine the possibilities as the ballot goes through the hundreds of hands on its way to the counting machine.

Second, a mail ballot is often an **early vote**, exposing the voter to “voter’s remorse” as last minute information becomes available.

Third, the processing of mail ballots is not only subjective and fraught with potential for error and fraud, it is also labor and time intensive. When the general, able-bodied public uses a form of voting that was created for a specific few (handicapped, elderly, ill, those out of town or those with incompatible work hours), verifying and counting such large numbers produces **greatly delayed election results**. This frustrates the electorate, and produces apathy and future lack of participation.

**Most importantly, a mail ballot is a vulnerable ballot.** It is vulnerable

- ...to harvesting on the way to you and on the way back to the Registrar
- ...to coercion of voters by family members, community members or authority figures (which hurts students in dorms/frat and sorority living situations, handicapped dependent on caretakers, members of powerful unions, residents of assisted living and nursing care facilities, etc.)
- ...to error or wrongdoing during every step of processing, especially signature verification and ballot “remaking” (when a ballot is deemed uncountable in its current condition and is therefore “copied over” by election workers before counting).
- ...to being declared uncountable due to voter error, such as missing signature, etc.

The **bottom line** is that if you use a mail ballot, regardless of how “safely” you turn it in, you have **no assurance** that your vote will be counted **as you cast it**, or counted at all.

If you are willing and able, we encourage you to **remove yourself** from the permanent vote by mail status. **Act now** before the time window closes. You will still always have the right to vote absentee in any single election as needed.

Depending on your county, you may accomplish the move by a simple phone call or filling out a form. When all else fails, just **re-register**—online or with paper affidavit. Follow up with an online registration check to make sure your wishes have been realized.

**CHOOSE, WISELY; PROTECT YOURSELF; AND SPREAD THE WORD TO OTHERS.**

*Linda and the EIPCa Team*

*Linda Paine*  
**President and Co-founder**  
*Election Integrity Project California*

**DONATE TODAY**

Monthly Donations are critical in helping EIPCa to continue our work  
 Even \$10 a month makes a difference  
**All Donations are Appreciated!**