



Election Integrity Project California
EVERY LAWFULLY CAST VOTE ACCURATELY COUNTED

October 1, 2018

PROTECTING YOUR MAIL BALLOT

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

If you are a vote-by-mail voter, be aware that October 8 is the mailing date for your ballot! Allow us to help you submit your ballot in the safest way possible. **If you do not vote with a mail ballot**, please absorb and take the following information to your friends and family who do.

First, if your ballot does not arrive by October 15, **MAKE A VERY IMPORTANT PHONE CALL!!** Contact your Registrar's office, report your ballot missing and insist that they invalidate your original ballot and send you another. **Be sure to verify your mailing address.** This will prevent anyone else from using your original ballot to steal your vote.

If everything goes right and your ballot does arrive, you have a choice of methods for returning it:

- **U.S. Postal Service.** **EIPCa** does **NOT** recommend that you send your ballot this way. It will pass through too many hands, and too many things could go wrong.
- **Community Drop Box.** If your county has established community drop boxes, this could be a very convenient and safe way to submit your ballot. But before you trust this method, verify that the following safeguards are in place:
 - The box should be attended by two people. If it is unattended, it is not recommended that you leave your ballot for security reasons.

- The attendants should be checking each ballot that goes in to be sure proper signatures are in place. This protects voters from turning in an uncountable ballot.
- Ballots should be picked up by representatives from the Registrar's office **daily**. If there are not, we recommend for security reasons that you make a different choice.
- **The Registrar's office.** If you are within a convenient distance from your ROV, dropping off your ballot in person is a good choice. But the same safeguards should be in place there: attended box and daily pick-up.
- **At the polls on Election Day.** You have to right to turn your ballot in to any polling place in the state. Poll Workers should always inspect a mail ballot before it is submitted, for the same reasons as above.
- **If you are at your own polling place, the MUCH BETTER choice is to surrender your mail ballot in exchange for a poll ballot. And then get off the vote-by-mail list for the next election!!**

There is a brand-new law in effect for this and every subsequent election in California. If, in the processing, your ballot or envelope is found to have a "fatal flaw" that would cause officials to reject your vote, the ROV must make every effort to contact you and allow you to come in to correct the situation so that your ballot can be counted. If you have failed to sign your envelope, if you have provided a P.O. box address rather than a residence address, if your signature is in question, or if any other irregularity causes your ballot to be considered for rejection, you should have a second chance to get it right. Be sure the ROV has a phone number and/or an email address for you. If yours is one of the last ballots to be processed, there may not be time for notification by mail, so be sure you are reachable.

One more thing: If you submit your mail ballot before Election Day, use the number on your receipt to follow your ballot online. You can check to see that it arrived safely at the counting center.

After the election is certified, remember to check either <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov> or the website of your county Registrar to verify that your ballot was accepted.

If you are in the polls as an **EIPCa** Observer or as a voter, pay attention to the mail ballot submission process. If you see something wrong, **say something**. Protect yourself and others by **politely questioning** the Precinct Inspector.

Remember **never** to **interfere** with the voting process, and contact **EIPCa** if the situation remains unchanged. (www.eip-ca.com)

One person who speaks up can protect votes and voters for the rest of the voting day. Be sure to use your knowledge to help others who may not know how their rights are being violated. Fair and honest elections **KEEP THE REPUBLIC**. Thanks for doing your part.

Linda and the EIPCa Team

Linda Paine
President and Co-founder
Election Integrity Project California

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All Donations are Appreciated!