



## ***Update on the Integrity of CA Elections***

### **Voting by mail in California elections: only the illusion of fair and honest elections?**

As Californians and American citizens across the nation face another election season, several concerns rightfully need to be addressed. The push in California for voting by mail that began in 1998 reached a peak during the COVID crisis, and the resulting rash of reported anomalies opened the eyes of many concerned citizens over the fairness, honesty and true transparency of the elections.

**Election Integrity Project<sup>®</sup> California has been raising the alarm with respect to vote by mail ballots since its inception.**

The first election conducted after the founding of Election Integrity Project<sup>®</sup> was in 2012. During that election, EIP Poll Observers noted that unexpected numbers of people presented themselves at the polls claiming that their mail-in ballot never arrived. Poll Observers and Precinct Inspectors estimated that the number doubled, even tripled, in 2014.

Those voters cast provisional ballots, but the BIG question is, what happened to the original ballots? Clearly the County Elections Office did not fail to send them, and the post office is not that inefficient.

Certainly, voter error accounts for some of the reports. But it would be naïve not to consider the specter of ballot theft. If any of the “missing” ballots had been diverted to someone else and successfully cast by that person, the provisional votes cast by the victims likely did not count because the records would have reflected a previous vote—the stolen ballot—in their name.

Another challenge to election integrity posed by mail-in ballots is ballot harvesting, the unrestricted submission of mail ballots by anyone other than the voter. Ballot harvesting is forbidden in most states, considered a felony in some, but was legalized in California in 2018, adding the potential of another layer of ballots stolen from voters in new, now legal, ways, through cajolery, wresting, reward, threat, guilt and deception.

The topic of ballot harvesting reached the Supreme Court of the United States last year. Aided by the strength of evidence of the damaging effects of ballot harvesting on election integrity collected by EIPCa observers and presented to SCOTUS in an amicus brief, the court recently ruled that the state of Arizona had the right to declare ballot harvesting illegal in their state (<https://www.eip-ca.com/eip-news2021.htm>). The ruling acknowledged the clear threat to election integrity presented by the practice of ballot harvesting.

**Almost 124,000 more votes were counted in California’s November 3, 2020 election than voters recorded as voting in that election.** Most of the discrepancy, driven by 116,000 **vote-by-mail ballots**, provides no apparent voter identified in VoteCal’s voting histories.

The dangers of California's liberal use of vote by mail ballots are rife. Yet, both major parties in California encourage voting by mail. And now, the California legislature has mandated the mailing of ballots to every active registrant, every election. To make matters worse, both the governor and the SOS of California have gone out of their way to announce, erroneously, that California is now an "all vote by mail state".

**IT IS NOT!** Even though all active voters will be mailed a ballot, all retain the right to vote in person, and EIPCa highly recommends that choice.

Because of all of the potential for abuse and wrongdoing generated by a recklessly liberal vote by mail policy, voters are not wrong in fearing that their elections are more of an illusion than real exercise of a democratic process.

The vote by mail option protects those unable to get to the polls on Election Day. There are also voters whose rural living situation requires them to vote in person at the ROV office or to vote by mail. But, these cases are exceptions to the right to vote in person on Election Day.

Most voters have the privilege of voting in person on Election Day. This privilege was secured by the blood of many bold and brave patriots over the course of America's history. Would such a privilege be lost due to the "convenience" of participating in the illusion of an election? Joseph Stalin once stated: **"It is enough that the people know there was an election."** **Is the illusion of an election enough for American citizens?**

Not if they knew the facts. Not if you spread the word and encourage voting in person.

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