



March 8, 2023

Members Assembly Committee on Elections
Assembly Member Isaac Bryan, Chair

AB 626

SUPPORT

Esteemed Members of the Assembly Committee on Elections,

Election Integrity Project[®]*California*, Inc. (EIPCa) **Supports AB 626** as written and amended as of the date of this letter, and recommends strengthening the bill with a minor amendment.

In a time of public distrust of the election process, including concerns regarding the security of surrendering their ballots to the USPS or a drop box and the complexities of ballot processing at the elections office, it is vital to retain the option to vote in person.

Part of voter concern is the technology: voting machines, ballot marking devices, etc. And yet in many counties voters are required to choose between two options they see as equally bad: vote with the mail-in ballot or vote use technology provided at the polls.

AB 628 would give voters a third option without further cost or complication to the county and its elections officials—a paper ballot that can be submitted without an envelope and be counted without “processing” the day it is cast.

Allowing voters to use their mail-in ballot as a paper poll ballot and submit it without an envelope creates a win-win situation. The elections office does not have to validate and process those ballots, saving time and money, and voters cast a ballot in a way they trust.

The electronic poll book makes this option possible. Therefore, EIPCa recommends that the privilege be offered to voters in **all counties using electronic poll books**, rather than limiting the practice to Vote Center counties.

EIPCa supports AB 626, and suggests amending it to include all counties using electronic poll books.

Thank you. Should further information be required, I may be contacted at 661-313-5251.

Yours very truly,

Linda Paine, President
ELECTION INTEGRITY PROJECT[®]*CALIFORNIA*, INC
linda@eip-ca.com