



The BIG Dirty Secret of California's Voter Rolls

Unmaintained Voter Rolls + Careless Laws = Invitation to Vote Fraud

California's legislators and election officials have for years wrung their hands over what they saw as a problem: California's low voter registration rate. The Secretary of State's website announces the official registration rates as 78% of eligible citizens. Alarmed by this "low" rate, and denying that it probably had more to do with lack of faith in the system than anything else; they alleged that the "problem" could be solved by making registering to vote easier.

In their eagerness to involve more Californians in the electoral process, they rushed headlong into changing laws and procedures **with no consideration of the "unintended consequences"**. They proposed (and ultimately enacted) on-line registration, automatic registration of **everyone** transacting with the DMV, same-day registration and even per-registration of 16 year old kids.

Election Integrity watchdogs such as Election Integrity Project sounded the alarm that unlawful registrations and votes would unquestionably follow and urged that safeguards and "firewalls" be included in the legislation. Legislators not only ignored our warnings, but **doubled down on their efforts** by removing what safeguards had been included in the initial drafts of the bills, or unlawfully implementing the laws (especially online registration) in defiance of the restrictions that had been left in place.

And now, EIP analysts have found that the state has been hiding a BIG SECRET, adding painful insult to already lethal injury: **California's voter registration rate is not 78% but actually a whopping 98%!**

The 78% figure hides the Inactive registrations. Inactive voters are defined as people who have not voted for an extended period of time and who have not responded to mailings, but are still on the rolls. **The real registration rate, 98%, likely reflects millions of ineligible registrations.**

State of California Voter Registrations

Active Registrations*	Inactive Registrations*	Total Registrations*	Eligible Population**	Real Registration Rate
19,314,091	5,056,828	24,370,919	24,939,710	98%

Ignoring state and federal laws that require list maintenance, elections officials serve up on a silver platter the "right to vote" of people who have moved, are duplicated, or who are deceased. Also ripe for the picking are the un-removed registrations of felons and non-citizens unlawfully registered to vote. Due to lack of voter ID requirements and other weaknesses in the law, unscrupulous individuals are free to impersonate those inactive or unlawful registrants and cast votes in their names with **no fear of being caught in the act.**

It is not difficult to acquire the voter rolls and select names with a sketchy voter history to exploit. In addition, California law requires that the names, addresses, phone numbers and party preference of all voters registered in a given precinct be posted "at or near the entrance" to the

polling place. Many Registrars rightly expose only the Active registrants. But some counties, including Los Angeles, which boasts one-third of California's voter registrations, list ALL registrants, Active and Inactive. All one need do is look at the posted list, memorize a name and address, repeat it to the poll worker, and receive that person's ballot, **no questions asked**. It is the perfect crime!

To understand the severity of the dereliction of duty by Registrars and the SOS to keep the voter rolls clean, note the chart below, which uses the state's own published data to show that in five counties alone, the registration rate, when compared to eligible residents, **exceeds 100% and accounts for nearly one million unexplained excess registrants**.

The laws designed to drive new registrations will soon push the entire state's number of registered voters over its eligible population unless the Secretary of State takes immediate action, as required by federal law, to clear millions of ineligible registrations from the rolls.

"It's critical that every eligible California citizen who wants to vote can easily register," said Linda Paine, EIP's President. "But the state's woefully inadequate voter list maintenance is creating misleading statistics for our law makers and putting the votes of lawful voting citizens at risk for voter fraud."

*source: California Secretary of State VoteCal voter registration database 4/6/17

**source: California Secretary of State Report of Registration 2/10/17. CA Secretary of State

Website: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/report-registration/ror-odd-year-2017/>

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