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Ineligible Persons Registered to Vote in California Nearing One Million

Santa Clarita, Calif. – There are still eight counties where the total number of registered voters exceeds the number of eligible citizens. **Election Integrity Project California, Inc. (EIPCa)** added together each California county’s Active and Inactive-status registrants listed in the state’s VoteCal registration database of February 8, 2019 and compared these figures to the Secretary of State’s estimates of eligible citizens from February 10, 2019.

Eight counties’ voter registrations exceed their eligible populations, the same number of counties originally reported by EIPCa in 2017. The eight counties’ registrations range from 103% to 115% of their eligible populations. Ineligible persons who are registered to vote total 991,411. This is an increase over 2017’s report of 928,035.

County	Total # Registrations*	# Eligible Citizens**	Total Registrations as % of Eligible	# Registrations More than Eligible
San Diego	2,566,405	2,229,766	115%	+336,639
Los Angeles	6,824,884	6,239,345	109%	+585,539
Santa Cruz	203,679	189,924	107%	+13,755
Solano	313,953	294,649	107%	+19,304
San Mateo	528,611	508,316	104%	+20,295
Ventura	565,842	551,340	103%	+14,502
San Benito	35,237	34,291	103%	+946
Plumas	16,352	15,921	103%	+431
Total				+991,411

Since EIPCa published this analysis in 2017, three counties (San Francisco, Imperial and Lassen) have dropped off the list, with San Francisco County posting the largest improvement.

Unfortunately, three new counties (Ventura, San Benito and Plumas) have been added to the list because their registrations have grown to 103% of their eligible populations.

Inactive-status registrants are those who have been inactivated by their county due to lack of voting activity and/or lack of response to contact attempts. Though they do not receive voting materials or vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots, **Inactive registrants are eligible to vote in any election.**

Excess Inactive registrants can open the door to voting fraud since these registrants (who may have moved or died) are not likely to monitor their old voter registrations. EIPCa and Washington D.C. based law firm Judicial Watch negotiated a successful legal settlement in 2018, requiring Los Angeles County to begin the cancellation process for as many as 1.5 million Inactive registrants. The Settlement Agreement also requires the remaining California counties to follow federal list maintenance laws.

Inactive registrants are not the only reason total registrations exceed eligible populations. Los Angeles County, for example, has over 300,000 Active-status registrants who have not voted or updated their registrations in more than 10 years and may be eligible for Inactivation or Cancellation. Active-status registrants are mailed voting materials and, starting in 2020, all Active registrants in Los Angeles County will receive VBM ballots.

Unless the county addresses these 300,000 Actives-- who may have moved away or died-- they will all be mailed VBM ballots and this will increase the risk of voting fraud in the county.

“We at EIPCa are pleased that Los Angeles County has begun complying with our settlement agreement and has already mailed notices to almost 1.6 million Inactive registrants. We are also happy to see progress in counties like San Francisco, which appears to have lawfully removed over 80,000 of its Inactives,” said EIPCa President Linda Paine. “It remains unacceptable, however, that almost one million ineligible people are registered to vote, especially in light of the Voters Choice Act requirement to send vote-by-mail ballots to *everyone* on the active voter rolls. EIPCa will continue to press for accurate voter lists and hope that these figures will quickly improve when all counties come into compliance with the law. California voters deserve clean, up-to-date lists so they can have confidence in the integrity of our elections.”

*Source: VoteCal voter registration database 2/8/19

*Source: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/report-registration/ror-odd-year-2019/>

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EIPCa is a non-partisan, non-profit, volunteer organization. For over 8 years it has researched and observed California elections to provide citizen oversight to ensure that the state and its counties are complying with laws that protect the integrity of elections. For a full list of counties, go to: eip-ca.com.