



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 4533



Offered by:
REP. MASTROFRANCESCO, 80th
Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5001

File No. 528

Cal. No. 348

(As Amended)

"AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING FOR ALL AND VARIOUS OTHER REFORMS TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS."

1 Strike subsection (c) of section 6 in its entirety and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "(c) [(1)] For purposes of this section, "mailed" means [(A)] sent by the
4 United States Postal Service or any commercial carrier, courier or
5 messenger service recognized and approved by the Secretary of the
6 State, [, or (B) deposited in a secure drop box designated by the
7 municipal clerk for such purpose, in accordance with instructions
8 prescribed by the Secretary.]

9 [(2) (A) In the case of absentee ballots mailed under subparagraph (B)
10 of subdivision (1) of this subsection, beginning on the first day of
11 issuance of absentee voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of section
12 9-140, and on each weekday thereafter until the close of the polls at the

13 election, primary or referendum, including at the close of the polls at
14 such election, primary or referendum, the municipal clerk shall retrieve
15 from the secure drop box described in said subparagraph each such
16 ballot deposited in such drop box.

17 (B) On and after July 1, 2025, each municipality shall provide a video
18 recording device for each secure drop box described in subparagraph
19 (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection within such municipality, which
20 device's recordings shall capture the location of such drop box and
21 evidence the date and time of each such recording beginning on the first
22 day of issuance of absentee voting sets, as provided in subsection (f) of
23 section 9-140, and until the last retrieval of absentee ballots from such
24 drop box at the close of the polls at the election or primary. Each such
25 recording shall, as soon as practicable, be made publicly available from
26 the date of recording, but in no case later than five days after such last
27 retrieval. Each such recording shall be retained by the municipality for
28 a period of twelve months and may be destroyed at the end of such
29 period, except that the State Elections Enforcement Commission or a
30 court of competent jurisdiction may order that such period be extended
31 until the conclusion of any investigation related to such recording.

32 (3) The Secretary of the State may adopt regulations, in accordance
33 with the provisions of chapter 54, concerning the use of secure drop
34 boxes for the deposit of absentee ballots, including, but not limited to,
35 the placement and positioning of any such drop box and the video
36 recording of any such drop box and retention of any such recording.]"

37 Strike subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 7 in its entirety and
38 substitute the following in lieu thereof:

39 "(2) The municipal clerk shall record on the [outer] return envelope
40 of each absentee ballot [returned] received by such clerk under section
41 9-140b, as amended by this act, whether such absentee ballot was (A)
42 sent by the United States Postal Service or any commercial carrier,
43 courier or messenger service, (B) [deposited in a secure drop box, in
44 which case the location of such drop box shall also be so recorded, (C)]

45 returned in person by an elector, or [(D)] (C) returned in person by the
46 designee or immediate family member of an elector. As soon as
47 reasonably practicable after the close of the polls at an election or
48 primary, the municipal clerk shall submit to the Secretary of the State a
49 report detailing the total count of all absentee ballots returned for such
50 election or primary, broken down by each method described in
51 subparagraphs (A) to [(D)] (C), inclusive, of this subdivision."

52 Strike subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 57 in its entirety and
53 substitute the following in lieu thereof:

54 "(2) "Elections site" means any (A) polling place on the day of an
55 election, primary or referendum, (B) location designated for the conduct
56 of early voting during the period of early voting at an election or
57 primary, (C) location designated for same-day election registration
58 during the period of early voting at a regular election or on the day of a
59 regular election, (D) central location designated for the counting of
60 absentee ballots, early voting ballots or same-day election registration
61 ballots at an election, primary or referendum, as applicable, or (E) place
62 where a recanvass is being conducted;"

63 Strike subsection (b) of section 58 in its entirety and substitute the
64 following in lieu thereof:

65 "(b) Any person who influences or attempts to influence by force or
66 threat the vote, or by force, threat, bribery or corrupt means [,] the
67 speech, of any other person at a primary, caucus, referendum,
68 convention or election; any person who influences or attempts to
69 influence by force, threat or harassment any election worker in the
70 performance of any duty under the provisions of this title related to
71 election administration at a primary, referendum, election or recanvass;
72 any person who wilfully and fraudulently suppresses or destroys any
73 vote or ballot properly given or cast, whether so given or cast by mail [,
74 by deposit in a secure drop box] or in person at a polling place or
75 designated early voting or same-day election registration location, or
76 who, in counting such votes or ballots, wilfully miscounts or

77 misrepresents the number thereof; and any presiding or other officer of
78 a primary, caucus or convention who wilfully announces the result of a
79 ballot or vote of such primary, caucus or convention, untruly and
80 wrongfully, shall be guilty of a class C felony."

81 Strike section 60 in its entirety and renumber the remaining sections
82 and internal references accordingly

83 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
84 internal references accordingly:

85 "Sec. 501. Section 9-364 of the general statutes is repealed and the
86 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

87 Any person who, with intent to disenfranchise any elector, influences
88 or attempts to influence by force or threat, bribery or corrupt, fraudulent
89 or deliberately deceitful means any elector to stay away from any
90 election or otherwise refrain from voting, whether such voting is by mail
91 [, by deposit in a secure drop box] or in person at a polling place or
92 designated early voting or same-day election registration location, shall
93 be guilty of a class D felony.

94 Sec. 502. Subsection (g) of section 9-368k of the general statutes is
95 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
96 *2026*):

97 (g) Upon the certification of election results and the completion of the
98 elector history file after each election, the officials responsible for
99 administering elections in each municipality shall transmit to the
100 Secretary of the State, in electronic format, copies of (1) such election
101 results at the voting district level, (2) updated registry lists, (3) elector
102 history files, (4) maps, descriptions of boundaries and other similar
103 items, and (5) lists of polling place [and absentee ballot drop box]
104 locations and lists or descriptions of the voting districts or geographic
105 areas served by such locations.

106 Sec. 503. Subdivision (6) of subsection (b) of section 9-368m of the

107 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
108 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

109 (6) Assignment of voting districts to polling place [or absentee ballot
110 drop box] locations;

111 Sec. 504. Subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 9-368n of the
112 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
113 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

114 (3) Any person who obstructs, impedes or otherwise interferes with
115 access to any polling place [or absentee ballot drop box] or any office or
116 place of business of an election official or who obstructs, impedes or
117 otherwise interferes with any elector or election official in a manner that
118 causes or will reasonably have the effect of causing interference with
119 any elector's right to vote or any delay in voting or the voting process."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-364
Sec. 502	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-368k(g)
Sec. 503	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-368m(b)(6)
Sec. 504	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	9-368n(b)(3)