

Glossary of Terms for Discussing SB 450

The goal of this glossary is to ensure clear and consistent communication regarding the various terminologies related to actions and requirements contained in the SB 450 California Voter's Choice Act. This glossary does not attempt to explain nor clarify any of the nuanced requirements that are related to some of the terms (i.e. Vote Centers).

How to use this document:

Term or phrase – [Election Code section source]: Explanatory detail

Accessible Vote-by-mail Ballot - [303.3] A mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic system and its software that is used for the sole purpose of marking an electronic vote by mail ballot for a voter with disabilities or a military or overseas voter who shall print the paper cast vote record to be submitted to the elections official. A remote accessible vote by mail system shall not be connected to a voting system at any time.

Ballot Drop Box– [4005(a)(1)(A)-(B)] A secure, accessible, and locked receptacle whereby a voted mail ballot may be returned.

(Interior or Exterior) Ballot Drop-off Location – [4005(a)(1)(A)-(B)] A location consisting of a secured, accessible, and locked drop box where a voted mail ballot may be returned. Locations can vary widely from individual outside boxes to full service vote centers. Other, more specific requirements related to placement, hours of operation, and accessibility are detailed in the law.

Conditional Voter Registration - [2170] A properly executed affidavit of registration that is delivered by the registrant to the county elections official during the 14 days immediately preceding an election or on election day and which may be deemed effective pursuant to this article after the elections official processes the affidavit, determines the registrant's eligibility to register, and validates the registrant's information

(Draft, Amended Draft, Final, or Final Amended) Election Administration Plan (EAP) – [4005(a)(10)(A)-(J)] The plan proposed by county elections official on the conduct of election including a wide variety of considerations including the siting of vote centers, ballot dropoff locations, and public outreach plans. A draft plan is to be written with community input and put through a public hearing process. An amended draft plan is posted for public comment after the public hearing on the draft plan. A plan that has been adopted after the public comment period is a final plan. A final plan that is changed and put out for public comment is an amended final plan. The final plan is also to be publicly reviewed, and possibly revised, within two years of conducting the initial

election using the final or amended final plan, and every four years thereafter. The Election Administration Plan must be developed with numerous specific considerations like vote center proximity to public transit and accessibility by a variety of communities.

Joint Advisory Committee – [4005(a)(9)(C)] – Counties with fewer than 50,000 registered voters may combine LAAC and VAAC into a single functioning advisory committee that advises on both language and disability issues.

Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) – [4005(a)(9)(A)] A county advisory committee comprised of representatives from all language minority communities within the county that is to offer input on election administration to ensure registration and voting access for all language minority communities.

Language Minority Community – [4005(a)(6)(B)] A group of people that speak a language that is required to be serviced under the Federal Voting Rights Act or California law. Materials, voting assistance, and other activities related to language minority communities are referenced throughout the bill.

Voter Education and Outreach Plan (Outreach Plan) – [4005(a)(10)(I)(i)] As a component of their EAP, county elections officials must write a detailed plan about how they will use media, social media, and other contacts with voters to inform of them of the new election administration plan and the availability of materials to help them vote. This plan must be submitted to the SOS for review and approval after the public hearings and public comments on the EAP. Once submitted to the SOS for approval, the SOS office will have 14 days to review and approve, approve with modifications, or reject the proposed outreach plan. The plan will then be made available via the SOS website.

Polling Place Model – The administration of elections using the statutes of the Elections Code that were in place prior to the implementation of the provisions of the California Voter's Choice Act.

Public Comment Periods – [4005(a)(10)(D)-(E),4005(a)(10)(H)] Periods during which county elections officials release draft, final, or amended final EAP's and are required to gather public comments.

Public Consultations (Meetings) – [4005(a)(10)(A)(i)-(ii)] The draft Election Administration Plan is developed with input from the public. Two types of workshops are specifically required prior to the release of a draft EAP; one for representatives of each language minority community, and one for representatives of the disability community. Other public workshops with the general public are recommended, but not required.

Public Hearings – [4005(a)(10)(D)(i)-(ii)] Following the release of a draft EAP and the 14 day public comment period, county officials hold a public hearing on the draft plan and amend the draft in response to the public comments.

Vote Center – [4005(a)(2)-(4)] A location where a voter residing in a county can return, or vote and return, their mail ballot; register to vote; receive and vote a provisional ballot; receive and vote a replacement ballot; vote any type of ballot using accessible voting equipment.

Vote Center Model – The conduct of elections using the provisions provided for in the California Voter’s Choice Act.

Voter Education Workshop – [4005(a)(10)(I)(VI)(ia)-(ib)] County elections official must conduct at least two types of voter education workshops to ensure that voters within the jurisdiction are fully informed about the new way the election will be administered. One type of workshop is for each language minority community the county is required to serve. The other is for voters within the disability community. It is also recommended, but not required, that there be one or more voter education workshops conducted for the general public as well.

Voter Index – [4005(a)(7)(A)] The electronic list or index of voters who have performed an action at a vote center beginning 10 days prior to the election, including registering or updating voter registration, receiving and voting a provisional or replacement ballot, voting using equipment at the vote center.

Voter Verification System – [4005(a)(4)(E)(i)-(ii)] The electronic system for county elections officials to immediately access voter registration data at a vote center. This may also be referred to as an electronic roster.

Voter’s Choice Report – [4005(g)] Six months after each election conducted pursuant to the statutes established by SB 450, the SOS shall prepare a report for the legislature on a wide variety of variables related to election administration and participation. The SOS team will be asking for help from the counties in gathering the necessary information for the report.

Voter’s Choice Taskforce – [4008(a)] This taskforce is to be established by the SOS and include county elections officials, experts, disability advocates, and language accessibility experts. The taskforce shall review elections conducted pursuant to the statutes established by SB 450 until 2022.

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) – [4005(a)(9)(B)] A county advisory committee comprised of voters with disabilities that is to offer input on election administration to ensure registration and voting access for all voters with disabilities.

Voting Location List – [4005(a)(8)(B)(i)] The list of ballot dropoff and vote center locations, including hours of operation.