



EVERY LAWFULLY CAST VOTE ACCURATELY COUNTED

CA voter rolls in a state of chaos, “opening the door” to potential election fraud

California is the ONLY state in the U.S. without a centralized voter registration database. This is required by the federal HAVA law, yet our state has been granted waivers since 2003. This prevents the accurate, comprehensive and timely maintenance of the state’s voter rolls and creates a fertile field for mistakes and possible fraud.

Accurate and timely list maintenance is required by federal NVRA law, yet it appears that our state is in serious violation. Based on an in-depth 2012 analysis of 14 geographically-dispersed counties representing 66% of the electorate, Election Integrity Project (“EIP”) estimates the following levels of anomalies in our voter rolls state wide:

- ✓ Hundreds of thousands of “inactive” registrants—those that have not voted in 4 years or more but remain on the active rolls. These “puffed up” rolls create an understatement of true turnout figures and may hide situations of excessive-- possibly fraudulent-- turnout. In addition, inactive voters are easy to impersonate since they will not notice someone voting in their name.
- ✓ Hundreds of thousands of “duplicated” registrants—the same person registered more than once at the same address, at different addresses in the same county, or registered in more than one county. Few have voted more than once in an election, but these duplicates, many of whom received two VBM ballots, are temptations for fraud and need to be removed as soon as possible.
- ✓ Tens of thousands of deceased registrants, with up to 10% of them “voting” after date of death. Unfortunately, the Department of Health’s Death Index files, a key resource for our election officials, is currently only available through 2010, leaving over two years of recent deaths missing from this important database. This may violate EC §2206.
- ✓ Thousands registered at invalid addresses such as businesses or non-existing addresses, illustrating a lack of registration oversight by county elections officials.
- ✓ Thousands registered at addresses in numbers too large for the residence (E.g., 12 people in a two bedroom home), illustrating a lack of attention to tracking voters that move, die or do not exist.

The new “on-line” registration process lacks sufficient safeguards. Approximately 590,000 new California voters registered on line before the November 6, 2012 election. An analysis of one county’s 6,803 on-line registrations showed that 443 people got registered on line despite already being registered in another county. Twelve of these registrants even had their new county’s VBM ballot

mailed to their other county. EIP plans to expand this analysis state wide to see if on-line registrations led to illegal multiple voting in the November 2012 election.

Voter list maintenance—and therefore vote protection—varies by county, so voters are not equally protected. Some county officials are responsive to EIP’s reports of anomalies, while others will not accept our correspondence or state that anomalies have been cleared up when they have not. Some counties inactivate voters who have missed two general elections (allowed by law), while some have inactive voter levels as high as 26%. This means that voter impersonation may be easier in some counties than others.

Suspected registration fraud-- specifically fraud that changes a voter’s political party-- is pervasive state wide but is not being sufficiently pursued by county elections officials or law enforcement. Despite EIP’s clear evidence of circulators that purposely duplicate voters and change party affiliations without authorization, Registrars’ hands are tied by laws that prevent them from challenging these suspect registrations. District Attorneys have trouble locating victims, proving intent and procuring funds. EIP is pursuing a 2010 registration fraud case and preparing a 2012 case in one county, but we need more legislative and legal attention to this problem state wide to prevent it in the future.

Inactive, deceased and duplicated voters on California’s rolls create many opportunities for voter impersonation, yet there are no effective deterrents to this type of fraud.

- ✓ With no voter ID required, California has just one law that deters impersonation at the polls, EC §14216. This law requires the voter’s name and address to be stated and repeated out loud and then written by the voter in the roster. However, failure to follow this law was the #1 violation documented by EIP Poll Observers in 2012, illustrating that voter impersonation is easy to perpetrate.
- ✓ Over 50% of Californians vote by mail and a signature match is the only deterrent to voter impersonation. However, signature verification clerks vary in experience and accuracy and observers are not allowed to challenge their decisions. In addition, the registrar must rule in favor of the voter when in doubt about a signature match (EC §3000), making the signature match is a weak deterrent to impersonation.

Election Integrity Project is currently purchasing and analyzing the voter rolls from all 58 California counties.

Findings are being shared with attorneys, county elections officials, the Secretary of State and interested members of the Legislature.

Please consider how you might be able to help California citizens restore integrity to our election process and restore trust in CA elections.

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