

Date of Hearing: April 15, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Gail Pellerin, Chair

AB 2786 (Committee on Elections) – As Introduced March 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Elections.

SUMMARY: Makes various minor and technical changes to state law related to elections. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires an elections official for a lead county in a multi-county school or special district to work with the other counties within the district boundaries to establish deadlines for the submission of ballot measure text and impartial analysis. Requires an elections official for a lead county to submit the ballot measure text, impartial analysis, and selected arguments, along with any accompanying forms, to the other counties within the district boundaries within 24 hours of the author providing those materials to the lead county.
- 2) Updates obsolete references to a “regular election date” with references to an “established election date.”
- 3) Replaces a reference in the Elections Code to the “Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments and the Chairperson of the Assembly Standing Committee on Elections and Redistricting,” with reference to “chairpersons of the elections committees of the Assembly and Senate.”

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Defines “general election” to mean either of the following:
 - a) The election held throughout the state on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November in each even-numbered year.
 - b) Any statewide election held on a regular election date, as specified in Section 1000 of the Elections Code. (Elections Code §324)
- 2) Specifies various “established election dates” on which certain elections may be conducted. (Elections Code §1000)
- 3) Requires a proposed district election to be held on the next regular election date not less than 113 nor more than 150 days after the date the board of supervisors calls and gives notice of the election. (Health and Safety Code §13823)
- 4) Requires the Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments and the Chairperson of the Assembly Standing Committee on Elections and Redistricting to meet with the Secretary of State (SOS) and assist the SOS to the extent that the participation is not incompatible with their positions as Members of the Legislature.

(Elections Code §19103)

- 5) Requires ballot measure arguments and rebuttals in a district or school district that encompasses more than one county to be submitted to a lead county, and requires the lead county to work with the other counties within the district boundaries to establish filing deadlines for those submissions. (Elections Code §9611)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown. State-mandated local program; contains reimbursement direction.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose of the Bill:** This is one of the Assembly Elections Committee's annual omnibus bills, containing various minor and technical changes. This bill includes changes requested by the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials, and recommended by committee staff.
- 2) **Lead County and Previous Legislation:** AB 773 (Pellerin), Chapter 664, Statutes of 2023, established the concept of a “lead county” for multi-county ballot measures to help streamline the ballot measure filing process and ensure consistent filing deadlines. Specifically, AB 773 requires ballot measure arguments and rebuttals in a district or school district that encompasses more than one county to be submitted to a lead county and requires the lead county to work with the other counties within the district boundaries to establish filing deadlines for those submissions.

AB 2786 expands on AB 773 by requiring the lead county to coordinate with counties to establish deadlines for the submission of the measure text and impartial analysis and requires the lead county to provide all ballot measure materials to the other counties within 24 hours of receipt. According to county elections officials, this will ensure that all counties receive ballot measure documents in time to meet necessary printing deadlines and will safeguard that all voters within the district receive the same materials.

This provision was requested by the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials, and is found in Section 2 of the bill.

- 3) **Obsolete Terms:** Elections Code section 1000 specifies various “established election dates” on which certain elections may be conducted. Prior to 1996, the Elections Code referred to these dates as “regular election dates.”

AB 2786 updates a section of the Elections Code and a provision of law outside the Elections Code to remove obsolete references to a “regular election date” and replace them with references to an “established election date.”

These provisions were identified by Assembly Elections Committee staff and are found in Sections 1 and 4 of the bill.

- 4) **Outdated Terms:** Section 19103 of the Elections Code refers to the Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting. That reference is outdated because the word “Redistricting” was

removed from the name of this committee at the start of the 2021-22 Legislative Session.

AB 2786 removes the specific names of the Assembly and Senate elections committees from Section 19103. Instead, it uses more general language to refer to those committees. This will help prevent the law from becoming outdated if committee names change again in the future.

This provision was identified by Assembly Elections Committee staff and is found in Section 3 of the bill.

5) **Arguments in Support:** In support of this bill, the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials, write:

AB 2786 modernizes Elections Code terminology by replacing obsolete references to 'regular election date' with the accurate term 'established election date.' This update improves clarity and consistency throughout the code, benefiting both voters and election administrators.

The bill also contains a CACEO-sponsored proposal amending Elections Code Section 9611(b)(1)(c)(d) to improve coordination when a local measure spans multiple counties. Specifically, the bill requires the lead county to work with participating counties to set deadlines for submitting the measure text and impartial analysis, in addition to existing requirements for arguments.

Importantly, the bill requires the lead county to transmit the measure text, impartial analysis, selected arguments, and accompanying forms to all participating counties within one business day of receiving them from the author. This ensures consistent materials and uniform timelines, reducing administrative delays and improving the accuracy of voter information guides.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

Opposition

None on file.

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