

Date of Hearing: July 1, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Gail Pellerin, Chair

SB 1430 (Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments) – As Amended April 8, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 39-0

SUBJECT: Elections.

SUMMARY: Aligns the deadline for a school district to notify an elections official of an upcoming election with the deadline found in the Elections Code and makes other technical clarifications. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Changes, from 123 days to 125 days before an election to choose governing board members, the deadline for a school or community college district to deliver a resolution specifying the date and the purpose of the election to the officer conducting the election.
- 2) Clarifies the time periods during which school buildings and other public buildings may be used for polling places and vote centers, and the options available for closing a school or continuing it in session when a school building is used as a polling place or vote center.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires, for elections to choose school district or community college district board members, that the district deliver a resolution specifying the election date and purpose to the county superintendent of schools and the elections official at least 123 days before the election, as specified. (Education Code §5322)
- 2) Requires, for a general district election in a special district, that the district deliver a notice of the election to the county elections official 125 days before the election. (Elections Code §10509)
- 3) Provides that boundary changes to a jurisdiction that occur less than 125 days before an election shall not be effective for purposes of that election. (Elections Code §12262)
- 4) Permits the governing body having jurisdiction over school buildings or other public buildings to authorize the use of its buildings for polling places or for vote centers beginning up to 10 days before the election and continuing through election day. (Elections Code §12283)

FISCAL EFFECT: None. This bill is keyed non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose of the Bill:** According to the author, “This bill is one of the Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments’ committee bills and conforms the Elections and Education codes to provide the same deadline in order to make it clearer. It also clarifies how schools and public buildings should operate when used as polling places and vote centers, in

order to avoid any confusion with current language. This bill contains changes requested by the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials and by committee staff.”

- 2) **Inconsistent Deadlines:** In order to provide county elections officials with adequate notice relating to elections that they will conduct, the Elections Code specifies that certain actions must be taken at least 125 days before the election. For example, a special district generally must notify the county elections official of the elective offices of the district to be filled at a general district election 125 days before election day. Similarly, boundary changes to a jurisdiction must be made at least 125 days before an election in order to be in effect for that election.

By contrast, the Education Code requires the governing board of a school or community college district to notify the elections official at least 123 days before an election for governing board members.

This bill aligns the deadline for a school or community college district to notify an elections official of an upcoming election with the 125-day standard found in the Elections Code. Having uniform deadlines adds clarity and streamlines procedures for elections officials.

- 3) **Schools as Polling Places and Vote Centers:** SB 450 (Allen), Chapter 832, Statutes of 2016, created the California Voter’s Choice Act (VCA). The VCA, among many other changes, allowed counties to conduct elections using vote centers, rather than polling places. Counties that choose to conduct elections pursuant to the VCA must have vote centers open beginning 10 days prior to Election Day and through Election Day.

Though SB 450 decreased the total number of voting locations needed for a given election, it increased the period of time during which voting locations must be available, and similarly increased the amount of space needed for voting in many instances.

Public buildings, including schools, often are good candidates to serve as voting locations, as they provide many benefits for election officials and voters. First, voters often know where public buildings and schools are located. In addition, public facilities often have ample parking and meet accessibility requirements. However, after the passage of SB 450, elections officials had difficulty finding public buildings to use as vote centers, given the need to have such locations available for up to 11 days of in-person voting. In response, AB 2540 (Mullin), Chapter 343, Statutes of 2018, required public and school buildings to serve as vote centers free of charge if requested by the county’s election official.

The language from AB 2540, however, lacks clarity and could be interpreted as requiring the schools that provide buildings for vote centers to be closed for the 10 days leading up and through Election Day. This bill creates clear protocols by rewriting the code section to clarify how schools and public buildings should operate when used as polling places or vote centers.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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