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May 8, 2020

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #20091

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: /s/ Alex Padilla
Secretary of State

RE: Presidential General: Executive Order N-64-20

As you are aware, today, Governor Newsom issued [Executive Order N-64-20](#) calling for the November 3, 2020, General Election to be conducted as an all vote-by-mail ballot election. This is an important first step in ensuring that California voters do not have to choose between exercising their right to vote and protecting their health and that of their loved ones.

While the Executive Order directs counties to mail ballots to all registered voters in advance of Election Day, it also makes very clear that in-person voting opportunities are vital to ensuring that every registered voter has an opportunity to cast a ballot. I too have been clear and consistent since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic that I am committed to maintaining as many in-person voting opportunities as possible, on and before Election Day, in order to keep our elections accessible, secure, and safe for all.

Noteworthy in the Executive Order is reference to the Voter's Choice Act and its standards for an all-mail ballot election coupled with in-person voting opportunities. I recommend paying specific attention to the one vote center per ten thousand registered voters ratio requirement in the VCA. This ratio worked well for VCA counties both in 2018 and during the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election. Any reduction of that threshold is likely to lead to long lines, long wait times, and unsafe crowding on Election Day.

Not included in the Executive Order are several items which also require urgent action including, but not limited to:

- Vote-by-mail ballot drop off location requirements,
- Extension of the voter registration deadline,
- Establishing a minimum number of days for in-person early voting,

- Resources to assist with poll worker recruitment and the identification of new voting locations,
- Expanded use of remote accessible vote by mail,
- Allowing all counties to fully process vote-by-mail ballots prior to Election Day,
- Statewide use of BallotTrax and intelligent mail barcodes (IMBs) on vote-by-mail envelopes,
- Public education campaign regarding changes to the November 2020 election,
- Retrieval schedule for vote-by-mail drop boxes and drop-off locations, and
- Extension of postmark +3

We will continue working with the Governor's office, the Legislature, and county elections officials to provide the guidance necessary to ensure the accessibility, security and safety of the November election.

The Executive Order sets a deadline of no later than [May 30, 2020](#) to finalize the minimum requirements for counties to provide in-person voting opportunities and further states that these and other necessary directives may be issued via subsequent Executive Order(s).

Thank you as always for your partnership, your professionalism, and your commitment to democracy. I will be setting up a call with all county elections officials early next week to discuss our next steps.