

STANISLAUS COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS



ELECTION ADMINISTRATION PLAN JANUARY 2022

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Executive Summary

In 2016 California codified a historical change in election law through the adoption of Senate Bill 450, the Voter's Choice Act (VCA). Beginning in 2018, VCA authorized 14 counties to pilot the program which goal was to make voting more accessible and convenient for eligible voters. Under the VCA model, elections officials are required to mail a ballot to all active registered voter 29 days before Election Day. Voters then have the choice to return the ballot by mail, at an authorized ballot drop box or in-person at the main office or vote center. Vote centers offer an in-person voting option similar to polling places but are opened four to ten days before Election Day and Election Day, with the capacity to provide more support to voters. Voter's Choice Act expands the voters' options of where and when to vote, essential for today's busy lifestyles. Recent legislative changes and trends in Stanislaus County's voter behavior have necessitated the formal transition to the VCA model.

In 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic, emergency legislation was enacted including Assembly Bill 860 (AB 860) and Senate Bill (SB 423) to help slow the spread of the virus by encouraging voting by mail and to assist elections officials who faced challenges in finding an adequate number of voting locations and election workers for the 2020 General Election. The combination of AB 860 and SB 423 allowed non-VCA counties to conduct their election similarly. AB 860 required elections officials to mail a ballot to all active registered voters while SB 423 allowed counties to consolidate polling places and required these locations to be opened up to 3 days prior to Election Day and through Election Day. Due to the limited number of poll workers and traditional polling places available, Stanislaus County secured 12 ballot drop box locations and opened 26 "satellite offices" allowing voters the option to voter early in-person for the 2020 General Election. SB 423 also included a requirement to provide three accessible ballot marking devices. In order to comply with the requirement, Stanislaus County was required to convert existing equipment to accessible ballot marking devices which also resulted in benefits to make voting more accessible to voters with disabilities.

Additionally, in preparation for the California Gubernatorial Recall Election held on September 14, 2021, Assembly Bill 152 was enacted, allowing counties to conduct the California Gubernatorial Recall Election similar to the VCA model. All active registered voters were mailed a ballot. Voters then chose to either return the ballot by mail, at a drop box, or visit a vote center to vote in-person. Thereafter, on September 27, 2021, Assembly Bill 37, amended Election Code 3000.5, establishing the requirement for all counties to mail a ballot to active registered voters for all future elections. Stanislaus County will continue to have vote centers as an option for voters to cast a ballot in-person as an alternative to mailing their ballots.

In Stanislaus County, the Registrar of Voters Office carries out elections with integrity, accessibility, transparency and efficient use of taxpayer resources. With these values in mind, Stanislaus County is modernizing its election model by adopting the Voter's Choice Act. In making this decision, the Registrar of Voters Office reviewed the successes of the 2020 General Election combined with the growing number of registered voters and their trends and evaluation of the department's current resources. In the 2020 General Election, 77% of Stanislaus County voters were already registered to vote by mail. Of the 77.76% voters who participated in the 2020 General Election, nearly 37% dropped off a ballot at a staffed or unstaffed authorized ballot drop box site. Due to the conversion of voting equipment to accessible ballot marking devices, Stanislaus County's current equipment inventory meets the needs of the Voter's Choice Act.

The adoption of the Voter's Choice Act in Stanislaus County will give voters more choices on how, when and where they vote. Voters will have the choice to go to *any* vote center location throughout the county. Given the current number of registered voters, 282,482 as of August 30, 2021, six vote centers will be open 10 days before the election and a minimum of twenty-three additional, for a minimum of twenty-nine total vote centers will be open at least 3 days before the election through Election Day, including weekends. Voters would no longer be limited to one day of voting at their assigned polling place. Vote centers would be staffed with trained elections workers that could provide more services as compared to polling places.

The voters of Stanislaus County will have more choice. In keeping with our office's goals, we believe that moving to this model will increase election integrity, accessibility and voter turnout. In order for Stanislaus County to transition to the VCA model, this Election Administration Plan (EAP) was put together by our office in collaboration with our community. The Registrar of Voters Office worked with individuals representing language and disabilities communities and also held a series of public consultation meetings to gather public feedback which were implemented in this plan. Before this plan was sent to the California Secretary of State's Office for approval, it was posted on www.stanvote.com for public review and comment. Feedback and recommendations to this plan and future efforts will be accepted any time.

Our EAP describes how we plan to educate the public regarding the choices that come with the VCA model. It includes information about our proposed vote centers and drop-off locations, and how they will operate. With this EAP we hope to provide a clear idea of how our office is planning to administer future elections in Stanislaus County.

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Section I - VOTE CENTERS

At vote centers, individuals can receive the following services:

- Cast a ballot in-person
- Register for the first time and receive a ballot without the need to vote provisionally
- Update current voter registration and receive a ballot
- Utilize an accessible ballot marking device
- Pick up a ballot for a household member or family member
- Request a facsimile ballot (translated copy of the official ballot) in Assyrian, Khmer, and Punjabi
- Drop off their completed vote by mail ballot at a vote center

The Total Number of Vote Centers to be Established

§4005(a)(10)(I)(vi)(I)

Based on the number of registered voters the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters will establish a minimum of 6 vote centers open for 10 days prior to Election Day and an additional 23 vote centers open for 3 days prior to and Election Day. The goal is to provide up to 30 vote centers which exceeds the requirements per SB 450 and the county's current voter registration.

All vote centers will be open for at least 8 hours a day. On Election Day all vote centers will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. Exact hours of each vote center's operation will be posted on the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters website, www.stanvote.com and included in the Stanislaus County Voter Information Guide.

Vote Center Locations

§4005(a)(10)(I)(vi)(I)

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters is working throughout the community to identify vote center and drop box locations that meet the criteria listed below using data collected from the most recent census available and Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters' current registration.

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voter using data collected from the most recent census available and Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters' current registration is working throughout the community to identify vote centers and drop box location that meet the criteria listed below.

- Vote center and ballot drop-off location proximity to public transportation.
- Vote center and ballot drop off location proximity to communities with historically low vote by mail usage.
- Vote center and ballot drop-off location proximity to population centers.
- Vote center and ballot drop-off location proximity to language minority communities.
- Vote center and ballot drop-off location proximity to voters with disabilities.
- Vote center and ballot drop-off location proximity to communities with low rates of household vehicle ownership.
- Vote center and ballot drop-off location proximity to low-income communities.
- Vote center and ballot drop-off location proximity to communities of eligible voters who are not registered to vote and may need access to same day voter registration.
- Vote center and ballot drop-off location proximity to geographically isolated populations, including Native American reservations.
- Access to accessible and free parking at vote centers and ballot drop-off locations.

- The distance and time a voter must travel by car or public transportation to a vote center and ballot drop-off location.
- The need for alternate methods for voters with disabilities for whom vote by mail ballots are not accessible to cast a ballot.
- Traffic patterns near vote centers and ballot dropoff locations.
- The need for mobile vote centers in addition to the number of vote centers established pursuant to this section.

The process of establishing locations continues at the time of publication of this plan. The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office's goal is to locate vote centers in well-known, fully accessible facilities. All vote centers will be open continuously for a minimum of 8 hours per day and from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. Based on available information at the time it is anticipated that vote centers will be in the following areas:

City of Modesto
 City of Ceres
 City of Turlock
 City of Oakdale
 City of Newman
 City of Paterson
 City of Hughson
 City of Riverbank
 City of Waterford
 Unincorporated communities of Salida, Denair, Keyes and Empire

Previously used vote center locations are shown in Appendix B. An updated list showing vote center locations specific to a current election will be posted on stanvote.com. Also, the list will be included in two separate direct mailings to the voters.

Staffing Vote Centers

§4005(a)(10)(I)(vi)(IX)

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office anticipates that each vote center will be tentatively staffed with three to five Election Clerks including a vote center lead. In addition, vote centers will also be staffed with additional volunteers. The Registrar of Voters Office will make good faith effort to recruit both Election Clerks and volunteers who are bilingual in Assyrian, Khmer, Punjabi or Spanish to staff at each vote center especially at those establish in proximity with language communities.

Election Clerks will receive training prior to each election. Election Clerks will receive hands-on training using the voter registration system used at vote centers and on the voting equipment. The training will cover various scenarios so that Election Clerks are knowledgeable of the correct form and/or envelope to issue a voter and how to process their record within the system. Election Clerks are also trained in basic customer service skills, how to set-up a vote center, daily opening and closing procedures, how to assist voters with disabilities and how to assist voters with language assistance needs. Additional reference guides and written procedures are provided to each Election Clerk to use as reference when working at a vote center.

Volunteers will receive a separate training from Election Clerks prior to each election. Volunteers will be

trained in basic customer service skills as they oversee greeting and line management at vote centers. Additionally, they will receive training on daily opening and closing procedures with hands-on training in setting up and taking down voting equipment. Volunteers will be trained in how to assist voters with disabilities and how to utilize the Touch Writer, an accessible ballot marking device. They will also receive training on assisting voters who require language assistance.

Design and Layout of Vote Centers

§4005(a)(10)(I)(vi)(XI)

Vote centers will be designed in a way to ensure each voter has the right to cast a private and independent ballot. Voting equipment and ballot drop boxes will be placed strategically in the vote center so that they are easily identifiable by voters and can be monitored by vote center staff. See Appendix C for sample design and layout of vote centers.

Security and Contingency Plans

§4005(a)(10)(I)(vi)(VIII)

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office will ensure election security at vote centers using the following methods and standards:

- All vote center staff will be well trained and prepared to assist eligible voters in every way possible. All vote center staff will be versed in proper chain of custody procedures and the operation of voting equipment.
- Vote center staff will have access to the same election management system (DIMS) used in the county office. To ensure every eligible voter casts the ballot he or she is eligible to vote in each election, DIMS allows vote center staff to determine if a voter is properly registered, if the voter has received a ballot, if the voter has returned a ballot, and what type of ballot to issue the voter.
- All laptops connected to the election management system will also be connected to VoteCal, the official statewide voter registration database managed by the California Secretary of State. VoteCal will track voters across the state and notify vote center staff if a voter is actively registered in another county and if the voter has received and/or returned a ballot in another county.
- All equipment that will be connected to the election management system-will be in full compliance with all security measures and regulations (§20158) using the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters' IT unit to ensure security is always maintained.
- Each vote center will have equipment, resources-and signage placed strategically to ensure every voter has the opportunity to cast a private and independent vote.
- The HART InterCivic Verity voting equipment (Print, Touch Writer, and Scan) has been certified by the California Secretary of State. It is a paper-based system and does not connect to any network. All equipment will be sealed with official election seals and will be shut down and locked when vote centers are not open.

- Any and all recorded votes, including paper ballots, ballots submitted on voting equipment, CVR ballots, provisional ballots, and vote by mail ballots, will be securely transported to the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office daily after the vote center closes.

Prevention Measures and Potential Disruptions

§4005(a)(10)(I)(vi)(VIII)(ia), §4005(a)(10)(I)(vi)(VIII)(ib)

All elections and vote center staff will be well trained and prepared for potential disruptions at vote centers. The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office will have an experienced warehouse staff on duty to distribute needed replacement materials and equipment. Furthermore, the warehouse staff will be equipped to troubleshoot equipment. All vote centers will have cell phones to connect quickly with the main office when necessary. Vote center staff will be trained in alternate procedures so that voting will continue during potential disruptions.

Section II - BALLOT DROP BOX LOCATIONS

Hours of Ballot Drop Box Locations

§4005(a)(1)(A)

Ballot drop-off locations will be open 28 days before the election and through Election Day. All ballot drop-off locations will be open normal business hours per the location the box is located. The 24-hour ballot drop-off locations will close at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Ballot drop box locations and times will be available on an interactive map on the department's website, www.stanvote.com and included in the Stanislaus County Voter Information Guide.

Total Number of Drop Boxes to be Established

§4005(a)(10)(I)(vi)(II)

During the 2021 California gubernatorial Recall Election, the county was required to establish 18 ballot drop boxes per requirements of SB 450 and the county's voter count. The Registrar of Voters Office exceeded this requirement by establishing 25 ballot drop boxes where over 31,000 voters returned a ballot. Given the current number of registered voters, 282,482 as of August 30, 2021, Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters is required to provide a minimum of 19 ballot drop boxes. The Registrar of Voters Office will continue to exceed requirements for future elections as this has become a popular method of returning a ballot amongst voters. These locations will open 28 days prior to and through Election Day.

During the 2020 General Election and the 2021 California gubernatorial Recall Election, the county established a total of 2 ballot drop boxes that were available for 24-hours. The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office's goal is to increase to three 24-hour ballot drop boxes by 2022 Statewide Direct Primary Election.

Ballot Drop Box Locations

§4005(a)(10)(I)(vi)(V)

The Stanislaus County Registrar Voters Office has partnered with the community to locate drop boxes in well-known, fully accessible facilities. The map of drop box locations is shown in Appendix D, which will be updated as locations are confirmed for each election. The list will be included in election materials provided to each registered voter.

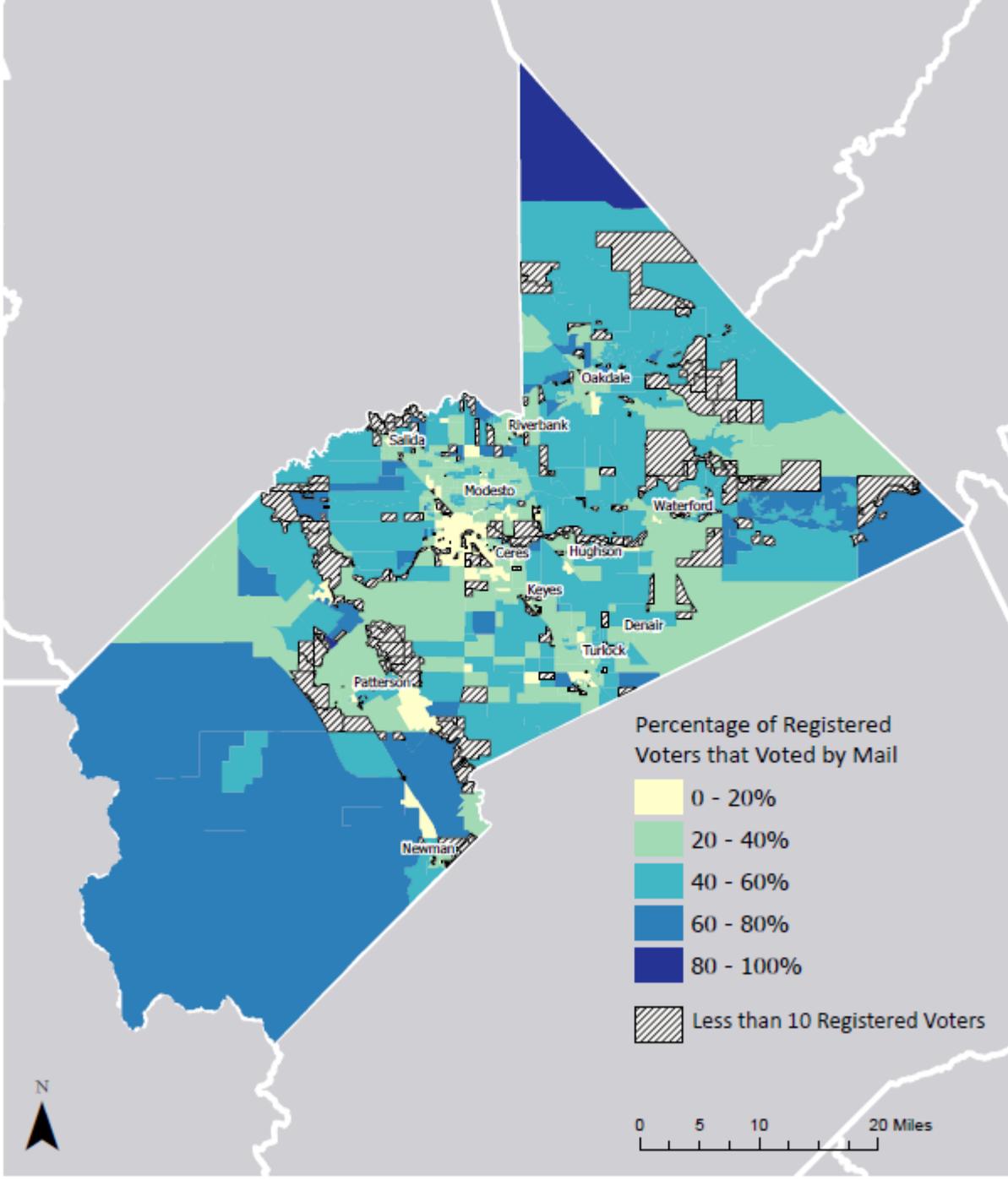
Section III – IDENTIFYING VOTE CENTER AND BALLOT DROP BOX LOCATIONS

Many of the ballot drop box and vote center locations previously used in the 2020 General Election and 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election will be reused as they are well-known and accessible facilities within population centers in the county. Additionally, as the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters finalizes the list of facilities, the department will consider other factors including but not limited to, proximity to public transportation, areas of low vote by mail usage and language minority communities.

The following maps show the significant increase of vote by mail usage by voters within Stanislaus County. The final map (page 19) shows vote center and ballot drop box locations established in the 2021 California Gubernatorial Election with respect to vote by mail usage. Vote centers and ballot drop boxes were targeted in population centers and areas where language minority groups are.

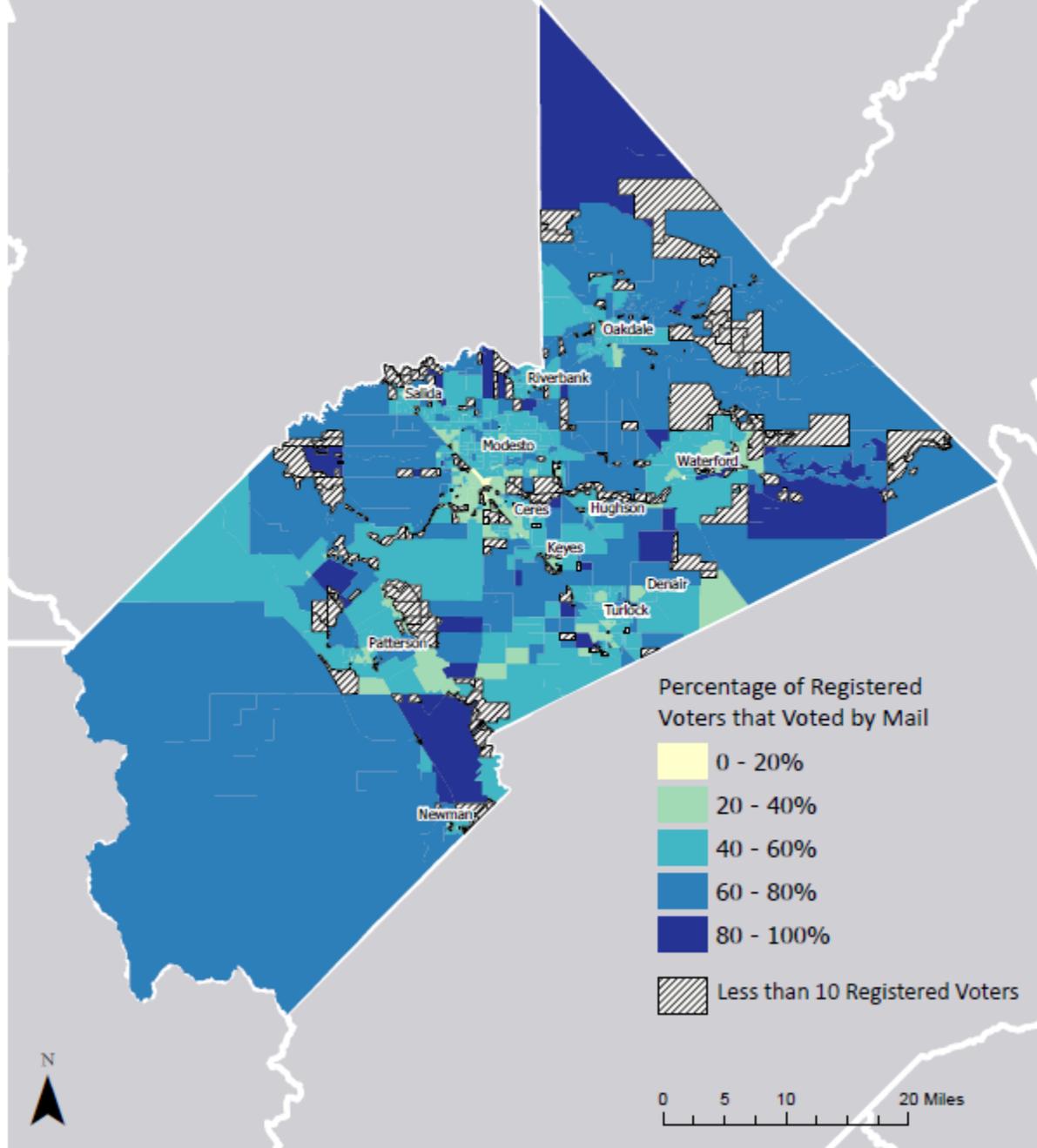
Stanislaus County

2014 General Election - Registered Voters that Voted by Mail



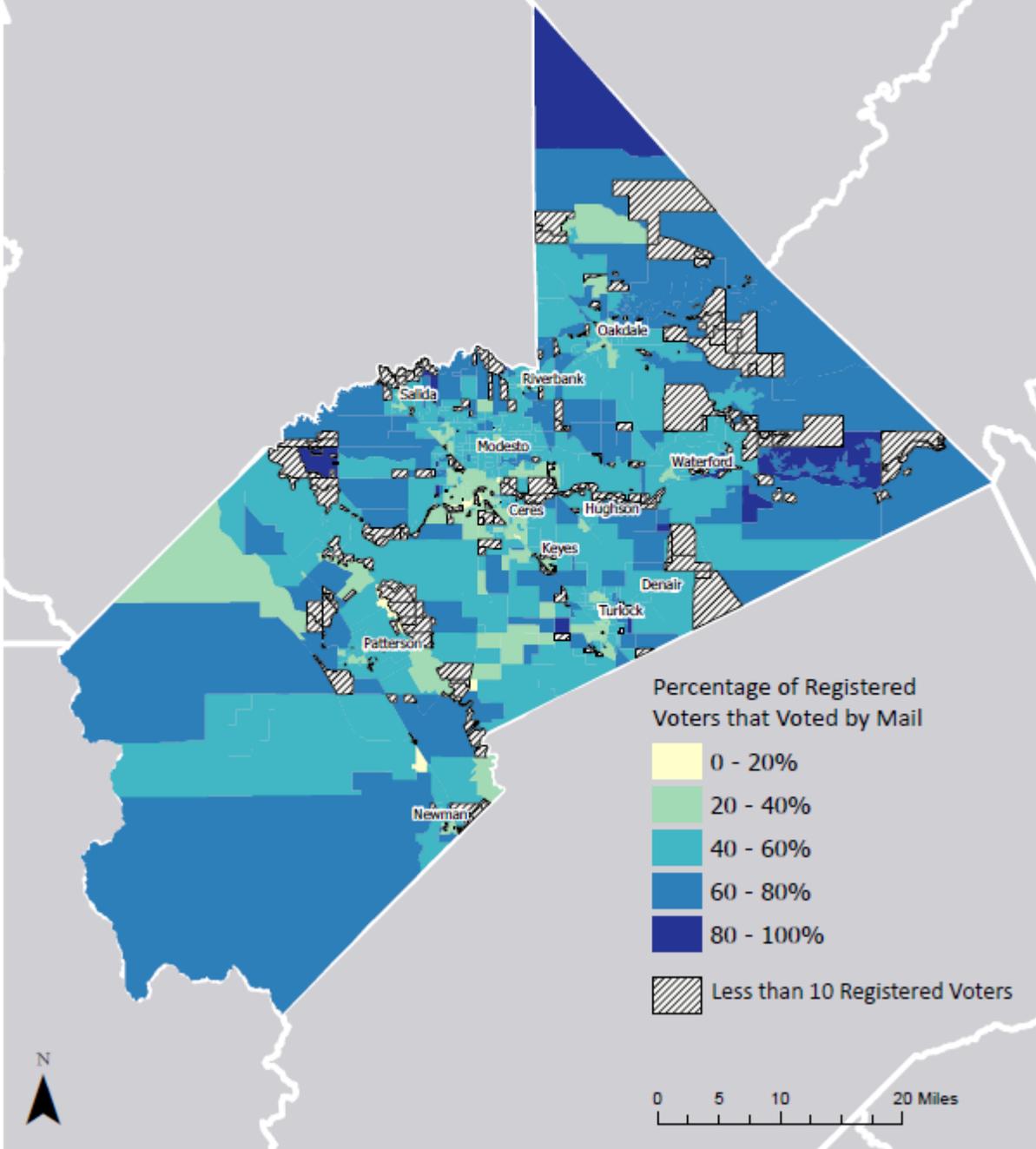
Stanislaus County

2016 General Election - Registered Voters that Voted by Mail



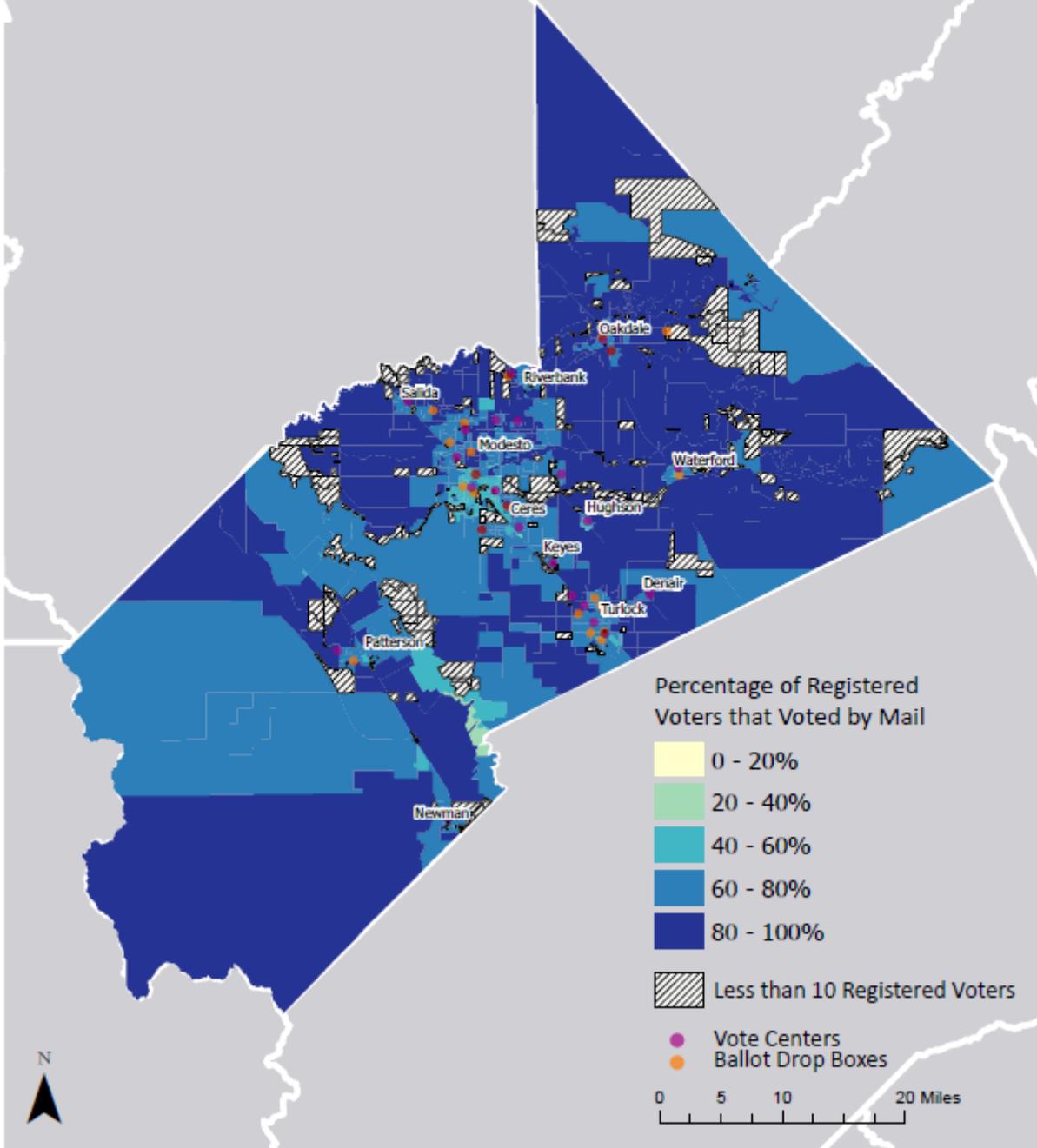
Stanislaus County

2018 General Election - Registered Voters that Voted by Mail



Stanislaus County

2020 General Election - Registered Voters that Voted by Mail



Section IV - ESTIMATED SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM COSTS AND SAVINGS

Estimated Costs and Savings Under this Plan

§4005(A)(10)(I)(v), §4005(g)(2)

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office has determined that costs will exceed savings with the first implementation of the VCA. However, the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office predicts that over time conducting elections in accordance with the VCA will encourage savings based on evidence from Colorado, which implemented a similar election model, and other California Counties that have moved to the VCA model starting in 2018. According to a report published by The PEW Charitable Trusts, election costs declined 40% on average after the implementation of Colorado's Voter Access and Modernized Elections Act of 2013. Stanislaus County has incurred some of the estimated short-term costs include purchasing ballot on demand printers for all vote centers that will enable staff to print all ballot types within the county for that election. These costs were incurred in 2020 enabling Stanislaus County to successfully conduct the November 2020 Presidential Election during the Coronavirus pandemic. Short-term costs Stanislaus County will incur in the upcoming VCA elections include, but are not limited to, extensive training for staff, purchasing of ballot drop boxes, facility rentals, and additional outreach and postage costs for the require direct mailings. Anticipated long-term savings include decreased costs for equipment, including the purchasing of new equipment and equipment maintenance, ballot printing, and labor to comply with significant expanded requirements for community and voter engagement. See Appendix E for an example of the budget and expected costs and savings related to Voter's Choice Act.

SECTION V -VOTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH – GENERAL

Overview

The California Voter’s Choice Act (VCA) requires counties to develop a Voter Education and Outreach Plan that informs voters and eligible citizens on all aspects of the VCA, including vote center and authorized ballot drop box locations; vote by mail voting; and information specific to voters with disabilities and non-English speaking voters. Public meetings will be held with community organizations and individuals that advocate on behalf of or provide services to these groups.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Elections Office. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to these meetings.

Registrar of Voters Donna Linder and the leadership in the Stanislaus County election division are working with the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) and Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) to develop a Voter Education and Outreach Plan.

Media and Public Service Announcements

§4005(a)(10)(I)(i)(II), §4005(a)(10)(I)(i)(VIII)

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters will use a variety of media outlets in accessible formats to educate the public in Stanislaus County, to promote the availability and accessibility of vote by mail ballot and how to request one. Media will include, but not be limited to:

- i) Newspapers; Modesto Bee, Turlock Journal, Latino Times, Ceres Courier, Oakdale Leader, Patterson Irrigator, Mattos News
- ii) Radio (KBDG-FM 90.9 MHz, Radio Lazer, Punjabi Radio USA)
- iii) Social Media; Department website, Stanislaus County Facebook, Turlock City News and other City Clerk social media
- iv) Outreach to groups such as community-based organizations, disabilities advocacy organizations, elected officials, special districts, public information officers, cities. A list of groups/organizations/agencies that the elections office contacts can be found on the website stanvote.com in the Public Notices section and will be updated regularly.
- v) County Departments
- vi) Public Service Announcements

Significant efforts for educating potential voters through the abovementioned media will be implemented. The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters will continue to strategically reach out to the public and will time its communications nearer to key election dates.

Having a Community Presence

§4005(a)(10)(I)(i)(III)

Preparation and adoption of the Proposed EAP is the first step in engaging community organizations, colleagues, schools and other entities to raise awareness of the new election model. As we move forward, we will continue to seek input from the public for future revisions of the EAP. More effort will be made to promote the Election Division’s website and provide telephone assistance to educate voters on how to obtain language and/or accessibility assistance.

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters will schedule voter education workshops to increase accessibility awareness and participation of eligible voters with disabilities. The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters will also provide presentations relating to the Voter's Choice Act at a wide variety of events in Stanislaus County. The Registrar of Voters' goal is to develop a strong collaboration between our department, our community, and LAAC and VAAC members to identify opportunities to better educate voters of their rights and responsibilities, offer demonstrations of the voting equipment and explain their choices under the Voter's Choice Act. The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters will make every effort to reach all areas of the County. Education on the Voter's Choice Act will be provided to several community groups, including but not limited to:

- 1) Department's VAAC and LAAC
 - a. Meetings to include voting system demonstrations and informational updates
 - b. Educational materials to be developed to distribute to their communities

- 2) Presentations to various audiences:
 - a. County Board of Supervisors
 - b. Elected Official's Town Halls
 - c. County Central Committees and Political Committees
 - d. City Clerks
 - e. Service organizations (such as Rotary, Kiwanis)

A list of past events where Voter's Choice Act information will be shared can be found in Appendix A. For a full list of events, visit the "Public Notices" section on www.stanvote.com.

We plan to expand the community events and community partners list during the EAP updating process. The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters will emphasize the availability and accessibility of the vote by mail ballot. The office will have meetings with the public and will continue to have meetings with community members. The department will also provide materials for or attend local events that are recommended by our staff and community members.

Directly Contacting Voters

§4005(a)(10)(I)(i)(X)

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office will make two direct contacts with voters by mail for purposes of informing voters of the upcoming election and promoting the toll-free voter assistance hotline. These direct mailings will be in addition to other required contacts with voters including, but not limited to, the county voter information guide and the delivery of vote by mail ballots. The first mailing to registered voters in Stanislaus County would inform voters that a vote by mail ballot will be sent to all active registered voters regardless of vote by mail preference. The second mailing will be sent after ballots have been mailed informing voters of their voting options at vote centers, if they would prefer to vote in person, and options for returning vote by mail ballots.

Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Website

§4005(a)(5)(6)(ii)(iii)

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office will make information available on their website to assist voters with information on remote accessible vote by mail (RAVBM) as well as language assistance resources.

During an election, Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters, www.stanvote.com, will have an interactive map and list showing ballot drop off and vote center locations and hours of operations.

Using Resources to Ensure Voters are Informed

§4005(a)(10)(I)(i)(VII)

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office will spend the necessary resources on voter education and outreach to ensure that voters are fully informed about the election conducted in accordance with the Voter's Choice Act. Election cost estimates, including outreach costs, are detailed in Appendix E.

Section VI - STANISLAUS COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS - VOTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH –VOTERS WITH ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters formed a Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) and held its first committee meeting on June 21, 2021. The VAAC was formed to establish how to best educate and reach the disabilities community in Stanislaus County regarding the VCA. The committee members are being selected based on their involvement and engagement with communities with accessibility needs.

The purpose of the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) is to advise and assist the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters office in improving the electoral process for voters with disabilities.

- VAAC members will help the county continue to discover more effective ways to provide voter education and outreach to individuals with accessibility needs.
- Provide the public a forum to make recommendations on ways to improve access to voting and election materials.
- VAAC members will make recommendations on ways to improve the ability for all voters to vote independently and privately.
- VAAC members may recommend procedural improvements that will be considered for adoption by the Registrar of Voters.

Interested and committed members of the public are encouraged to join the VAAC. For information on how to apply, visit www.stanvote.com.

Educating the Disabilities Community– Voter Education Workshop

§4005(a)(10)(I)(i)(VI)(ib)

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters will be holding voter education workshops to increase accessibility and participation of eligible voters with disabilities. The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters will also provide presentations on the Voter's Choice Act directly to voters and attendees at a wide variety of events. The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters' goal is to coordinate with community partners and the VAAC to identify opportunities to educate our voters on their rights and responsibilities, offer demonstrations of the voting equipment, and explain how to request, obtain and cast an accessible ballot. More educational workshops would be held before a scheduled election, allowing voters to receive information in advance when elections and voting are on their minds. Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters will make every effort to reach all areas of the County. Voters will have many opportunities to learn about the vote center model and their voting options including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) Department's VAAC and LAAC
 - a. Meetings include voting system demonstrations and informational updates
 - b. Develop educational materials with VAAC and LAAC to distribute within their communities
- 2) Presentations to various audiences:
 - a. County Board of Supervisors
 - b. Elected Official's Town Halls

- c. County Central Committees and Political Committees
- d. City Clerks
- e. Service organizations (such as Rotary, Kiwanis)

Accessible Voting Materials and Ballots and Accessible Website

§4005(a)(10)(I)(i)(IV)

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters will work with the Stanislaus County Information Technology staff to ensure that all election information is available in text-based format on the accessible website, www.stanvote.com. Information includes, but will not be limited to, a list of the ballot drop-off locations and vote centers with dates and hours they are open, as well as the services available at vote centers. The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters is also planning a webpage to educate the public about the accessible voting tools available.

Accessible Services Available at Vote Centers and Ballot Dropoff Locations

§4005(a)(10)(I)(vi)(X)

Each vote center will have accessible parking available. Vote centers will be surveyed by staff to ensure that each location has the equipment and materials needed to be ADA compliant.

All vote centers will be equipped with at least three accessible ballot marking devices (HART TouchWriter) and have paper ballots available if desired. The accessible ballot marking device displays voting instructions and the ballot in large type text, touch, and audio formats. The device also allows the use of other assistive devices (i.e., sip and puff, stylus, etc.)

After receiving feedback from VAAC members, the county purchased new call bells for each vote center. The call bells are placed on the driver's side of an accessible parking space. This allows voters who cannot get out of their vehicle, to receive services including VBM ballot drop-off, registering to vote or updating voter registration, etc. Where possible, some vote centers also offer curbside ballot drop-off so that voters can simply drop off their VBM without the need to get out of their vehicle.

Election Clerks and volunteers will be trained to assist any voter in the best way possible and the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office is experienced in using this equipment. Election Clerks and volunteers are required to attend training before serving at a vote center. The training includes disability sensitivity and assisting voters with the services mentioned.

All exterior and interior ballot drop-off locations will be accessible and as near to public transportation routes as possible. The 24-hour ballot drop-off location at the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters office (1021 "I" Street) is accessible and on a public transportation route.

Requesting an Accessible Vote by Mail Ballot

§4005(a)(8)(B)(iii)

All registered voters will receive a bilingual vote by mail ballot in English and Spanish. Voters desiring an accessible vote by mail ballot may use the Remote Accessible Vote by Mail (RAVBM) program. RAVBM allows a voter to use their own accessibility software to view an accessible county voter information guide and mark an accessible ballot at home. The use of RAVBM requires a printer so that the marked ballot can be printed then submitted in paper form. Voters can return the envelope using the one made available in the download package or using the return envelope mailed with the vote by mail ballot.

Voters can choose to return the signed ballot envelope by mail, at a ballot drop box or at a vote center. RAVBM information is provided in the county voter information guide and on the Elections Division website, www.stanvote.com. The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters will be using the Democracy Live platform to distribute accessible vote by mail ballots. Voters who would like to use a RAVBM demonstration website can visit www.stanvote.com for instructions.

Additionally, the ballot return envelope issued to voters have two circular indents. The indents are a guide for voters with visual impairments to locate the signature line and sign in the proper place.

Requesting a Replacement Ballot

§4005(a)(10)(I)(ii)

Voters with disabilities can request a replacement ballot three ways: (1) by mail or (2) calling the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters office (209-525-5201) TTY hotline (3) by visiting any vote center. Voters who would like to request a replacement ballot by mail may do so by following instructions on the envelope marking the spoiled box on the ballot return envelope. The last day replacement vote by mail ballots can be mailed is seven days before the election. Voters with disabilities can also visit any vote center to receive a replacement ballot or to mark a ballot using an accessible device. The number for the TTY hotline will be posted on the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters website and in voting materials sent to voters

Toll-Free Hotline for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Voters

§4005(a)(10)(I)(vii)

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters has a toll-free TTY hotline for deaf and hard of hearing voters available Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm and 7:00 am – 8:00 pm on Election Day. The toll-free TTY hotline number will be posted on the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters website and in voting materials sent to voters.

Addressing Disparities in Voter Accessibility and Participation

§4005(a)(10)(I)(iii)

After each election, the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office will make a reasonable effort to address significant disparities in voter accessibility and participation. The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office will meet with the VAAC to discuss issues and develop solutions to better serve voters with accessibility needs. Furthermore, the Registrar of Voters Office will conduct a debrief with all vote center staff to evaluate and address opportunities to improve voter accessibility and participation.

Section VII - VOTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH – LANGUAGE MINORITY COMMUNITIES

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters formed a Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) to establish how to best educate and reach individuals that need assistance in the Assyrian, Khmer and Punjabi language regarding the VCA. The committee members are being selected based on their involvement and engagement with communities with accessibility needs. Current members are part of community organizations that represent and provide expertise on the language communities the county provides assistance in. The community organizations include the Assyrian American Civic Club, El Concilio, the Jakara Movement and the Stanislaus Asian American Community Resource.

The purpose of the Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) is to advise and assist the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters office in improving the electoral process for voters with limited English proficiency within the provisions of current election laws.

- LAAC members will help the county continue to discover more effective ways to provide voter education to communities with limited English proficiency.
- The LAAC provides the public a forum to make recommendations on ways to improve access to voting and election materials.
- LAAC members will assist in reviewing election and voter education materials to ensure clarity for voters with limited English proficiency.
- LAAC members will assist in the recruitment and retention of bilingual workers.
- LAAC members may recommend procedural improvements that will be considered for adoption by the Registrar of Voters.

Interested and committed members of the public are encouraged to join the VAAC. For information on how to apply, visit www.stanvote.com.

Educating the Language Minority Communities – Voter Education Workshops

§4005(a)(10)(I)(i)(VI)(ia)

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters will provide presentations on vote center model information directly to voters and attendees of at a wide variety of events. The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters goal is to coordinate with community partners-and the LAAC and VAAC to identify opportunities to educate our voters, offer demonstrations of the voting equipment, and explain how to request and obtain a minority language ballot. More educational workshops would be held before a scheduled election, allowing voters to receive information in advance when elections and voting are on their minds. The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters will make every effort to reach all areas of the County. Voters will have many opportunities to learn about the vote center model and their language voting options including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) Department's VAAC and LAAC
 - a. Meetings include voting system demonstrations and informational updates
 - b. Develop educational materials with VAAC and LAAC to distribute within their communities

- 2) Presentations to various audiences:
 - a. County Board of Supervisors
 - b. Elected Official's Town Halls
 - c. County Central Committees and Political Committees
 - d. City Clerks
 - e. Language Communities
 - f. Service organizations (such as Rotary, Kiwanis)

Public Consultation Meetings

§4005(a)(10)(I)(i)(VI)(ia)

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters office will hold a bilingual public consultation meetings for the proposed EAP with each of Stanislaus County's federal and state required languages. At the time of preparing this plan Stanislaus's required languages, other than English are Spanish, Punjabi, Khmer and Assyrian.

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters office will provide an opportunity for the county's language communities to receive information about materials and assistance available in their language, in addition to the vote center model voting process. All workshops will have language specific interpreters to assist attendees. Information about workshop events will be announced at least 10 days in advance of the meeting date and posted on www.stanvote.com under the "Public Notices." These meetings are also listed in the Appendix A.

Media and Public Service Announcements

§4005(a)(10)(I)(i)(I), §4005(a)(10)(I)(i)(IX)

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters will use a variety of media outlets in bilingual formats to educate the public in Stanislaus County, to promote the availability of a translated copy of the official ballot in the Assyrian, Khmer and Punjabi languages and how to request one. Accessibility options will be also provided in this format. Media will include, but not be limited to:

- i) Newspapers: (Latino Times)
- ii) Television: (Assyrian TV)
- iii) Radio: (KBDG-FM 90.9 Assyrian Radio)
- iv) Social Media; Department website, Stanislaus County Facebook
- v) County Departments
- v) Public Service Announcements

Significant efforts for educating potential voters through the abovementioned media will be implemented. The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters will continue to strategically reach out to the public and will time its communications nearer to key election dates. At the time this plan was published, our department is receiving assistance from LAAC members representing the Assyrian, Punjabi and Spanish speaking communities to deliver public service announcements through the radio.

Toll-Free Voter Assistance Hotline

§4005(a)(10)(I)(vii)

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office will provide language assistance as needed through the toll-free voter assistance hotline. This hotline will be operational 29 days before the election through

5:00 pm the day after the election. The number for this hotline will be posted on the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters website and in voting materials sent to voters.

Spanish Educational Material

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office will distribute educational material in Spanish to voters through the organizations that opt to assist us in our outreach efforts. These contacts will be in addition to other required contacts with voters including, but not limited to, sample ballots and the delivery of vote by mail ballots.

Language Assistance Available at Vote Centers

EC 14282 allows voters to have up to two people assist them in marking a ballot. Voters with language assistance needs, may bring a family member or friend to assist them at the vote center. Additionally, the department makes good faith effort in hiring and training Election Clerks and volunteers who are bilingual in Spanish, Assyrian, Khmer and Punjabi to serve at vote centers. Election Clerks and volunteers are required to attend training before serving at a vote center. The training includes how to assist voters with language assistance needs.

A phone interpreter service is also available at every vote center in an event a bilingual worker is not available. This service is offered through the California Secretary of State.

Voters who require assistance in Assyrian, Khmer and Punjabi can also request a translated copy of the official ballot called a “facsimile ballot.” A translated sign is posted notifying voters of the availability of facsimile ballots and copies of the facsimile ballots are also posted. Other voting materials offered in Assyrian, Khmer and Punjabi include the State Voter Information Guide produced by the California Secretary of State.

Requesting a Minority Language Facsimile Ballot

§4005(a)(10)(I)(i)(V)

There are three ways to request a facsimile ballot:

- 1) Return the postcard requesting a facsimile ballot by mailing it to 1021 “I” St., Modesto, CA 95354, e-mailing it to stanvote@stancounty.com or faxing it to 209-525-5802
- 2) Call the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office and request a facsimile ballot (209-525-5201)
- 3) Request a facsimile ballot at any vote center in Stanislaus County or visit the main office at 1021 “I” St., Modesto

Identifying Language Minority Voters

§4005(a)(10)(I)(i)(V)

The Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office identifies language minority voters by their language preference indicated on voter registration forms. Minority language voters may also email or call the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters Office to designate their language preference. We collect and store this data in our election management system. Furthermore, we receive information about the language assistance requirements from the Secretary of State based on the United States Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.

Appendices

Appendix A

Voter Education and Outreach Events

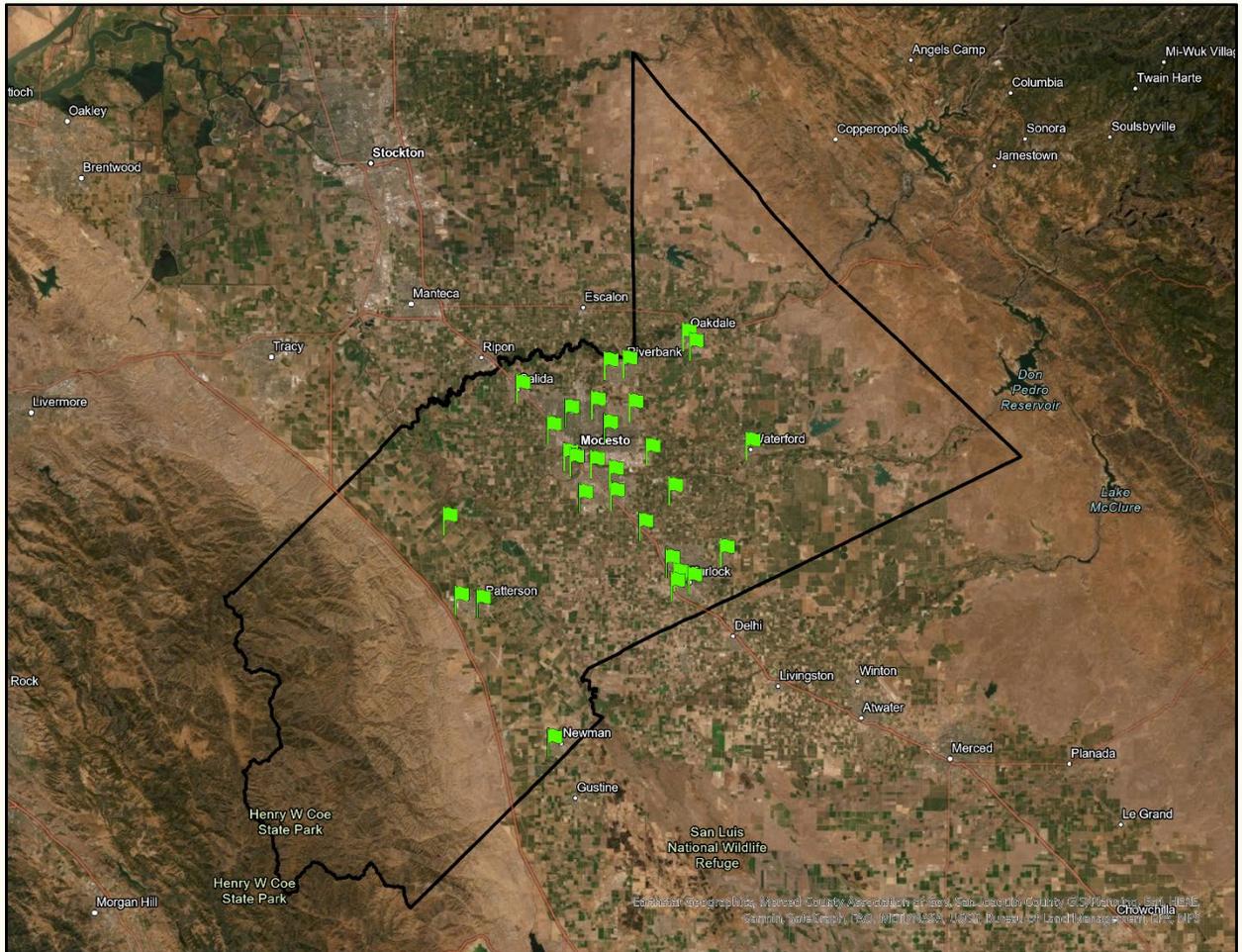
Date	Organization	Location
1/4/2021	Central Committee Republican Party of Stanislaus County	118 W. Orangeburg Ave. Modesto, CA
2/8/2021	Assyrian TV and KBDG-RM 90.9 MHz	Zoom
2/9/2021	Modesto Republican Women	945 McHenry Ave. Modesto, CA
2/11/2021	Oakdale Board of Realtors	House of Beef – 201 N. 3 rd . Ave. Oakdale, CA
2/25/2021	Disability Resources Agency for Independent Living	Phone Interview
3/24/2021	Central Valley Realtor Association	Zoom
4/16/2021	Board of Supervisors VCA Presentation	1021 I Street
4/19/2021	Board of Supervisors VCA Presentation	1021 I Street
4/20/2021	Board of Supervisors VCA Presentation	1021 I Street
4/22/2021	Title Company Meeting	Zoom
4/26/2021	Board of Supervisors VCA Presentation	1021 I Street
5/3/2021	Central Committee Republican Party of Stanislaus County	118 W. Orangeburg Ave. Modesto, CA
5/12/2021	City Clerks	Zoom
5/17/2021	2nd Harvest/United Way	Zoom
5/26/2021	Democratic Central Committee	Zoom
6/8/2021	Kiwanis of Modesto VCA Presentation	Papapolloni Mediterranean Bistro- 2501 McHenry Ave. Modesto, CA
6/9/2021	Oakdale Rotary VCA Presentation	Oakdale Golf & Country Club 243 N. Stearns Rd. Oakdale, CA
6/10/2021	Kiwanis – North Modesto	Graffiti Museum 9 th & Coldwell Modesto/ Zoom Hybrid
6/16/2021	United Way	Zoom
6/21/2021	VAAC EAP Introduction Meeting	Zoom
6/22/2021	LAAC EAP Introduction Meeting	Zoom
7/8/2021	Sunrise Rotary	Green's - 953 10th Street, Modesto
7/14/2021	City of Oakdale	House of Beef - 201 N. 3 rd Ave. Oakdale, CA
7/22/2021	Newman Rotary	Pizza Plus - 1420 Main Street Newman, CA
7/31/2021	EAP Public Consultation Meeting	El Concilio - 1314 H Street Modesto, CA Hybrid Zoom

8/4/2021	Title Company Meeting	Veterans Center 3500 Coffee Rd. Modesto, CA
8/6/2021	Salida Rotary	2832 Healthcare Way Modesto, CA
8/12/2021	Ceres Courier	Phone Interview
8/14/2021	EAP Public Consultation Meeting	Harvest Hall - 3800 Cornucopia Way Modesto, CA
8/17/2021	Assyrian EAP Consultation	Assyrian American Civic Club – 2618 N. Golden State Blvd. Turlock, CA
8/19/2021	Turlock Journal	Phone Interview
8/20/2021	Patriots	Ridgeways 2401 E. Orangeburg Ave. Modesto, CA
8/20/21	KCRA – Channel 3	Email & Phone
8/27/2021	Turlock Kiwanis	Crostini Restaurant 811 W. Hawkeye Turlock, CA
9/1/2021	EAP Public Consultation Meeting	King Kennedy Center 601 Martin Luther King Dr., Modesto, CA
9/1/2021	Turlock Sunrise Rotary Club	Toscana's Ristorante 1801 Colorado Ave. #190 Turlock, CA
9/11/2021	Federation of the Blind	Zoom
9/23/2021	Oakdale Lions Club	Oakdale Pavilion 151 S. Sierra Ave. Oakdale, CA
10/6/2021	EAP Public Consultation Meeting	Ceres American Legion Hall 2609 Lawrence St. Ceres, CA 95307
01/6/2022	City of Riverbank Voter Education Workshop	St. Frances of Rome Church 2827 Topeka St, Riverbank CA
01/11/2022	City of Turlock Voter Education Workshop	Turlock Library, Community Room 550 N. Minaret Ave., Turlock CA
01/12/2022	City of Waterford Voter Education Workshop	Waterford Community Center 540 C Street, Waterford CA
01/18/2022	City of Newman Voter Education Workshop	L.J. Newman Memorial Building 649 Orestimba Rd., Newman CA
01/19/2022	City of Modesto Voter Education Workshop	Stanislaus Veterans Center, Banquet Hall 3500 Coffee Rd., Modesto CA
01/25/2022	City of Ceres Voter Education Workshop	Ceres American Legion Hall 2609 Lawrence St., Ceres CA
01/31/2022	City of Oakdale Voter Education Workshop	Gene Bianchi Community Center 110 S 2 nd Ave., Oakdale CA
02/01/2022	City of Hughson Voter Education Workshop	Hughson Community Senior Center 2307 4 th Street, Hughson CA
02/08/2022	City of Patterson Voter Education Workshop	City of Patterson City Hall, Board Chambers 1 Plaza, Patterson, CA

Visit stanvote.com for an updated list of events.

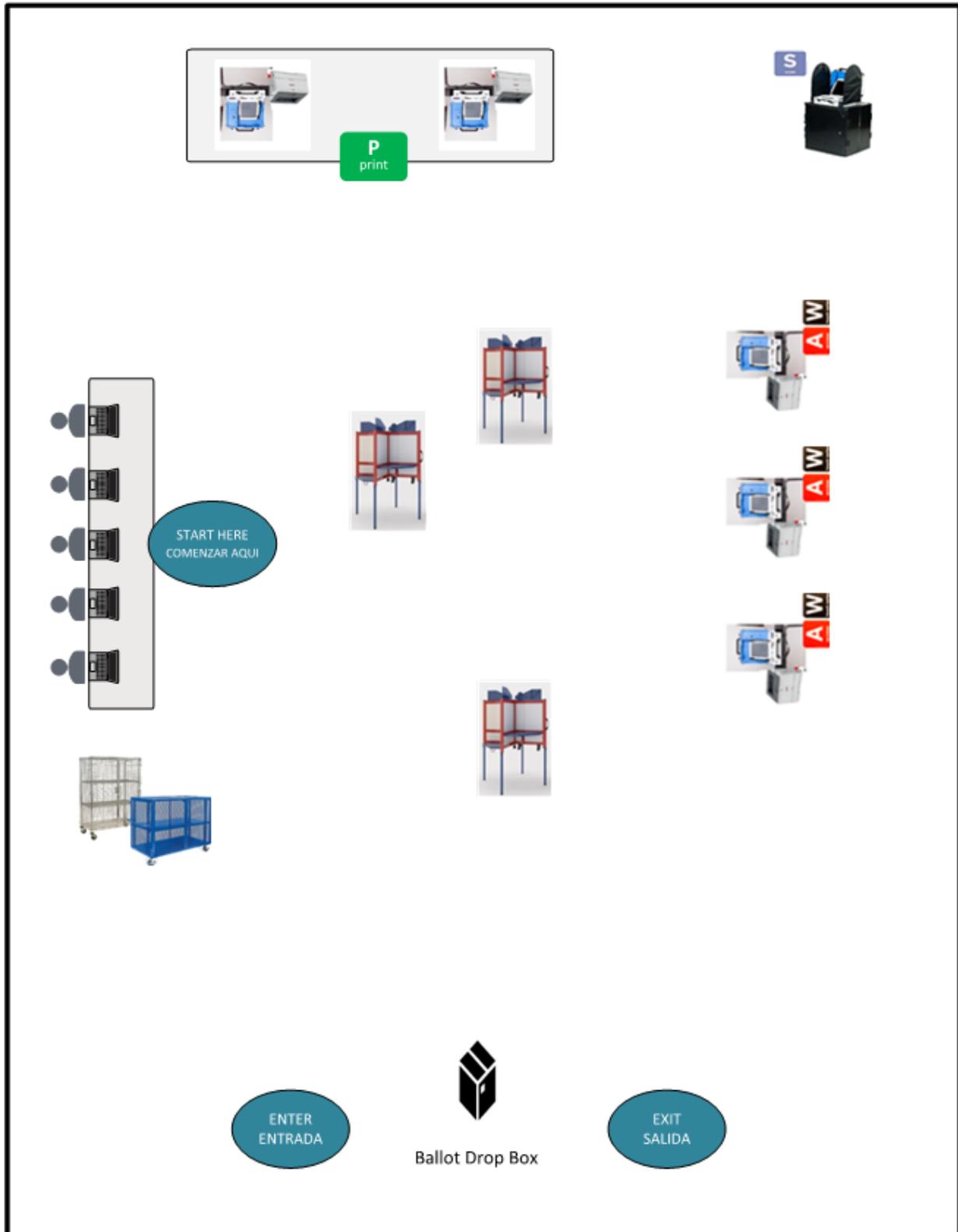
Appendix B

Map of vote center used for the 2021 California Gubernatorial Recall Election



Appendix C

Sample design of Voter Center layout



Appendix E

Estimated Cost and Comparison

Category	Actual Costs w/ polls 2018 Primary Election	Estimated Costs w/ vote centers 2022 Primary Election
Labor		
Election Staff – Full Time & Part Time	\$275,459.27	\$496,608.41
Volunteers	\$64,871.55	\$65,000.00
Training Supplies and Equipment	N/A	\$1,875.00
Printing		
Election & Ballot Set-Up	\$17,962.13	\$6,500.00
Vote by Mail Ballots	\$171,699.16,	\$745,033.00
Precinct Ballots / Vote Center Ballots	\$48,025.80	\$7,272.00
Voter Information Guide	\$155,356.34	\$559,208.00
Envelopes	\$9,816.63	\$52,513.55
Misc. election or voter material (signage, publications forms, etc.)	\$6,945.80	\$9,248.00
Polling place / Vote Center		
Facility rental and custodial fees	\$2,180.00	\$21,500.00
Drayage	\$20,020.00	\$18,000.00
Supplies	\$7,374.14	\$12,500.00
Vehicle Rentals	\$2,383.64	\$8,000.00
Connectivity and Equipment Licensing, etc.	N/A	\$23,500.00
Mailing / Postage	\$183,849.23	\$435,045.00
Security	\$1,339.25	\$1,400.00
Remote Access Vote by Mail	N/A	\$12,450.00
Translation Services	\$9,552.43	\$10,000.00
Outreach	N/A	\$100,000
TOTAL COST	\$976,835.37	\$2,587, 440.96

Election Type	2018 Primary Election # of Voting Locations Required	2022 Primary Election (include estimated growth) # of Voting Locations	2018 Primary Election # of Volunteers	2022 Primary Election # of Volunteers & Staff
Polling Place Model	145 Note: Some polls served as a double or triple polls, serving multiple precincts.	150	594	600
Vote Center Model	23	28	140	300