Commission on State Mandates
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26-LDM-02

November 2, 2026

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RE: Legislatively Determined Mandate
Elections: notice (Assembly Bill 1610; Statutes 2026, Chapter 532)

Dear Director Stephenshaw and Executive Director Gmur:

Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), a statewide association of California's rural counties, hereby requests to initiate a Joint Request for Legislatively Determined Mandate (LDM) pursuant to Government Code section 17573 regarding the above-captioned statute.

The Department of Finance, in its July 13, 2026, bill analysis (attached), opposed this bill because it "potentially creates a state reimbursable mandate [since it] requires higher levels of service from counties, as they would be required to add additional notice requirements concerning mailing and residence addresses from USPS."

By copy of this letter to the Commission on State Mandates, RCRC requests acknowledgement that the statute of limitations to file a test claim is tolled as of the date of this notice pursuant to Government Code section 17573, subdivision (b). While this matter is pending, RCRC or the Department of Finance shall notify the Commission of actions taken as set forth below, in accordance with subdivision (g) of Section 17573:

- Provide the Commission with a copy of any communications regarding development of a joint request under this section and a copy of a joint request when it is submitted to the Legislature.
- Notify the Commission of the date of (A) the Legislature's action on a joint request in the Budget Act, or (B) the Department's decision not to submit a joint request.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, or would like to schedule a meeting to discuss the next steps in the LDM process.

Very truly yours,

TAYLOR W. KAYATTA, Deputy General Counsel
Rural County Representatives of California

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 04/16/2026
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: AB 1610
AUTHOR: Ransom, Rhodesia

BILL SUMMARY: Elections: notice.

This bill modifies the approach county elections officials take to notify voters when United States Postal Service (USPS) change-of-address data indicates their mailing address is different from their residence address.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Secretary of State (SOS) indicates any impacts for this bill are minor and absorbable. Finance concurs.

This bill may create a state-reimbursable mandate because it requires a new program or higher level of service by placing new requirements on county election officials to update voter registration records and notify voters.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill because it potentially creates a state reimbursable mandate.

This bill requires higher levels of service from counties, as they would be required to add additional notice requirements concerning mailing and residence addresses from USPS.

Specifically, this bill:

- Requires elections officials to update a voter's registration record with their new mailing address and forward it to said address, if a new mailing address is made available via existing data.
- Requires elections officials to notify a voter's residence and remove their invalid mailing address from record, if a new mailing address is not identified.
- Requires elections officials to provide a notice to a voter's mailing address on their registration record, if a new mailing address is not identified and a voter cannot receive mail at their residence.

SOS notes minimal operational impacts from this bill. This bill does not require changes to the VoteCal system, additional personnel, or new technology resources. However, SOS indicates county election management systems will need to distinguish between residence address changes and mailing address changes when processing National Change of Address information and issue the appropriate voter notification.

Analyst/Principal (243) Romine, Jessie	Date	Program Budget Manager Jarvis, Amy	Date
Department Deputy Director			Date
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved Position Disapproved

COMMENTS (continued)

Existing law establishes standards for county elections officials to verify voter residency. Existing law requires county elections officials to change a voter's registration to inactive and provide notice to them, if a postcard is deemed undeliverable with no forwarding address or if a voter has moved with no forwarding address.

According to the author's office, this bill will provide clarity for elections officials and ensure voters' registration status is protected by receiving the necessary materials at the right address.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO LA CO RV	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year) (Dollars in Thousands) PROP 98	FC	2026-2027	FC	2027-2028	FC	2028-2029	Fund Code
0890/Secty State	LA	No		----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----					0001
8885/Comm St Mndt	LA	No		0		0		0	0001

DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY EMAIL

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

I am a resident of the County of Sacramento and I am over the age of 18 years, and not a party to the within action. My place of employment is 980 Ninth Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, California 95814.

On November 9, 2026, I served the:

- **Current Mailing List dated November 5, 2026**
- **Notice of Receipt of Letter of Intent to Initiate a Joint Request for a Legislatively Determined Mandate and Tolling of the Statute of Limitations issued November 9, 2026**
- **Letter of Intent to Initiate a Joint Request for a Legislatively Determined Mandate filed by the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) on November 2, 2026**

  Elections: Notice, 26-LDM-02
  Statutes 2026, Chapter 532 (AB 1610)
  Rural County Representatives of California, Requester

by making it available on the Commission's website and providing notice of how to locate it to the email addresses provided on the attached mailing list.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on November 9, 2026 at Sacramento, California.

Jill Magee

Jill Magee
Commission on State Mandates
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COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES

Mailing List

Last Updated: 11/5/26

Claim Number: 26-LDM-02

Matter: Elections: Notice

Requester: Rural County Representatives of California

TO ALL PARTIES, INTERESTED PARTIES, AND INTERESTED PERSONS:

Each commission mailing list is continuously updated as requests are received to include or remove any party or person on the mailing list. A current mailing list is provided with commission correspondence, and a copy of the current mailing list is available upon request at any time. Except as provided otherwise by commission rule, when a party or interested party files any written material with the commission concerning a claim, it shall simultaneously serve a copy of the written material on the parties and interested parties to the claim identified on the mailing list provided by the commission. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1181.3.)

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