



Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

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Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder County Clerk Statement in response to Secretary of State

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean Logan issued the following statement:

“Secretary of State Alex Padilla issued a statement today criticizing election administration in Los Angeles County and calling on the County to send a vote by mail ballot to every voter for the November election. A similar proposal by State Senator Ben Allen was released this morning on social media.

There is no question that many voters faced long wait times and challenges in voting in Los Angeles County on Tuesday. My office acknowledged those issues in addressing the media and voters on Election Night and immediately began evaluating the cause and impact on the voting experience in Los Angeles County.

In our ongoing commitment to improving the elections process and addressing deficiencies, I will include in my report on the election to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors analysis specifically addressing the recommendation to mail a vote by mail ballot to every voter in November. In doing so, it is important to note that a broader evaluation and assessment of resources and capacity specific to Los Angeles County is needed. Among the considerations:

- A proposal to mail ballots to an estimated additional 2 million voters who have not previously voted by or requested a vote by mail ballot must include an evaluation of the costs, contractual authority, capacity and reliability of the providers and systems needed to meet legally required timelines for vote by mail, sample ballots and other required election notices;
- The allocation, location and resourcing of Vote Centers must be addressed. As evidenced by Tuesday’s voter participation, a significant number of voters in Los Angeles County still seek an in-person voting option – including many who did also receive a vote by mail ballot;
- Expansion of vote by mail provides ease of access to existing registered voters but does not address the needs and access to demographics in Los Angeles County who relied upon previously unavailable provisions allowing same day voter registration and voting at all locations. If a voter is not yet registered to vote, they will not benefit from the vote by mail model.

- Activity and engagement on college campuses, among the unhoused in our communities and among limited English-speaking voters cannot be adequately addressed solely through an expanded vote by mail model and these demographics could be negatively impacted by a shift away from or decreased emphasis on in-person voting options.

The logistics and capacity for election administration in Los Angeles County are complex and demanding. Significant efforts were made – and must be made going forward – to ensure greater access, functionality and reliability in the voting model. Expansion of vote by mail should be explored to determine its viability in the short timeframe ahead of the November election, but more is required.

The ten-day early voting period and the ability for voters to vote at any location in the County proved beneficial and desirable for many voters. New accessibility and language features, as well as the interactive sample ballot, were highlighted by voters as positive improvements to the process. We need to increase voter awareness of these new features.

Tuesday’s primary provides a wealth of data that did not exist prior to the election. It is incumbent upon us to evaluate and use that data in developing holistic solutions that address the complexity and diversity of our electorate. That process must be deliberative, collaborative and cautious of shifts that otherwise may not fully address the root causes that led to long lines and wait times for voting on Tuesday.”

The mission of the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk is to serve Los Angeles County by providing essential records management and election services in a fair, accessible and transparent manner. For more information, visit lavote.net and follow us on Twitter [@LACountyRRCC](https://twitter.com/LACountyRRCC).

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