



August 9, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Olivia Hale, Registrar of Voters  
**SUBJECT:** Deferred Recommendation on the Voter's Choice Act

Dear Board Members,

The Registrar of Voters (ROV) requires additional time before returning to the Board of Supervisors (Board) with a recommendation on the Voter's Choice Act (VCA).

On February 28, 2023, the ROV previously recommended that the Board approve a resolution implementing the VCA for San Joaquin County elections. After receiving the presentation, the Board directed the ROV to return in six months with additional quantitative data on the potential impact of the VCA. Each VCA county is required to post the cost of the elections that are conducted under the VCA model. While in attendance at the annual California Association of Clerks and Elected Officials summer conference, VCA counties shared new data related to the additional costs of conducting VCA model elections. Now that more 2022 data is becoming available, I want to look at this new information in depth prior to returning to the Board. Our analysis will also include a comprehensive cost study to understand the actual financial impact of the VCA on counties that have adopted it. Simultaneously, we're analyzing a possible alternative that may provide some of the services inherent to the VCA while maintaining the structure of the traditional polling place model.

Further, the Board has directed the Election Advisory Committee (EAC) to make a recommendation on whether or not the VCA should be adopted. As of this writing, the EAC has not produced a recommendation that can be shared with the ROV or the Board.

In April 2024, the ROV will return to the Board with a recommendation on whether or not the VCA model best suits San Joaquin County. This deferral will give our office time to complete the necessary cost analysis and fully evaluate the possible voting models. The additional time will also allow the EAC to make their recommendation on the VCA. We look forward to discussing these matters in further detail in April 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Olivia Hale".

Olivia Hale  
Registrar of Voters  
San Joaquin County