

## Election Advisory Committee - Written public comments received for Meeting 3/13/2025

I'm a long time San Joaquin County voter and I want to compliment you on the safe smooth election process in my county.

I like vote by mail

I like drop boxes

I love getting a notification that my ballot has been accepted.

Occasionally I vote in person, but not often.

I would like an option for early voting other than the Stockton office, but realistically I understand why there aren't other options.

Please do not institute any barriers to voting that are becoming the norm in disenfranchising voters that one party or the other feels are not in their interest to hear from.

I would like to see higher voter participation in our area. I would be in favor of any plans that increase voter turnout.

Thank you

Denece Vincent

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Vote NO on Voter ID. We presented our ID when we registered to vote. Voter ID has been used to restrict voters from voting.

Patricia Williams

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To the San Joaquin County Registrar of Voters and the County Board of Supervisors

I stand with the League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County (LWVSJC) in opposing unnecessary voting restrictions that could disenfranchise voters and disrupt secure election processes. California already has strong voter ID verification, signature checks, and voter roll maintenance, ensuring fair elections. Experts agree that voter fraud is exceedingly rare, making additional regulations unwarranted.

Stricter voter ID laws disproportionately affect marginalized groups. Studies show that nearly 21 million U.S. citizens lack a non-expired driver's license, with Black and Hispanic communities being most impacted. The elderly, disabled individuals, students, and people who have changed their names face additional burdens in obtaining valid IDs. The process of securing identification is often costly and time-consuming, functioning as a poll tax that discourages voter participation.

Requiring documentary proof of citizenship to vote creates unnecessary barriers. California already verifies citizenship through attestation under penalty of perjury. Over 21 million voting-age citizens lack easy access to birth certificates, passports, or other official documentation. Federal law only requires attestation of citizenship for voter registration, and the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that states cannot mandate additional proof for federal elections.

Mandating large-scale voter roll audits without clear guidelines risks disenfranchising eligible voters. External audits could lead to inconsistent standards and improper purging of voter rolls. Signature verification rules must be applied fairly to ensure ballots are not rejected without cause.

Imposing strict deadlines for ballot counting is unrealistic, especially in large counties where millions of ballots must be processed. Ensuring proper verification and tabulation takes time, and rushing the process increases the risk of errors. California law allows ballots postmarked by Election Day to be counted if received within seven days, a safeguard that ensures all valid votes are counted.

Restrictive voting laws disproportionately affect marginalized communities and introduce chaos into elections. LWVSJC advocates for voter protections, fair election processes, and the rejection of policies that create unnecessary barriers to participation.

Jane Wagner-Tyack

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The League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County(LWVSJC) opposes unnecessary voting restrictions that could disenfranchise voters and disrupt secure election processes. California already has strong voter ID verification, signature checks, and voter roll maintenance, ensuring fair elections. Experts agree that voter fraud is exceedingly rare, making additional regulations unwarranted.

#### Voter ID Requirements

Stricter voter ID laws disproportionately affect marginalized groups. Studies show that nearly 21 million U.S. citizens lack a non-expired driver's license, with Black and Hispanic communities being most impacted. The elderly, disabled individuals, students, and people who have changed their names face additional burdens in obtaining valid IDs. The process of securing identification is often costly and time-consuming, functioning as a poll tax that discourages voter participation.

#### Proof of Citizenship

Requiring documentary proof of citizenship to vote creates unnecessary barriers. California already verifies citizenship through attestation under penalty of perjury. Over 21 million voting-age citizens lack easy access to birth certificates, passports, or other official documentation. Federal law only requires attestation of citizenship for voter registration, and the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that states cannot mandate additional proof for federal elections.

#### Voter Roll Audits & Ballot Counting

Mandating large-scale voter roll audits without clear guidelines risks disenfranchising eligible voters. External audits could lead to inconsistent standards and improper purging of voter rolls. Signature verification rules must be applied fairly to ensure ballots are not rejected without cause.

Imposing strict deadlines for ballot counting is unrealistic, especially in large counties where millions of ballots must be processed. Ensuring proper verification and tabulation takes time, and rushing the process increases the risk of errors. California law allows ballots postmarked by Election Day to be counted if received within seven days, a safeguard that ensures all valid votes are counted.

#### Conclusion

Restrictive voting laws disproportionately affect marginalized communities and introduce chaos into elections. LWVSJC advocates for voter protections, fair election processes, and the rejection of policies that create unnecessary barriers to participation.

Pauline Almaas

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Any changes to the voting regulations now in place that would make it more difficult for SJC citizens to vote is unacceptable. The Registrar of Voters has done an excellent job in making our elections honest and accessible. The staff has plenty of time to review ballots. Polling stations are well manned. Drop boxes are well positioned and monitored. Any changes that would hinder the voter is **unamerican and undemocratic**. I oppose any regulations that would make voting for all citizens, i.e. seniors, students, shift workers, commuters, etc. more difficult.

Pat Howell

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To Whom it may Concern:

I object to limiting access to voting through voter suppression measures including limiting mail-in voting, limiting or eliminating voter drop boxes. We as Citizens of the United States should have access to vote including access through mail in voting and access to voter drop boxes, and be encouraged to vote, not discouraged to vote.

Respectfully,  
Linda Rush

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To: Olivia Hale, Registrar and Election Advisory Committee  
From: Beatrice Lingenfelter, Manteca, CA

I am very concerned about the recent voter suppression actions considered by the Board of Supervisors and are under discussion by the EAC. I believe the words "voter suppression" are not too extreme to be used in the efforts to diminish the rights of access to voting that are being proposed.

Voter ID laws discriminate the most against the elderly, low-income and voters of color. These voters would have the most difficulty accessing government-issued IDs due to costs for documents and potential travel expenses to access documents. A 2006 Brennan Center survey found that 21 million voting age U.S. citizens did not have a government issued ID and in that demographic 15% earned less than \$35,000, 18% were 65 or older and 25% were African American.

There is no evidence that voter ID laws prevent fraud in voting. Over and over again in the courts and in studies, there is evidence that sound and safe measures are in place in our voting systems across the nation to detect and punish very rare fraud in all voting. Voter ID laws erect barriers to voters rather than prevent fraud.

In states where voter ID is in place such as Texas or Wisconsin, ID documents can be manipulated to reduce specific demographics in the population from voting. In Texas for example a concealed gun permit can be used as voter ID but a student ID from a college or university may not be used. In Wisconsin there was a prohibition on the use of a Veterans Affairs ID card, but the law did allow an active duty military ID card to be used. These laws brought confusion and disengagement from the election process.

Voter ID is a dangerous effort which will result in disenfranchising legal voting citizens due to unneeded barriers to the polls.

In addition, removing Election Day registration is another way to reduce access to voters. I recommend that our Registrar do an analysis of Election Day registrations for the 2024 Primary and General Election and the future 2026 election to determine how much this access is used. I also recommend our EAC and Board of Supervisors ask the Secretary of State to reword and clarify the wording regarding the deadline to register which would indicate where and when Election Day registration may be completed and clarify the 14 day deadline statement.

I believe the delays in California certification of elections is not due to Election Day registration but because our State Registrars require very methodical and exacting verification of all ballots. Their diligence is to be applauded. Slow certification of results is the price we are happy to pay for upholding free and fair elections.

Thank you for considering my comments in your decisions. Beatrice Lingenfelter

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I am shocked that the Bd. of Supervisors of San Joaquin County would send a letter to Gov. Newsome to require ID to vote. I have been voting for 61 years, and there has never been a problem. Mail in voting has been successful, along with drop boxes.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Williams

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Hello,

I'm an American citizen, writing to protest Rep. Steve Ding's renewed attempt to suppress votes by restricting vote-by-mail, and removing ballot drop boxes.

I'm a senior citizen. Two-thirds of my spinal column has been replaced with metal. I have anchors in three joints, the end results of TWENTY THREE surgeries.

I paid taxes for decades, and to be denied my basic citizen rights by a known racist is an utter disgrace. This is ableist behavior at its worst.

Reject this motion!

Thank you,  
Wende Berry

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Hello,

I see that a letter dated Feb 13, 2025 has been sent to Governor Newsom signed by Supervisor Paul Canepa requesting among other items the elimination of same day voter registration in California elections and to support a California voter identification requirement for residents to receive and cast any ballot.

I am diametrically opposed to the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors' request and support to eliminate same day voter registration to the voter identification requirement for several reasons.

I have worked as an election clerk in the last two San Joaquin County elections. Having completed the required trainings both online and in person and hence deploying the knowledge during service at the last two elections (as you know, 12 hour days of set up, opening the polls, breakdown and finally driving the ballot boxes and designated equipment to the appointed location) I can confidently say that it is only a rare few that request explanation for why an ID is not required at the time of check in to receive their ballot. And it is those same individuals that express their personal political views which is not allowed and in fact illegal at the polling location and the 100 feet perimeter outside the polling area. Also, election clerks are not trained nor should they be to verify if the acceptable form of ID is valid. This would also cause increased confusion and frustration for the election clerks who are already protecting the process with their hard work and dedication.

Same day voting registration does not contribute to a significant portion of the ballots that are cast on election day at the polling location. Further, it seems most of the individuals who register on the election day are first time voters such as newly eligible voters i.e. having just turned 18 years of age. This is an important opportunity to participate and frankly, there seem to be very few of these registrations. To eliminate same day voting is to

suppress access to voting. San Joaquin County must encourage participation in elections. This move is counter productive to protecting voter accessibility and participation and it discourages San Joaquin County's youth and the underserved to get involved in their community.

Thank you for allowing me to express my views.

Sincerely,  
Yvette Remlinger

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It has come to my attention that this committee is considering thi measure for Voter Suppression. Paul Canepa's letter to the Govenor is appaling. We must not do this is San Joaquin County where we value diversity. Dr. MaryAnn Cox

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County Registrar:

The proposed voter restrictions are drastic changes that need more resident and registered voter input. This kind of legislation should not be on the Consent Agenda with no public comment and no serious public discussion by elected officials.

We have worked the polls for several years. We have never witnessed or experienced any problems.

These changes should not be considered as one motion. We agree that same day registration might be considered for changes, but not without public input and serious consideration.

Voting by mail is essential for so many voters in our county, no matter their party, as are plenty of secure drop boxes. We cannot prohibit people with health/mobility issues or work responsibilities from being able to easily cast their ballot.

These motions do not respect the hard-working, faithful citizens of our San Joaquin County. Our access to the ballot box is one of our most sacred freedoms. To our democracy's peril, those freedoms are swiftly eroding around the country before our very eyes without opportunity for citizen input.

Sincerely,  
Cheryl L. Hunt

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County Registrar of Voters:

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Sincerely,  
William D. Hunt

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As a resident of SJ County, I am strongly opposed to restricting or limiting voter access. Mail in ballots are vital to participation for many working, disabled, elderly, and just plain ordinary citizens! Our supervisors should be doing everything possible to encourage residents of SJ County to participate and VOTE.

Amy Lovett Cooper

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Registrar of Voters:

I was very surprised and disheartened to learn of proposed voter restrictions being considered by the Election Advisory Committee. The proposed voter restrictions are drastic changes that, quite frankly, I am at a loss to understand the need/origin of such changes..

I have worked the polls for several years in different parts of the County. I have never witnessed or experienced any problems during primaries or General Elections that these changes would address. Nor have I read that our county has experienced widespread voting fraud.

Requiring in person voting would swamp our polling places and necessitate the creation of many more polling locations to accommodate the additional in person voters. It would also discourage persons from voting because of long lines and delays, and those who commute and work outside the county. Not to mention the disenfranchisement of those who are ill or unable to secure transportation to the polls.

This "solution in search of a problem" is ill conceived and should be rejected.

Sincerely,  
Craig Holmes

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It appears San Joaquin County Supervisors continue to make attempts to impede voting rights and delay election results, and in a very partisan and discriminatory way.

Drop boxes are a way to make voting convenient to the community. They also aid the county election offices in more quickly and accurately tabulate ballots. In Lodi, the four previously "conveniently located" drop-boxes already had dwindled down to a single box, located at the far edge of town in a usually deserted and remote location, definitely not convenient to senior citizens or central to local neighborhoods.

There is absolutely no empirical data to support the county's aversion toward the use of election drop-off boxes. In fact, studies show that Ballot Drop Boxes is a highly secure method of voting and increases voter turnout. Accordingly, attempts to eliminate them is tantamount to controlling and isolating the population of voters.

As a citizen of this county, I'm offended by the broad assault on voting rights that the Board continues to demonstrate. As such, I will continue to fight for the rights of all voters in San Joaquin County. This includes lobbying my legislators to require the use of staffed and unstaffed ballot boxes, based upon each district's local population data.

Linda M Heisler, Registered Voter

Lodi CA

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Registrar Olivia Hale,

I have attached a letter as my Public Comment to elements of the agenda for tomorrow evening's Election Advisory Committee meeting. Please submit this letter to the committee as public input. Thank you.

Colleen Foster  
San Joaquin County resident