




# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY ELECTIONS DIVISION

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 ContraCostaElections

## FACT SHEET

### Topic: Voter Registration & List Maintenance

#### Voter Registration

##### Eligibility/Validation

- Every applicant must sign under penalty of perjury that they are US citizens, will be 18 years of age at the next election and meet eligibility requirements when registering to vote.
- Falsifying voter registration information is a felony, that is punishable by up to 3 years in prison.
- Voter registration records are validated against the DMV and Social Security Administration databases. If an applicant cannot be validated, they are required to provide identification the first time they vote, as required by state and federal law.

#### List Maintenance

The registered voter list is regularly checked against a number of data sources including records from:

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
- Employment Development Department (EDD)
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)
- Superior Court of California – Contra Costa County
- Contra Costa Health Services

#### VoteCal

VoteCal is the California statewide voter registration database that is required by the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002. It went live in 2016.

- VoteCal essentially links up all 58 counties voter lists.
- If a voter moves from one county to another in California, their voter registration is updated via VoteCal.
- VoteCal assists in detecting duplicate voter records across the state such that a voter is only registered once in California.
- VoteCal helps prevent voting more than once in an election across the state, whether it be Vote By Mail, In Person, Provisional, or Conditional Voter Registration Provisional Voting.

#### In Depth List Maintenance

- Voter-to-Voter Duplicate Matches: VoteCal automatically runs voter-to-voter duplicate checks on new registrations and updates to existing voter registrations. If VoteCal determines an exact match, the records are merged by VoteCal. For matches that VoteCal cannot match exactly, but that may be matching records, VoteCal sends potential matches to the county for final determination.
- CDCR: regularly sends new and updated felon information to the Secretary of State (SOS) registration database. VoteCal then automatically sends potential voter-to-felon matches to the county. The counties make the final determination on

the match and confirm or deny the match. Voters with the confirmed matches are then cancelled and sent a notification. Voter records are also checked for felons at district and superior courts as well.

- EDD: The EDD National Change of Address (NCOA) match is considered “third party notification.” SOS provides its full voter registration database to the EDD on a monthly basis to run through their NCOA database. In return EDD marks the voters that may have moved and provides the SOS a file of matches. EDD is the sole licensed provider of the NCOA database for the State. SOS staff runs the returned files from EDD through VoteCal which then sends potential matches to the counties for final determination.
- DMV Change of Address (COA): SOS receives daily COA notifications from the DMV about change of addresses made at DMV. VoteCal identifies potential voter move matches and sends to the counties for final determination.

## **Death Records**

- The SOS works with the CDPH which is the state agency responsible for death records in the state. CDPH provides to the SOS information from death records of decedents 16 years of age or older of those that have died in California as well as those California residents that died out of state. The SOS maintains a master list of deceased that represents all death records available from CDPH, which includes all deaths records from 1970 to present.
- In an ongoing process, VoteCal:
  - Compares new death records from CDPH against all voters in VoteCal weekly (to see if any existing voters died).
  - Compares any voter record that is newly added or updated against the entire master list of deceased (to see if the voter being added or updated is already dead).

- VoteCal then automatically sends potential voter-to-deceased matches to the county. The counties make the final determination on the match and confirm or deny the match. Voters with the confirmed matches are then cancelled.
- Voter records are also checked against local Contra Costa Health Service’s death records on a regular basis.

## **Inactive Voters and Voter Cancellation**

A voter is made inactive when a county receives a third party notification, for example, a returned piece of mail, that indicates the voter may no longer reside at the address provided. The inactive voter is mailed a forwardable address confirmation notification. Inactive voters are not mailed election materials, including Vote by Mail ballots. If a voter remains inactive for a period of two federal elections, they are cancelled.

The County will cancel a voter’s registration upon the written request from the voter.