



Alameda County Elections Commission

Meeting Agenda

March 19, 2026 4:00 p.m. 1225 Fallon Street, Room G1
Oakland CA 94612
Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84951268590>

Teleconference Location: City Hall, 34009 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City, CA 94587 and 39153 Curlew Reach, Sea Ranch. Pursuant to Government Code section 54953(b), this notice and agenda will be posted, and members of the public may attend and provide public comment at the teleconference location.

1 Call To Order / Roll Call

2 Swearing In of New Commissioners – none

3 Agenda Changes

4 Approval of Minutes of February 2026 – Postponed to April Meeting

5 Announcements and Communications on non-agenda items

No discussion on these items.

a. From staff

b. From commissioners

Henderson – Closed captioning of meeting videos

Dieter – Civics, voting literacy game - <https://playverifyit.org/>

6 Public Comment on Agenda Items

If there are 5 or less commenters, they will have up to 3 minutes each. More than 5 commenters will be limited to 2 minutes each. More than 15 people will be limited to one minute each. We encourage and appreciate written comments to be emailed to the commission at eoc@acgov.org.

7 Monthly Update from Registrar of Voters Office

See Attachment Pg.3-5

8 Regular Agenda Items

8-A **Ad Hoc Committee Reports** - Temporary and task-specific committees were formed to address particular issues. *The point person for each committee has an asterisk by their name.*

8-A(1) **November 2025 Post-election Assessment** (Butter, * Wagner, and Pham) – Action Item

[Carried over from February meeting] At the November 2025 meeting, the commission conducted a post-election assessment in collaboration with the ROV to highlight what worked well and to identify issues in need of improvement. This committee drafted a written assessment for the commission's consideration and approval to send the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

See Attachment Pg.6-9

8-A(2) Voting Participation (Seabrook,* Moore, Whitehurst, Lindsay, Hernandez) – Discussion Only

This committee is looking into how the ROV can increase voter participation for populations that have a low voting rate.

8-A(3) Youth Participation (Varlack,* Whitehurst, Butter) – Discussion Only

This committee is working to support efforts to strengthen youth civic engagement regarding elections, and to coordinate with the Registrar of Voters on outreach and program development.

8-A(4) Budgeting for Elections (Wagner,* Pham, Lindsay) – Discussion Only

This committee is working with the ROV office to produce a written fee schedule that clearly defines exactly how jurisdictions will be charged with an explanation of those charges, including RCV, Youth Voting, and the reallocation of five or more ballot measures, for the 2026 elections.

8-B Brown Act update – Discussion Only

The Elections Commission is subject to California's Brown Act and therefore must conduct its deliberations, actions, and discussions in open, public meetings. In January 2026, the Brown Act was amended. The commission will receive a briefing about the general purpose of the Act and how some provisions, particularly remote-participation and quorum controls, impact the work of commissioners. (See Gov. Code, § 54954, subd. (b).) A video generally explaining the Act is at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_4copyoRCg&t=31s .

9 -- Special Report from the ROV – Discussion Only

Review some of the new laws that will impact the ROV in 2026.

See Attachment Pg.10-11

10 -- Public Comment on Agenda or Non-Agenda Items (15 minutes)

The 15 minutes here is a fixed allocation of time and will be divided equally among all who wish to comment, with a maximum of 3 minutes per person. If your comments are complex or if you didn't have enough time, we always appreciate it if you send your input to the Elections Commission at eoc@acgov.org.

11 -- Adjournment (by 6:30 p.m. if viable)

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 16, at 1225 Fallon Street, Room G1, Oakland.

If you would like to receive email notifications for upcoming agenda postings, please send an email to https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAALAME/subscriber/new?topic_id=CAALAME_467

ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING – MARCH 18, 2026

Agenda Item #7 – Registrar of Voters Monthly Report

1. Community Outreach: Calendar of Events – January 2026 – April 2026

Date:	Event Name:	Event Type	Location:	Voting Community
1/2/2026	Oakland Public Library - Eastmont Branch	Registration Drive	7200 Bancroft Ave Ste 211, Oakland, CA 94605	All
2/26/2026	Eden Youth & Family Center	Registration Drive	680 W Tennyson Rd, Hayward, CA 94544	All
3/5/2026	East Oakland Collective	Registration Drive	7800 MacArthur Blvd, Oakland, CA 94605	All
3/12/2026	Eden Youth & Family Center	Registration Drive		Underserved/ Restored
3/24/2026	South Hayward Parish	Registration Drive		Underserved/ Restored
3/26/2026	South Hayward Parish	Registration Drive		Underserved/ Restored
1/5/2026	Emeryville Senior Center	Registration Drive	4321 Salem St, Emeryville, CA 94608	Disability
1/23/2026	Community Resources for Independent Living Ed Roberts Day	Festival	439 A Street, Hayward, CA 94541	Disability
2/10/2026	La Vereda Senior Apartments	Registration Drive	525 W Juana Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577	Disability
2/13/2026	La Vereda Senior Apartments	Registration Drive	525 W Juana Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577	Disability
2/18/2026	Ralph & Mary Ruggieri Senior Center	Registration Drive	33997 Alvarado Niles Rd, Union City, CA 94587	Disability
2/24/2026	Ralph & Mary Ruggieri Senior Center	Registration Drive	33997 Alvarado Niles Rd, Union City, CA 94587	Disability
2/25/2026	Center for Independent Living - Ed Roberts Campus	Registration Drive	3075 Adeline St, Berkeley, CA 94703	Disability
3/2/2026	Emeryville Senior Center	Registration Drive	4321 Salem St, Emeryville, CA 94608	Disability

3/11/2026	Center for Independent Living - Ed Roberts Campus	Registration Drive	3075 Adeline St, Berkeley, CA 94703	Disability
1/26/2026	Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation	Registration Drive	1470 Fruitvale Ave, Oakland, CA 94601	Multilingual/Multicultural
1/29/2026	Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation	Registration Drive	1470 Fruitvale Ave, Oakland, CA 94601	Multilingual/Multicultural
1/31/2026	34th Annual Oakland Chinatown Lunar New Year Bazaar	Festival	388 9th Street, Suite 259, Oakland, CA 94607	Multilingual/Multicultural
2/1/2026	34th Annual Oakland Chinatown Lunar New Year Bazaar	Festival	388 9th Street, Suite 259, Oakland, CA 94607	Multilingual/Multicultural
2/9/2026	East Bay Community Law Center	Registration Drive	2921 Adeline St, Berkeley, CA 94703	Multilingual/Multicultural
2/11/2026	East Bay Community Law Center	Registration Drive	2921 Adeline St, Berkeley, CA 94703	Multilingual/Multicultural
2/15/2026	Oakland Little Saigon Lunar New Year Têt Festival	Festival	655 International Blvd, Oakland, CA 94606	Multilingual/Multicultural
2/19/2026	Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry	Registration Drive	150 N L St, Livermore, CA 94550	Multilingual/Multicultural
2/23/2026	Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry	Registration Drive	150 N L St, Livermore, CA 94550	Multilingual/Multicultural
2/27/2026	Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation	Registration Drive	1470 Fruitvale Ave, Oakland, CA 94601	Multilingual/Multicultural
2/28/2026	Oakland Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade	Festival	810 Jackson St, Oakland, CA 94607	Multilingual/Multicultural
3/3/2026	Centerville Community Library	Registration Drive	3801 Nicolet Ave, Fremont, CA 94536	Multilingual/Multicultural
3/4/2026	Oakland Public Library - Martin Luther King Jr.	Registration Drive	6833 International Blvd, Oakland, CA 94621	Multilingual/Multicultural
3/5/2026	East Oakland Collective	Registration Drive	7800 MacArthur Blvd, Oakland, CA 94605	Multilingual/Multicultural
3/20/2026	Al-Madena Education Center (Masjid)	Registration Drive		Multilingual/Multicultural
3/21/2026	Culture Fest 26	Registration Drive		Multilingual/Multicultural
4/13/2026	San Leandro High School	HSVEW		Youth
4/14/2026	James Logan High School	HSVEW		Youth

4/15/2026	Berkeley High School	HSVEW		Youth
4/16/2026	Fremont High School (OUSD)	HSVEW		Youth
4/17/2026	Oakland High School	HSVEW		Youth
4/18/2026	Hayward High School	HSVEW		Youth
4/18/2026	Piedmont High School	HSVEW		Youth
4/19/2026	Dublin Valley High School	HSVEW		Youth
4/20/2026	Alameda High School	HSVEW		Youth

DRAFT – January 9, 2026

To: Alameda County Board of Supervisors
From: Alameda County Elections Commission
Date: Submitted on

November 4, 2025 Post-election Assessment

OVERVIEW

The November 4th special election in Alameda County proceeded smoothly, with notable improvements. This report summarizes observations, improvements, and ongoing concerns discussed during the November 2025 Election Commission meeting.

NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS

- Formal encouragement to vote early – via mailers, billboards, etc.- and the County set up a billboard thanking those who voted.
- Explanation of activities at ROV observation points during ballot counting
- Publicity from the ROV office and statewide about the Proposition on the ballot resulted in a high voter turnout of 50% (compared to 40% in past races.)
- Website User Interface: Unprocessed ballot status is readily available on the ROV website without going to the SOS website.
- Cast Vote Record data is now routinely available along with election results
- A review of local newspapers found no reports of major problems.

POTENTIAL PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

- Implementation of Poll Pads was delayed due to the November election but is expected in 2026.

ROV Response

The Registrar of Voters is currently working to develop procedures for allowing voters to vote their vote by mail ballot, without the identification envelope, in person, as permitted under Elections Code § 3016.5. The ROV hopes to finalize and implement those procedures by the November 2026 election.

- There is no set schedule for observing ballot processing, so voters must regularly check the website for updates. For instance, announcements state: “An election process will be conducted today. For ongoing updates check the website where all election processes will be posted.” This makes it difficult for observers to know which stages of ballot processing will occur if they want to witness a specific part.

ROV Response

The notifications the ROV currently provides to the public for observation already exceed all applicable legal requirements. At least 48 hours before it starts processing ballots, the ROV posts notices on its website to inform the public when and where ballot processing activities will occur and how members of the public can observe those activities in person. That, with nothing more, satisfies the ROV’s notice requirements. *Election Integrity Project Cal., Inc. v. Lunn*, 108 Cal. App. 5th 443, 449 (2025). Indeed, in *Pechenuk v. Dupuis et al.*, Alameda County Superior Court Case No. 24CV096386, the Court rejected a legal challenge to our notice procedures and confirmed that they comply with the law.

The ROV also already goes beyond those legal requirements. First, the ROV website’s observer page includes hyperlinks that allow members of the public to observe ballot processing activities online. The law does **not** require the ROV to livestream election processes online.

The ROV also allows members of the public to register for email or text message updates on days when the ROV will engage in election processes. Those supplemental notices include a hyperlink that recipients can use to directly access the ROV website’s observer page, which includes information about observing in person and hyperlinks to observe any ongoing election activities online. The ROV began offering these supplemental notices at the Elections Commission’s recommendation—the language quoted in the report’s bullet point above comes from such a supplemental notice. Like the livestream feed, the law does **not** require the ROV to provide these supplemental notices.

As the ROV has previously discussed with the Elections Commission, as a practical matter, it would be virtually impossible for elections officials to post an itemized, daily or hourly schedule of specific ballot processing activities. In the November 2024 election, for example, the ROV processed approximately 85,000 in-person ballots and nearly 600,000 vote-by-mail ballots. Throughout the canvassing period, the ROV engaged in each of the necessary ballot processing activities, including scanning envelopes, checking signatures, separating ballots from envelopes, and scanning ballots, to name just a few. Those activities are all interrelated, such that the ROV must continually assess which activity or activities are appropriate at a given time based on any number

variables, including the time and volume of ballots delivered by mail, the progress of ballot processing activities that must be completed before others can begin, and staffing and other operational issues.

Once the ROV scans the initial rush of vote-by-mail ballot envelopes, it may not make sense to allocate staff or other resources to scan more envelopes until the ROV receives a sufficient volume of new ballot envelopes in the mail. Similarly, it is often not efficient to allocate resources to scanning ballots for vote-tabulation until enough ballots have moved through the preceding steps of scanning ballot envelopes, verifying the signatures on those envelopes, and separating ballots from the envelopes they were delivered in. Predicting the precise time when it will make operational sense to begin or resume a particular activity is neither realistic nor legally required. *See Election Integrity Project Cal., Inc.*, 108 Cal. App. 5th at 449.

- Many voters were confused about the ballot drop box location near Union City Hall and asked staff for directions. The listed address made the ballot drop box hard to find because it was placed next to the parking lot, which many voters found confusing. Improvements could include adding guidance to location listings, such as comments, photos, or maps showing where the drop box is located.

ROV Response

After Commissioner Pham raised this issue during the November 2025 Elections Commission meeting, the ROV investigated and found that it received **no** voter complaints or questions about the ballot drop box location near Union City Hall. The ballot drop box near Union City Hall has been at the same location for approximately **10 years**, and the ROV has not received complaints or comments suggesting any voter confusion about that location during that time.

More importantly, as discussed during the November 2025 Elections Commission meeting, the ballot drop box was placed in that location based on direction from Union City's City Clerk. Employees of Union City installed the drop box at that location.

If Union City would like to move that ballot drop box, the City Clerk should contact the ROV to discuss potential new locations. The ROV works with cities to ensure drop boxes are placed in locations that meet all necessary requirements, but the ROV cannot install or remove ballot drop boxes from city property without permission or direction from the city. Additionally, based on ROV's discussions with Union City when that ballot drop box was first installed, the ROV understands that, if the drop box is to be moved, Union City requires that its employees move it. If Union City would prefer to keep the ballot drop box in its current location, the City should feel free to add location listings, comments, photos, signage, or maps showing where the drop box is located, as it

deems appropriate. The ROV already provides a photograph of the drop box, a map showing the drop box's location, and access to directions to the drop box (and all ballot drop boxes) on its website. See

https://alamedacountyca.gov/rovapps/maps/balлотdropbox_map.htm.

- A review of online comments found discussion that there was no parking in front of the ballot drop box at Berkeley City Hall or North Berkeley library. It is not clear that any action is warranted, as some locations will inevitably have less or no parking immediately in front of the ballot drop box.

ROV Response

The ROV agrees that some locations will inevitably have less or no parking immediately in front of the ballot drop box. Additionally, the ballot drop boxes have been at the same locations at Berkeley City Hall and the North Berkeley Library for approximately 10 years. The ballot drop boxes were placed at those locations based on direction from the City of Berkeley at the time they were installed. The ROV cannot install or remove ballot drop boxes from city property without permission from the City of Berkeley.

CONCLUSION

The November 4th special election demonstrated continued improvements and enhanced transparency.

ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING – March 19, 2026

Agenda Item #9 – Special Report from the ROV

Chaptered Election Bills

AB 1392 – Elections – Voter Registration: elected officials and candidates

- Making the residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on an elected official or candidate’s affidavit of registration confidential.
- Includes federal, state, and local elected officials and candidates.
- Creating new categories of confidential voter status.
- Excluding voters with a “confidential voter status” from any list, roster, or index by the county elections official.
- The elected official and candidates’ information will remain confidential until, for an elected official, the official no longer holds the office, for a candidate, the winning candidate takes office.
- Opportunity to opt-in or opt-out.

SB 398-Elections-Crimes-payment based on voting or voter registration

- Makes it a crime punishable by a fine up to \$10,000.00, imprisonment for up to 3 years, or both, for a person to knowingly or willingly pay or offer to pay money or offer to pay money or other valuable consideration to another person with intent to induce the person to vote or to register to vote, or where the payment is contingent upon whether the person voted or the person’s voter registration status.

AB 287-Elections: polling place and vote centers

- Requires public buildings (including schools) used for polling places or Vote Centers to provide storage space and accessible parking for voters.

AB 1072-Elections: ballot mistakes

- Requires the Secretary of State, in conjunction, with the county election officials, to develop uniform standards and guidelines for voters to correct mistakes on their ballots.

AB 5-Elections: official canvass

- Requires that all ballots be counted by E+13 and that the results of that count be released.
- Exclusions: Ballots requiring Duplication; VBMs forwarded by another county; Provisional Ballots; Ballots in the cure process; CVR/Same-Day registration ballots; Vote by Mail ballots received after E*4.
- A county shall file a notice of extension if not meeting the E+13 deadline.

AB 827-Voting signature verification

- Reduces those deadlines for a regularly scheduled statewide election to no later than 14 calendar days after the election for the elections official to provide notice, and no later than 5 pm 22 calendar days after the election for the voter to verify their signature.
- For an election that is not a regularly scheduled statewide election, the deadline is reduced to 8 calendar days before certification of the election for the elections official to provide notice, and no later than 5 pm 2 calendar days before certification of the election for the voter to verify their signature.
- Permits the elections official to use the vote by mail drop box to receive the form used by the voter to verify their signature.
- Requires the elections official who receives a completed unsigned identification statement that is not timely submitted to compare the signature and, if the signatures compare, add the signature to the voter's registration record for use in future elections.

Linked to AB1392 (Confidential Voters) and SB3 (Cure Process updates).