

TOM UMBERG

SENATOR, 34TH SENATE DISTRICT

SB 29: Universal Vote-By-Mail Ballots for 2021

Updated (February 9, 2020)

SUMMARY

SB 29 requires county election officials to mail a vote by mail ballot to every registered voter and requires county election officials to use a vote by mail ballot tracking system for all elections conducted in 2021.

BACKGROUND/EXISTING LAW

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, California enacted AB 860 (2020) by Assemblymember Berman, which required that all registered voters receive a vote by mail ballot for the November 3, 2020 election. That election saw an 80.67% voter turnout, the highest since 1952.

Additionally, under current existing law, counties have the opportunity to consolidate polling places in order to provide voters with in-person options for casting their ballots.

NEED FOR THE BILL

Both voters and election workers need to be guaranteed a safe environment in order to conduct and participate in elections. This bill will guarantee that all eligible voters living in jurisdictions conducting elections in 2021 will be mailed a vote by mail ballot, allowing voters to return ballots by mail or at official ballot drop boxes. In-person voting options will also remain available. The continued

use of a tracking system will enable voters to confirm their ballots have been delivered.

SUPPORT

- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
- California Labor Federation
- California Teachers Association
- Ignite
- Los Angeles County
- Mi Familia Vota
- Nextgen California
- Orange County Employees Association
- Rural County Representatives of California
- San Diego County

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Aria Ghafari

Phone: (916) 651-4034

Email: aria.ghafari@sen.ca.gov