

From: [David Shechter](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Vote by Mail
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Dear Board of supervisors,

The state and county's vote by mail system undermines election integrity, because this system operates outside of public view and cannot be audited. This in turn undermines public trust in election results. Election results deserve our trust only to the extent that the process giving rise to those results is trustworthy. However, it is not.

The county employs inaccurate, out of date voter rolls as the basis for mass mailing. Consequently, the county injects hundreds of thousands of ballots into communities, and the path by which these ballots travel cannot be observed. There is no way to ensure that ballots do not end up in the wrong hands. For example, my daughter lived with us a short while after college. Her ballot arrived in our house and she did not want to vote. Suppose I had said, "sign here and I'll fill out your ballot." My question, Ms. Asuncion, which is fully rhetorical, is as follows: Had I done thought, how would you have known? How would your staff have known. We know the answer - you'd have patently no way of knowing that.

There are numerous additional examples - departed roommates, deceased family members, former residents - the list goes on. The county has no control over what happens to these ballots. If the only way to vote was in person (with limited exceptions), this would not be an issue - dead people and apathetic citizens do not walk into polling booths. Further, the county has no way of knowing if family members coerce each other to vote a particular way. This is highly different than what happens in the privacy of a voting booth.

Further, the county steers people to return their ballots through methods that similarly operate outside of public view - through US mail or community drop boxes. No one - public citizens or county workers - can comprehensively observe these process, thereby creating opportunities for manipulation.

Finally, I do not want to hear counter-objections that I have no evidence that these problems impact election results. Of course I don't. And neither do you. That is precisely the problem - we don't KNOW the impact of enabling dead or apathetic people to vote, creating opportunities for interpersonal coercion, allowing the possibility of nefarious actions by mail carriers or individuals transporting ballots from community drop boxes, and numerous other problems with a system that operates outside of public view.

Once again, the results of our elections deserve public trust only to the extent that the process giving rise to those results has integrity. The vote by mail system creates diverse opportunities for bad actors to interfere with the process. It thereby nullifies the validity of our elections. I advocate one voting day, a firm 8 PM deadline to be in-line, voter ID, paper ballots, and counting to occur at the precinct level. This will restore Californians' highly damaged trust in our elections.

Respectfully,

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