



# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Treasurer-Tax Collector-County Clerk ·



## **RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-388**

MEETING: July 2, 2019  
TO: The Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Keith Williams, Treasurer/Tax Collector  
RE: Voters Choice Act

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### **RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Approve the County Clerk's Request to Implement the Voter's Choice Act.

California legislation allows Counties the opportunity to adopt the Voter's Choice Act (VCA), California Elections Code sections 4005-4008, in 2020. The VCA authorizes a county to automatically mail every voter a ballot, provide additional secure ballot drop-off boxes throughout the county and to establish regional Voting Assistance Centers, replacing multiple precinct locations.

Attached is an outline from the County Clerk. In addition, in the 2016 Presidential Election vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots were cast at a higher percentage than votes cast in-person at the precincts.

It is anticipated that any additional one-time costs will be offset by savings in polling location costs and ballot printing.

### **BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

The Board has previously acknowledged its desire to conduct elections by all mail-in voting.

### **ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

Do not approve the County Clerk's request and continue conducting elections using polling locations and vote-by-mail requests.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

**EC 4005 (DOCX)**  
**VCA Outline (PDF)**

## Resolution - Action Requested 2019-388

**RESULT:** **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:** Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

**SECONDER:** Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor

**AYES:** Merlin Jones, Marshall Long, Kevin Cann, Miles Menetrey

**EXCUSED:** Rosemarie Smallcombe

Implementation of the Voter's Choice Act (VCA) in Mariposa County, which converts the current elections to all mail elections. This is a new model for Elections Administration which seeks to make participation in democracy easier and more secure for voters while simplifying the election administration in many ways.

1. Reasons behind the change in Mariposa County:

- Increased security of ballots
- Current high levels of voting by mail already present
- Historically higher voter turn out with vote by mail
- Evolving election law allows this change in Mariposa County beginning in 2020
- Alleviates the potential for Election day complications due to adverse weather conditions
- Potential for cost savings for the County

2. Plans for Countywide vote centers:

- Elections office will serve as the primary vote center and will be open and staffed for ten consecutive days prior to and including Election Day
- A vote center on the North side of the County will be open and staffed for four consecutive days prior to and including Election Day
- A vote center in the El Portal area of the County will be open and staffed for two consecutive days prior to and including Election Day
- At any of these centers, a voter will be able to get a replacement ballot, vote electronically, cast a provisional ballot and register to vote

3. Ballot drop off locations:

- There will be one secured drive through ballot drop off box in the County, available for twenty nine days prior to and including Election Day
- Secured drop boxes will be placed Countywide (possibly at all County Library sites), available for twenty nine days prior to and including Election Day.