

## **PLUS 3 (Post Election)**

Current California law states that any vote by mail ballot, including any vote by mail cast by a military or overseas voter, is timely cast if it is received by the voter's elections official via the United States Postal Service or a bona fide private mail delivery company no later than 3 days after election day, and either the ballot is postmarked on or before election day or is time stamped or date stamped by a bona fide private mail delivery company on or before election day or if the ballot has no postmark, a postmark with no date, or an illegible postmark, the vote by mail identification envelope is date stamped by the elections official upon receipt and is signed and dated by the voter on or before election day.

This authorizes any jurisdiction having the necessary computer capability to start processing vote by mail ballots **10 business days** prior to an election.

### **Procedures:**

Ballots received prior to the close of polls on Election Day will be run through an incoming pass on PB, processed and sent to tabulation as received.

On Election Day as the polls close, a VBM team member will go to the US Post Office to pick up any mail received prior to the 8:00pm close of polls. These ballots will be included in the initial count.

On the morning of E+1 a VBM team member will be assigned to go to US Post Office (7:30am) and pick up any mail received after 8:00pm from the previous day. This will continue thru Friday. (E-day +3) On E+3 there will also be a 5:00pm pick up to ensure all ballots have been collected. All Vote by Mail envelopes will be time stamped in our office daily upon receipt and placed in trays to be counted and screened.

**All envelopes will be screened for a postmark.**

### **ILLEGIBLE/NO POSTMARK**

- If there is no postmark or the postmark is illegible, look for a handwritten date below the signature box. (on or before election day is acceptable) Otherwise, the mail ballot envelope will be placed in a "Too Late" tray and set aside for the challenge to be applied.
- Foreign postmarks will count.

## **OUTER ENVELOPES**

- If a (or more than one) mail ballot is received in an outer envelope, a copy will be made of the outer envelope and attached to the mail ballot envelope(s). Each mail ballot envelope will be date stamped in our office upon receipt.

## **INTER-OFFICE**

- Mail ballot envelopes received by inter-office mail will be date stamped upon receipt in our office. Any mail ballot envelope received after Election Day thru inter-office mail **will not** be accepted.

## **NO POSTMARK OR DATE**

- If the mail ballot envelope is received after the three day close and has no postmark and no handwritten date to verify the **ballot was mailed** prior to the close of the polls it will be rejected. A second screen of these envelopes will verify they will not be accepted along with a reason written on the envelope near the date stamp with a supervisor's initials. The mail ballot envelope will be placed in a "Too Late" tray and set aside for the challenge to be applied.