Election Integrity Project®California
EVERY LAWFULLY CAST VOTE ACCURATELY COUNTED

Failures in California's 2018 Midterm Election Demand Serious Investigation

- Thousands of vote-by-mail voters did not receive their ballots
- Voters found their registrations altered without consent
- Unprecedented numbers of provisional ballots were cast
- Unlawful conditional voting
- Dysfunctional system was overwhelmed

Report Summary

For the November 6, 2018 midterm election in California, Election Integrity Project® *California* (EIPCa) deployed poll observers to watch and document the election process in precincts throughout the state. **This report summarizes serious election irregularities** documented by EIPCa observers in eight counties, primarily in southern California.

EIPCa is a citizen-funded nonpartisan election oversight group formed in 2010, deployed trained poll observers to precincts across California on November 6, 2018.

These irregularities expose serious flaws in California's election system, namely:

1) Thousands of vote-by-mail (VBM) voters did not receive their VBM ballots in the mail. These voters came to the polls because they did not receive their VBM ballots, but had none to surrender and were forced to vote provisionally.

2) Hundreds of voters who normally vote at the polls found that their voter registrations had been changed to vote-by-mail without their knowledge or consent. They, too, did not receive VBM ballots and were forced to vote provisionally. Automatic voter registration through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) was the primary cause of the unconsented voter registration changes. Media reports confirm that the DMV program has created over 100,000 inaccurate voter registrations since the program's inception. It appears, however, that many affected voters were not informed of unauthorized changes to their registrations nor were these mistakes corrected prior to Election Day.

3) The Election Day rosters listed some voters as VBM voters, even though their voter registrations still list them as poll voters. Without a VBM ballot to surrender, they, too, were forced to vote provisionally. This is the third serious roster error EIPCa has documented since 2014

4) There was an unprecedented surge in provisional voting due to undelivered VBM ballots. For example, Los Angeles County voters cast about 100,000 provisional ballots in the 2014 midterm. In the 2018 midterm, they cast about 400,000 provisional ballots. The Los Angeles County registrar's office blamed this significant increase on voters who did not have a VBM ballot to surrender. Excessive provisional voting created long lines and voters were seen leaving without voting.

5) Voters were angry and worried that their provisional ballots would not be counted. Due to unprecedented numbers of upset voters observed, EIPCa had to create a new incident category called "Angry/frustrated/worried voter". EIPCa poll observers gathered statements from witnesses who had been negatively impacted by the VBM ballot fiasco. Their stories are included in Appendix B of this report.

6) There have been few mentions from the media and elections officials concerning the VBM ballots not delivered to voters. This is unusual, since EIPCa observers, poll workers and even Registrar clerks were alarmed by the magnitude of the problem. Only one county of the eight summarized in the report admitted that their vendor failed to mail 1,129 late-requested VBM ballots.

7) Some voters may have been disenfranchised due to VBM ballot problems. VBM voters who did not receive a ballot were possibly disenfranchised because they did not have the time or means to visit a polling place. In the county that admitted to a problem with VBM ballot mailing, 646 of the voters who did not receive their VBM ballot did not vote.

8) EIPCa tracked the voting results of 57 provisional voters who signed witness statements. While most had their provisional ballots counted, nine did not have their provisional ballots counted, though they appear to be properly registered. An additional three witnesses were shown to have voted early or by mail, though they claimed in writing that they had not voted and were observed voting provisionally. For eleven witnesses whose provisional ballots were counted, their county's look-up tool showed that VBM ballots were "received and verified" in their names.

9) The undelivered VBM ballots may have been caused by technical errors, like the DMV-caused registration errors and Election Day roster errors that have recently plagued the state's election system.

10) Other Election Day observations appeared suspicious. These included excessive VBM ballots dropped off at the polls, unlawful conditional (same day) voting, what appeared to be "intentional" provisional voting, suspicious poll worker behavior and unprovoked disruptions by voters.

Introduction

In recent years, much effort has been made by California legislators and election officials to provide increased voter registration and ballot "access," with few restrictions, the emphasis being "voter experience" not voter eligibility.

In pursuit of the ultimate voter experience—and in doing so, undermining the integrity of California's election system—legislation has been adopted to include pre-registering children to vote, allowing non-citizens to vote in city elections, allowing mail ballots to arrive after Election Day, rejecting voter ID, removing restrictions on who can handle and return mail ballots, automatic DMV voter registration, same-day registration and voting and, in future, providing all registrants with VBM ballots.

The state's focus on unconstrained registration and ballot "access" to provide "voter experience" has, unfortunately, come at the expense of the reliability of the election system.

This 2-page handout only includes the first two pages of the 20-page report that will show eligible voters were harmed by significant system failings which has casts serious doubt on the integrity of California's elections.

The Full 20-page Report can be found on the EIPCa website:
https://www.eip-ca.com/articles/EIPCa Findings Report re Nov 2018 Election Handout_8.18.2025.pdf