

California State Senate

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SENATOR
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PROTECTION AND ENERGY

September 26, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Veto Request: AB 1249 (Wilson) – Early Voting: Satellite Locations

Dear Governor Newsom,

I respectfully request your veto of Assembly Bill 1249, which would mandate non-Voter's Choice Act (VCA) counties to establish a single early voting location, and no longer require a signature verification process for vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots that are returned to an elections office or satellite location.

California's county elections officials have considerable discretion to ensure that their local elections systems is best for their respective jurisdictions. A number of counties have expressly opted-out of being a VCA county because the requirements simply do not work for their communities. AB 1249 undermines local control by implementing a one-size-fits-all mandate on non-VCA counties and limits their discretion over early voting logistics. With the large amount of geographical diversity and unique logistical challenges that California counties face, it would be inappropriate and counterproductive to require all countries to follow one uniform mandate regarding early voting.

Furthermore, AB 1249 also undermines faith in California's democratic process by repealing one of the last remaining safeguards in California's Vote-by-Mail process. By mandating that counties no longer require signature verification for mail-in ballots that are dropped off at an elections office or satellite location, and no requirement to check for any form of identification, this bill would erode public trust in the legitimacy of our state's elections.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto of AB 1249. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (916) 651-4037.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven S. Choi".

Senator Steven Choi, Ph.D.
37th Senate District