

Relief Measures the State can provide to help counties conduct the June 8 & June 22 Primaries and the Aug. 17 Election

1. Allow the five counties involved in the Senate District 15 Special Vacancy election to conduct the June 22 primary and the August 17 run-off elections by all mail ballot.
2. Provide for full reimbursement of county costs in FY 10/11.
3. If all mail ballot is denied, then allow counties the option to establish vote centers. Specifically we are suggesting that one location serve as the location where several voting precincts will go to vote. Clustering voting precincts into fewer facilities will make best use of the voting equipment, people and facility resources that we will have available on such short notice.

For example, one vote center could possibly have 8 to 10 voting precincts at the one location. Voters would go to their assigned precinct and cast their ballot. Vote-by-mail voters would be able to drop their voted ballot off at any of the vote center locations.

4. Remove the restriction in Section 12241 of consolidating no more than 6 precincts and requiring that the polling place be within the boundaries of the precincts.
5. Reduce the 100 percent manual tally of touchscreen ballots to 10 percent for June 8 election as well as June 22 and August 17. Due to space limitations, staffing challenges, and a limited number of touchscreen printers counties would like to reduce the touchscreen vote audit in order to be able to redeploy the printers for June 22.
6. Allow counties to mail permanent and mail ballot voters a ballot and voter pamphlet for the June 22 and August 17 elections – no sample ballot necessary. This will enable counties to mail voter information and candidate statements in a more timely fashion to vote by mail voters.
7. Some counties have an insufficient number of touchscreen units that would need to be programmed and tested before deployment. Therefore, some counties will need to be exempt from having to prepare and deploy back-up machines. There are not enough voting machines in all of the counties to have a surplus in the event a machine fails. If a machine fails, voters will have to revert to paper ballots and voters with disabilities will have to request assistance in marking their ballot.
8. We need some method to expedite and streamline voting procedures for our military and overseas voters. Counties can e-mail the voters a PDF version of the ballot that the voter can then print out along with an oath and FAX the voted ballot and oath to the elections official. Returning a voted ballot via fax is currently an option available to military and overseas voters; however, existing law requires the election official to mail the voter a ballot through the USPS.
9. Allow the manual tally of 1% of the vote by mail ballots to be completed by batches instead of precinct, if the voting system allocates ballots to batches. For vote by mail ballots, 1% of the total number of ballots would be hand tallied.