**County of Santa Clara**
**Registrar of Voters**

90172

DATE:     March 20, 2018

TO:       Board of Supervisors

FROM:     Shannon Bushey, Registrar of Voters

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 450  -  Voters Choice Act

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive report from the Registrar of Voters relating to Senate Bill 450 Voters Choice Act. (Registrar of Voters)

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action will have no fiscal implications.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

### Executive Summary

The Voter's Choice Act (VCA), formerly known as SB 450, allows the County of Santa Clara to adopt a new voting model that replaces traditional polling places with a smaller number of vote centers with expanded days of operation and services available. (Cal. Elec. Code § 4005.)  Features of this new model include:

- Approximately 100-125 vote centers instead of 800-900 polling places;

- Any voter in the county can go to any vote center;

- Approximately 20-25 vote centers are open beginning 10 days before the election in additional to normal 7 am to 8 pm polling hours on Election Day, while the remainder are open beginning the third day before the election;

- All registered voters will automatically receive a vote by mail (VBM) ballot, with no need to request one or sign up for permanent VBM;

- Voters can vote by mail or in a vote center; and

- Vote centers will contain additional services not currently available at polling places, such as conditional voter registration, replacement of lost or spoiled vote by mail ballots, and expanded language assistance.

The Board of Supervisors has the option to authorize the Registrar of Voters (ROV) to implement the VCA in either the 2020 Presidential election cycle or the 2022 Gubernatorial

election cycle. The Board also has the option to choose not to authorize implementation of the VCA at this time and could revisit the question at a future time. There is no current deadline mandated by state law for VCA implementation by counties eligible to implement it.

As the Legislature has been developing the VCA model, the ROV has been working to upgrade its outdated election technology. The ROV plans to release Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for a new voting system and electronic pollbooks in the late spring/early summer timeframe. While these efforts are important and must move forward regardless of whether the County adopts the VCA model, the quantities and types of devices purchased depend upon whether the County decides to adopt VCA. If the County decides to implement VCA in 2020, there would likely be cost savings as smaller quantities of devices would be required. If the County decides to implement VCA later, it will have to initially procure a larger number of devices.

Implementing VCA in 2020 does entail some risk. First, as a Presidential election year, voter participation in the 2020 elections is anticipated to be high, possibly reaching even the record-setting levels of 2016. Implementing as significant an overhaul of election processes as the VCA during high-turnout elections carries elevated risks of voter confusion, poll worker confusion, and systems failure, among other risk factors. At the same time, implementing new voting equipment at the same time as the VCA likewise increases these risk factors when compared to staggering the implementations so that voters and poll workers can become familiar with the new voting equipment in 2020 and then adopt VCA in 2022.

Finally, implementation of VCA will entail costs. In addition to start-up costs such as voter education and poll worker training, the VCA model is likely to entail high labor costs as poll workers serving at vote centers for eleven days per election will now work enough hours that they must be processed as extra help employees rather than as volunteers receiving a stipend in order to comply with IRS regulations.

The ROV therefore recommends that the Board consider adoption of one of the following three options:

    a. Proceed with voting technology upgrades in 2019-2020 as scheduled, and simultaneously plan for implementation of the VCA in the 2020 Presidential elections; this option could reduce the initial costs of acquiring the new technology systems;

    b. Proceed with voting technology upgrades in 2019-2020 as scheduled, and plan for implementation of the VCA in the 2022 Gubernatorial elections; this option would mean the County acquires more devices for each system to support polling places and then repurposes or returns excess devices when transitioning to VCA; or

    c. Proceed with voting technology upgrades in 2019-2020 as scheduled, and do not plan for implementation of the VCA at this time.

## Background

In 2016, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 450, now called the Voter's Choice Act (VCA), which authorized counties to adopt a new model for elections.  In the VCA

model, polling places are replaced with vote centers. Any County voter may vote at any vote center in the County. Some of these vote centers are open beginning the tenth day prior to an election.

VCA authorized certain counties to begin implementation of its provisions early in 2018, with other counties authorized to follow in 2020. Santa Clara County was included as one of the counties authorized for 2018, but due to the need to upgrade its outdated voting technology, combined with delays in state certification of new voting system and electronic pollbook options, the County was not able to move forward with implementation in 2018.

The provisions of VCA that permit the County to conduct an all-mailed ballot election do not permit partial implementation.[1] Instead, the legislation makes clear that its requirements (for example, the requirements relating to vote centers, electronic poll books, and language assistance) are conditions that must all be met in order for the County to implement any all-mailed ballot election under its provisions. (Elec. Code § 4005.) Nor does the law allow a county to conduct a hybrid election, with some polling places, and some implementation of the VCA; the VCA requires an "all mailed ballot election," which excludes the traditional polling place model. (*Ibid*.)

The VCA's requirements include:

- One vote center for every 50,000 voters (estimated 20 – 25 in Santa Clara County) open 10 days before the day of the election;

- One vote center for every 10,000 voters (estimated 100 – 125 in Santa Clara County) open three days before the election;

- At least one ballot drop-off location for every 15,000 voters (estimated 70 in Santa Clara County) open for 29 days before the election;

- Formation of a Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) and a Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) to provide community input into VCA implementation;

- Creation of an Election Administration Plan and Outreach Plan, subject to public comment and hearing, including at a minimum two direct contacts with voters, a voter assistance hotline, and direct outreach in the Vote by Mail ballot packet.

As a whole, the provisions of the VCA allow for a more convenient, accessible, and user-friendly experience for voters. Whether voting in person or by mail, VCA will allow more options along with improved language support and accessibility.

## Table 1. Differences Between Current Practices and the Voter's Choice Act

| Voting Method | Current Practices | Voter's Choice Act |
|---|---|---|
| Voting In-Person | Voters must go to the assigned polling place | Voters can go to any vote center in Santa Clara County; |

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[1] VCA also includes minor changes to existing law that are unrelated to the sweeping changes associated with all-mailed ballot elections.

| | location based on their residence address; polling places are open on Election Day only | some vote centers are open beginning ten days before the election, including weekends, while the remainder open beginning three days before the election, and all vote centers are open on Election Day |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Voting by Mail | Voters may request a ballot by mail for a single election or sign up for permanent VBM status to automatically receive a ballot each election | All registered voters will automatically be sent a ballot by mail each election; they can choose to vote the ballot by mail or vote in person at a vote center |
| Accessible Voting | Each polling place has one accessible voting machine that is available on Election Day; before the election, accessible voting machines are available at five early voting centers as well as the ROV office | Each vote center will have a minimum of three accessible ballot marking devices (centers in higher traffic areas will have more); accessible devices will be available as soon as vote centers open beginning ten days before the election; additionally, the County will provide a Remote Accessible VBM System to allow voters with disabilities to download, mark, and print a ballot using their home computers and preferred accessibility devices and mail or hand deliver to a vote center |
| Conditional Voter Registration | Voters who did not register by the normal deadline (15 days before the election) can go to five early voting centers or the ROV office to register and vote at the same time, but are not allowed to do so at polling places on Election Day | Voters who did not register by the deadline can register and vote at any vote center in Santa Clara County beginning ten days before the election, including on Election Day |
| Multilingual Ballots | ROV provides official ballots in five languages per federal law and provides translated facsimile ballots upon request in four additional languages | ROV would use ballot-on-demand printers to provide official ballots in nine supported languages at all vote centers |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | at selected polling places | |
| Bilingual Voting Assistance | ROV recruits bilingual volunteers to provide voting assistance in specific targeted polling places based on the precinct's demographics | Bilingual volunteers would be available to provide voting assistance in the County's four most-needed languages in all vote centers and in other languages at targeted vote centers with community input |
| Provisional Voters | Currently as many as 30,000 – 40,000 voters in a general election have to cast a provisional ballot for a variety of reasons, including going to the wrong precinct, not being registered to vote, and having been issued a VBM ballot but deciding to go to the polls without bringing the ballot to surrender | Provisional voting will be reduced dramatically because the VCA addresses the most common reasons for its occurrence. Voters can go to any vote center, and conditional voter registration will be available for unregistered voters. Voters will not be required to surrender their unused VBM ballot if they decide to vote in person. As a result, provisional ballots will only be needed in exceptional cases. |

## Voting Technology

The ROV is currently engaged in a multi-year effort to upgrade and modernize its voting technology infrastructure. Many of the department's existing systems, including the voting system that relies on central count ballot scanners and touch screen electronic voting machines, are outdated, not designed for timely results reporting, difficult to maintain, lacking in modern features and functionality, and prone to risk of failure. They therefore must be replaced. In other cases, new technologies, such as electronic pollbooks, have become available that offer both administrative benefits to the ROV as well as a better Election Day experience to voters and poll workers.

While the ROV has made great strides in upgrading its technology infrastructure, for many of these solutions, the ROV's efforts have been delayed by the State certification process. Now, however, two competitive voting systems have been certified for use in California along with several electronic pollbook systems expected to be certified in the coming months. The ROV therefore has begun working with the Procurement Department and ISD to draft RFPs for updated systems for release in the Spring of 2018. The goal would be to evaluate proposals over the Summer and select a finalist for negotiations in the early Fall with a target to have an executed contract by the end of the calendar year. That would give the ROV adequate time to work with ISD to implement the systems over the course of 2019 for first deployment in the March 2020 Presidential Primary Election.

While these projects are critically important and must move forward regardless of whether the County adopts the VCA model or not, the decision to implement the VCA would impact the procurement and how these technologies are deployed.

For example, if the County does not implement VCA in 2020, the ROV will need 1200 precinct ballot scanners for its new voting system. However, if it plans on a 2020 VCA implementation, the ROV would only need 600 ballot scanners countywide and would still be able to provide five scanners per vote center. If the VCA were implemented in 2020 at the same time as the new voting system, it could save the County as much as $4 million in hardware costs. Similar reductions could be realized in electronic pollbooks. While moving to the VCA model would entail other hardware costs, such as providing Ballot on Demand printers in all vote centers, these devices are not as costly as ballot scanners and thus would be more than offset by the cost savings.

However, if the County chooses to implement VCA in 2022 after the voting system upgrade in 2020, the ROV would need to amend its lease agreement with its voting system vendor to adjust the device quantities between the two election cycles.

The current plan is to draft the RFPs such that proposers are required to submit quotes for both polling place and vote center scenarios. The ROV would need to know by the time of agreement negotiations in the Fall that the County would be implementing the VCA in 2020 in order to gain full benefit of the cost savings.

**Table 2. Planned Voting Technology Upgrades for State Certified Systems**

| Technology | Planned Upgrade | Voter's Choice Act Modifications |
|---|---|---|
| Voting System | Upgrade ballot creation & tabulation software, upgrade ballot tabulation server & work stations, add precinct count ballot scanners to each polling place or vote center, upgrade central count ballot scanner for vote by mail ballots, replace electronic voting machines with accessible ballot marking devices | Reduce quantities of precinct count ballot scanners and ballot marking devices needed to purchase |
| Electronic Pollbooks | Replace paper roster of voters in each precinct with electronic pollbooks that enable countywide voter lookup, digital signature capture, and automatic data transfer via secure network connections | Reduce quantities of pollbook devices needed to purchase |
| Remote Accessible VBM System | Implement a new software system that would allow voters with disabilities to use their home computers to download a copy of | As a software-based system, this solution would look the same in either a polling place or |

| | their official ballot, which can be marked electronically using their preferred accessibility tools; ballots are then printed and mailed back to the ROV like normal VBM ballots, providing a secure solution that does not store or transmit any vote data through the internet | vote center model |
|---|---|---|
| Ballot on Demand | ROV currently utilizes high-volume Ballot on Demand (BOD) printers for early voting at the ROV office and at early voting centers | Under VCA, ROV would migrate to a new BOD system that utilizes smaller, more mobile printers that would be easier for poll workers to use and set up, enabling multiple printers to be placed in each vote center; the cost for these new printers would be more than offset by the cost savings realized through lesser quantities of voting system components and electronic pollbooks needed if VCA were implemented in 2020 |

## Locations of Vote Centers

The ROV has reached out to existing polling place locations to see which may be available to serve as vote centers should the County decide to transition to the VCA. The ROV has also been conducting site surveys on potential vote centers to ensure that they meet the VCA requirements of a vote center location, including accessibility, adjacency to public transportation, minimum space needs for a vote center layout, and sufficient parking. Based on this preliminary research, the ROV believes that it has identified 70% of the locations necessary to conduct vote centers under VCA. The ROV is confident that the remaining locations could be found in time for 2020 implementation.

In choosing vote center locations, the ROV is analyzing a variety of data to help ensure that the centers are distributed equitably throughout the county in a way that maximizes the benefit to the community. In addition to voter registration data, other sources of data being collected and considered include Census and American Community Survey data on geographic distribution of populations with disabilities, geographic distribution of limited

English proficient populations, geographic distribution of households with no vehicle ownership, and geographic distribution of populations with low median household incomes (see Attachment 1). The ROV is also looking at traffic and transit information from VTA and CalTrans.

The ROV has also performed an analysis of historical voting trends to develop targets for equipment quantities, staffing levels, and size for vote centers. This analysis assumes that for the first year of VCA implementation, voter behavior will be slow to change; therefore, the ROV plans to staff and equip vote centers at sufficient levels to handle current Election Day in-person voting turnout. ROV's calculations also account for anticipated growth due to implementation of the New Motor Voter Law, which enables automatic voter registration through the DMV. Based on this analysis, the ROV has developed two template models for vote centers, one high-volume model that would be used in most locations, which is projected to be able to accommodate over 2,000 in-person voters on Election Day without excessive lines or wait times (see Attachment 2). A smaller model will be utilized in rare cases in more remote parts of the county when large facilities able to host a high-volume vote center are not available and where the population density is low enough that the anticipated turnout at those centers is able to be managed by a smaller operation.

## Staffing Costs

One major concern moving forward with VCA implementation would be the costs of staffing, driven largely by the need to transition poll workers to extra help employee status. Currently poll workers are considered volunteers who are paid a stipend for their public service pursuant to the California Elections Code. However, at the current daily stipend amount, a poll worker who serves in both the primary and general election in a single even-numbered year would exceed $1600 in earnings for the calendar year. Per County policies to comply with IRS requirements, these poll workers would need to be hired and processed as extra help employees. As a result, they will be subject to hourly pay rates, overtime, some benefits, and increased insurance and other costs.

While the VCA will reduce the overall number of poll workers needed in an election, it will dramatically increase the amount of hours worked by each individual as well as increase the rates and associated costs per person. As a result, preliminary estimates by the ROV project labor costs for staffing vote centers under the VCA will likely exceed $6 million per election, compared to current poll worker stipend costs of approximately $1 million per election.

Along with increased costs, hiring and onboarding vote center staff as extra help will place a substantial administrative burden on both the ROV and other departments, including ESA. At the same time, the increase in extra help usage would likely necessitate adding approximately 50,000 hours to the ROV's extra-help hours allocation per fiscal year.

## Outreach

In 2017, FGOC referred the ROV to conduct focus groups to gauge the level and type of outreach needed to implement the VCA. While the text of the VCA itself has specific requirements about the drafting of an Outreach Plan with public input, formation of voting and language accessibility advisory committees, as well as requirements for at least two

direct contacts with voters (i.e., direct mailers), the ROV plans to exceed the minimum requirements of voter education and outreach when and if the County implements the VCA.

To begin laying the groundwork for these efforts, the ROV conducted a series of informal focus group presentations in the Fall of 2017. Most of these focus groups were held in partnership with County and City libraries, while others were hosted in coordination with community partners like the League of Women Voters, the Lions Club, senior centers, the Refugee & Immigrant Forum, and adult education classes. Additionally, the ROV conducted focus groups at 54 public events including resource and health fairs, business expos, festivals, cultural celebrations, and National Voter Registration Day events. These focus groups included a presentation about the VCA as well as a short survey.

Throughout the two-month period, the ROV was able to collect 1,684 completed surveys through these events from registered voters representing nearly every zip code in the county (see Attachment 3 for survey results). Among the take-aways from these surveys were:

- 73% of participants would be in favor of replacing polling places with vote centers; 74% were in favor when filtered for participants who identified as current polling place voters

- If VCA were implemented, about 75% of participants would vote by mail or use a drop-off location, while 25% would vote in person, which is roughly equivalent to the current split among polling place and vote by mail voters

- 71% of participants would be more likely to vote at a vote center near their work or school rather than at the polling place near their home

The ROV is currently preparing to conduct a phone survey of registered voters about the VCA through a third-party vendor.

## Timeline

As the VCA is an option for certain counties, rather than a mandate, there is no current deadline for the County to implement it.

In order to benefit from the technology hardware cost savings, discussed above, of a 2020 VCA implementation, the ROV would need Board approval by the Fall of 2018.

If that timeframe is missed, the ROV would recommend the Board provide approval by the end of Calendar Year 2018 if implementation of VCA is desired for 2020 to fully allow time for building community partnerships and developing a robust outreach and education plan.

The State's deadline for counties to approve VCA implementation for 2020 is April of 2019.

The County could decide any time before early 2021 to implement in 2022.

**Table 3. VCA Implementation Timeline for March 2020 Presidential Primary**

| Fall 2018 | Deadline to approve implementation of VCA to realize voting technology cost savings |
| --- | --- |
| December 2018 | ROV recommended deadline for County to approve implementation of VCA and begin outreach and education |

| | efforts |
|---|---|
| April 2019 | State Deadline for County to approve implementation of VCA |
| June 2019 | Deadline to establish a VAAC & LAAC |
| July 2019 | Deadline for County to publish draft Election Administration Plan |
| September 2019 | Deadline for County to submit Outreach Plan to Secretary of State |
| November 2019 | Deadline to make changes to amended Election Administration Plan |
| March 2020 | Presidential Primary Election |

## Early Voting Centers in 2018

Since 2013, the County has operated Early Voting Centers (EVC) on the weekends prior to countywide elections to provide voters with expanded options for voting in-person outside of Election Day. These efforts pre-dated adoption of the Voter's Choice Act and are not directly related to its implementation, although the experience of operating these satellite voting locations has provided the ROV with lessons learned that could aid in the potential implementation of the VCA.

For 2018, the ROV had planned to expand the hours of operation for its five existing EVC sites to make them available daily starting on the tenth day before the election and continuing through the day before Election Day, instead of just on the weekends. This is over a 150% increase in the hours of operation for these locations. Additionally, the ROV plans to designate the EVCs as satellite offices where conditional voter registration (CVR) will be available, since CVR cannot be conducted at regular polling places under current state law and regulations.

At the February 8, 2018, meeting of the Finance and Government Operations Committee (FGOC), the Committee directed administration to return with information about expanding the number of Early Voting Centers to 10, 20, or 40 for the 2018 elections. As a result of its research, the ROV was able to secure the equipment and locations necessary to operate an additional two sites for the June 2018 election, bringing the total number of EVCs up to seven. Because of limitations on available locations and equipment, as discussed below, the ROV does not believe it is feasible to increase the number of EVCs for the June 2018 election, but the number could potentially be further increased for the November 2018 election.

### Ballot on Demand Printers

The most important piece of equipment required to operate an Early Voting Center is the ballot on demand (BOD) printer. In a countywide election, the ROV creates hundreds of different ballot types, which represent the numerous different combinations of contests that could appear on voters' ballots based on overlapping federal, state, and local district boundary lines. Each ballot type is then further translated into four federally-mandated bilingual ballot variations, resulting in upwards of a thousand different variations of the

ballot. One of the main features of a voting center is that any voter can go to any location, which means that all ballot types must be available at every voting center in quantities large enough to ensure that supplies will not be depleted while voting is in progress. This can be challenging to predict, as the ROV has no way of knowing ahead of time which voters will visit a particular site, and therefore which ballot types will be required. Additionally, the logistical challenge of stocking and differentiating so many different types of ballots in one location require more space than is available at satellite voting locations, present a number of security risks as ballot cards must be properly secured and accounted for, and greatly increase the risk that a voter will be issued a wrong ballot type. BOD printers are therefore the only feasible solution in California for operating vote centers where all voters are welcome.

BOD systems, like many other election systems, must be certified by the Secretary of State, and only a small number of certified vendors exist in the marketplace. Further, each County needs to be certified to use their particular system, and the County of Santa Clara has been certified to use the Runbeck Sentio BOD system. Each Sentio unit consists of a specific printer and server hardware combination along with proprietary software installed. The ROV cannot buy commercial off-the-shelf printers from uncertified sources to create ballots.

The current style of printer that the ROV uses is an outdated model that is difficult to acquire. The ROV plans that it would procure a new system prior to implementing the Voter's Choice Act. The vendor has been able to make some refurbished units available to the County. Each unit costs approximately $12,650 for one-time hardware purchase as well as $3,000 per year for support and software licensing.

For the June 2018 election, the manufacturer was able to provide two additional units beyond the ROV's initial order related to the planned expansion of EVCs. Combined with the ROV's current inventory of BOD printers, the department has sufficient printers to supply two additional EVCs beyond the initially-planned five, for a total of seven.

For the November 2018 election, an additional six units would be needed to operate a total of 10 sites, at an estimated one-year cost of $93,900. To operate 20 sites, 26 additional units would be needed, at an estimated one-year cost of $406,900. To operate 40 sites, 66 additional units would be needed, at an estimated one-year cost of $1,032,900.

However, it is not guaranteed that refurbished units will be available in these large quantities from the vendor. It may be possible to acquire the additional units needed to operate a total of 10 locations in November 2018, but it appears unlikely at this point that the higher targets would be achievable.

It is also important to note that the current style of BOD printer is not conducive to use at voting centers under the VCA model as they are large, heavy, and difficult to set up and transport. As previously stated, the ROV will be procuring a new BOD system that uses smaller, lightweight devices if the VCA implementation is approved. A small number of the current printers would be retained for use centrally in the ROV office, but the number to be retained is already exceeded by the ROV's current inventory, meaning that any additional printers purchased for EVCs prior to the adoption of VCA would become surplus inventory that would need to be sold or disposed, potentially within a year or two of acquisition.

### *Locations*

Recruiting a location to be available as a voting center for ten days continuously is a time-consuming process, as many different considerations must be worked out, including ADA compliance, security of voting equipment and materials, and public access outside of the facility's normal operating hours. It took months of staff time to perform the amount of searching, site visits, and negotiations to lock down the five sites initially planned for use in the June 2018 election.

In response to the FGOC's inquiry, the ROV was able to identify an additional two locations that could be confirmed and made available for use as EVCs during the June election on short notice, for a total of seven sites.

It is not yet clear how many additional locations could be secured for the November 2018 election. However, it is important to note that the request for 20 locations beginning on the tenth day before the election equals, and the request for 40 exceeds, the requirements placed on the ROV during full VCA implementation. Under VCA, while 100-125 voting centers will be required to operate beginning on the third day prior to the election, only about 20-25 of them are required to begin as early as the tenth day. On top of which, ROV staff in the 2018 elections are still required to recruit, staff, and support polling places for approximately 800 individual precincts concurrently with the EVCs, whereas staff resources under the VCA will be able to be dedicated fully to voting centers.

It may be possible for the ROV to find the additional locations needed to reach the 10 location target for November 2018. To reach the 20 and 40 location targets, however, it would be likely that the ROV would need to make use of higher cost facilities, such as hotel ballrooms, which are less dependent on ROV staff negotiating favorable terms with property owners. The estimated cost of using such a site for voting for ten days is approximately $10,000 per site, meaning the cost for 10 additional sites to hit the 20 location target would be $100,000, and the cost to hit the 40 location target would be $300,000.

### *Staffing*

Extra help employees who work at an Early Voting Center are hired at least two weeks prior to the beginning of EVC operations to receive on-the-job training and experience in the ROV office. The total labor costs for a team of eight employees to operate a single EVC location, including two-weeks training at the ROV, is approximately $59,000. The additional cost for adding two extra EVC sites in the June 2018 election is therefore estimated to be $118,000.

For the November 2018 election, adding three more locations for a total of 10 would cost an extra $177,000. To reach the target of 20 locations would cost approximately $767,000 over June costs. To reach the target of 40 locations would cost approximately $1,947,000 over June costs.

Additionally, the ROV does not currently have enough space to house and train the 104 additional extra help employees needed to reach the 20 location target or the 264 additional extra help employees needed to reach the 40 location target. Therefore, the ROV would need to submit a space request for temporary office and training space for these employees. The estimated cost of such space for three weeks is not known at this time.

Aside from just hiring additional extra help, however, operating the EVCs requires a significant investment of time and resources from the ROV's permanent staff. Most of the ROV's staff will already be dedicated to supporting the normal polling place-based model of elections required for 2018. To properly recruit, train, equip, and support additional EVC sites and staff to meet the 20 and 40 location targets in November 2018, the ROV would recommend the addition of three to eight high level positions in unclassified codes equivalent to existing ROV permanent staff who support the EVC sites. The costs for such positions would be approximately $200,000 to $400,000. However, it should be noted that finding employees with elections knowledge and experience equivalent to ROV permanent employees who are willing to take such a short term position would likely be difficult. Increasing the number EVCs so dramatically without sufficient experienced staff to train, support, and oversee the extra help employees will likely entail a high risk for error.

## CHILD IMPACT

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on children and youth.

## SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on seniors.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

## BACKGROUND

At the January 9, 2018, Board of Supervisors Meeting, Supervisor Simitian requested the Registrar of Voters to report to the Finance and Government Operations Committee regarding the Voter's Choice Act.

## CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The report would not be received.

## STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Clerk of the Board shall notify Shannon Bushey, Nancy Price, Darren Tan, and Carrie Medlock in the Office of the Registrar of Voters.

## ATTACHMENTS:

- VCA Attachments 1-2    (PDF)
- VCA Attachment 3        (PDF)
- VCA PowerPoint   (PPTX)