

California officials ponder all-mail voting

By Christopher Cadelago, Sacramento Bee

When all the ballots are finally tallied from this month's election, the proportion of Californians voting by mail is expected to break the record set in 2012, the first time more than half of the state's electorate voted absentee.

The uptick has more Californians pushing for the state to go all the way and ditch traditional polling places. Washington, Colorado and Oregon require all of their elections to be run entirely by mail, and at least 19 others permit some of their elections to be all mail, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

County elections officials have touted the potential increase in voter interest and significant savings from avoiding the task of recruiting and training polling place workers. And some believe an all-mail system could even help speed up and avoid some overtime ballot-counting.

"I say, 'yes, please,'" said Jill LaVine, the registrar of voters in Sacramento County. "I would love to go all vote-by-mail."

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