

Seventy-Seventh General Assembly

GOVERNOR'S VETOES

HOUSE BILL 26-001 — Dual County Elector Act, Vetoed March 3, 2026

To the Members of the San Andreas General Assembly;

I am returning House Bill 26-001 without my signature.

This bill establishes a process allowing eligible residents with multiple lawful residences to participate in local elections in both counties as certified Dual-County Electors. It further mandates the creation of the Dual-County Elector Information System (DCEIS) to track certifications and automatically suppress duplicate votes in statewide and federal contests.

While I appreciate the author's intent to recognize modern residency patterns and encourage local civic engagement, this bill makes our election integrity excessively reliant on a new and untested technological framework. Entrusting the "one-person, one-vote" principle to an automated system—without a proven track record of security or a rigorous pilot phase—poses an unnecessary risk to public confidence in our democratic process.

Proposals of this magnitude should only be considered after a comprehensive testing phase has demonstrated the system's reliability in non-major elections and after a clear fiscal estimate of the system's long-term costs has been provided to the state.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,
Isabel Payne

HOUSE BILL 26-008 — Public Servant Transparency, Vetoed March 28, 2026

To the members of the San Andreas General Assembly:

I am returning House Bill 26-008 without my signature.

I commend the General Assembly for its intent to promote transparency and accountability within government institutions. These are important and shared goals. However, such efforts must also be balanced with fiscal responsibility and practical implementation considerations.

House Bill 26-008 would mandate the use of body-worn cameras for a broad range of government employees, including those in roles such as parking enforcement and county surveying, and anyone who is tasked with enforcing local codes or state law. While well-intentioned, the bill imposes significant operational and financial obligations on state and local entities without providing a clear or sustainable funding mechanism beyond a general provision that implementation is “subject to appropriation.”

Absent a more defined funding strategy, this mandate risks placing an undue burden on agencies and local governments, potentially diverting resources from other essential services.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,
Isabel Payne

HOUSE BILL 26-004 — Renters Protection Act, Vetoed June 7, 2026

To the members of the San Andreas General Assembly:

I am returning House Bill 26-004 without my signature.

I appreciate the sponsors' efforts to address the challenges facing renters and prospective homeowners throughout our state. Housing affordability remains one of the most significant issues confronting San Andreas families, and I share the goal of expanding access to stable housing and opportunities for homeownership.

However, this legislation creates a First-Time Homebuyer Assistance Program that would provide down payment assistance grants, closing cost assistance, and other financial benefits without identifying a dedicated funding source or providing a workable fiscal framework for implementation. While these programs may be well-intentioned, the bill commits the state to ongoing financial obligations without appropriating funds or identifying revenues sufficient to support them.

Had the provisions establishing first-time homebuyer grants and financial assistance been removed, I would have been prepared to sign this legislation. Unfortunately, the state cannot responsibly create a program requiring substantial annual expenditures when no funding mechanism exists to sustain it.

The General Assembly has already completed the annual appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2026-27, and I have signed the Long Appropriations Bill governing state expenditures through June 30, 2027. As a result, there is no appropriation available to implement the grant program established by this act. Furthermore, because no dedicated source of revenue was identified, a meaningful fiscal note could not be prepared to determine the long-term cost of the program or its impact on future state budgets.

Good public policy requires both worthy objectives and realistic financial planning. Establishing a statewide grant program without a funding source creates expectations that the state may be unable to fulfill and risks diverting resources from existing housing, education, transportation, public safety, and health care priorities.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,
Isabel Payne