

## HOUSE BILL 26-034

By Senator(s) Valdez, Cardenas  
also Representative(s) Jenkins, Hurst

**AN ACT****CONCERNING VOTER REGISTRATION, IDENTIFICATION, AND ELECTION PROCEDURES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, ESTABLISHING SAME-DAY REGISTRATION, MAIL-IN VOTING SAFEGUARDS, ELECTION SECURITY STANDARDS, AND AFFIRMING STATE SOVEREIGNTY OVER ELECTIONS.**

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San Andreas:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This act shall be referred to as the “San Andreas Free Elections Act”.

**SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION.**

The General Assembly finds and declares that:

- (a) Voting is a fundamental right and a cornerstone of democracy in San Andreas.
- (b) Elections must be secure, transparent, and accessible to all eligible citizens.
- (c) Citizens should be able to register and vote in a timely, convenient, and verifiable manner.
- (d) Mail-in voting, early voting, and same-day registration expand access while maintaining election integrity.
- (e) The State retains sovereign authority to conduct elections as it deems appropriate, regardless of federal law, so long as no eligible voter is disenfranchised.

**SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.**

For purposes of this Act:

- (a) “Citizen” means a natural-born or naturalized citizen of the United States.
- (b) “Eligible voter” means a citizen of San Andreas, at least eighteen years of age by Election Day, who meets residency requirements and is not otherwise disqualified, and who is a resident of the precinct in which they seek to vote.
- (c) “Polling place” means any location designated for in-person voting, including early voting sites.
- (d) “Mail-in ballot” means a ballot cast remotely and returned by mail in accordance with this Act.
- (e) “Provisional ballot” means a ballot issued when eligibility or identification cannot be immediately verified.

(f) “Secretary of State” means the officer responsible for overseeing election administration within San Andreas.

**SECTION 4. VOTER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) To register to vote, an eligible individual must provide:

- (I) A valid San Andreas driver’s license or state-issued identification card.
- (II) Proof of citizenship, including a certified birth certificate or other recognized document as determined by the Secretary of State.
- (III) the full nine digits of the applicant's social security number;
- (IV) proof of residency: a single utility bill or lease agreement showing the applicant's name and current address within the precinct dated within thirty days of registration.

(b) Registration may be completed in person, by mail, or via a secure web-based portal if the Secretary of State establishes secure online procedures.

(c) Automatic Voter Registration. The secretary of state shall automatically register to vote every eligible citizen upon receiving verifiable data from the department of revenue, unless the individual explicitly opts out at the time of the transaction. The secretary of state is prohibited from purging any voter from the rolls within ninety days of an election based on intrastate residency records.

**SECTION 5. SAME-DAY VOTER REGISTRATION.**

(a) Eligible individuals may register and vote on the same day at any polling place during early voting or on Election Day.

(b) Same-day registrants must present the identification and documentation required under Section 4.

(c) Provisional ballots shall be issued if eligibility cannot be verified immediately, with verification procedures completed before final tabulation.

**SECTION 6. VOTER IDENTIFICATION AND PROHIBITION ON BALLOT HARVESTING.**

(a) Voter Identification Requirements. To vote in person, a voter shall present any document showing the voter's name and address, including a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or student identification card issued by an institution of higher education within San Andreas.

- (I) A U.S. passport or military identification;
- (II) Tribal identification recognized by the State.

(b) No additional identification shall be required if a valid ID is presented.

(c) Mail-in ballots require signature verification against the voter’s records on file with the county clerk.

(d) Voters whose signatures do not match may cure the discrepancy in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary of State.

**SECTION 7. MAIL-IN AND EARLY VOTING.**

- (a) Any registered voter may request a mail-in ballot, subject to deadlines established by the Secretary of State.
- (b) Mail-in ballots shall be returned by eight o'clock p.m. on Election Day or any lawful extended acceptance period established by law.
- (c) Early voting sites shall provide same-day registration and voting.
- (d) Election officials shall securely handle, count, and preserve all early and mail-in ballots.
- (e) Assistance with ballot Return. Any registered voter may designate any person of their choosing to collect and return their voted mail-in ballot to a drop box or county clerk facility, and no person shall limit the number of ballots an individual may collect and return on behalf of others.
- (f) all signatures on mail-in ballots must be verified against the voter's original wet-ink signature on their registration form.
- (g) if a signature is rejected, the county clerk shall notify the voter via electronic mail, text message, or first-class mail. No ballot may be cured after seven o'clock p.m. on the day preceding the election.
- (h) Any person registering to vote within twenty-one days of an election shall have their ballot cast provisionally until their residency has been verified through a database comparison by the secretary of state or the department of revenue.
- (i) if residency cannot be verified within ten days following the election, the provisional ballot shall be deemed void and destroyed.

**SECTION 8. PROVISIONAL BALLOTS AND ELECTION SECURITY.**

- (a) Provisional ballots shall be issued when voter eligibility or identity cannot be immediately verified.
- (b) Provisional ballots shall be verified and counted once eligibility is confirmed.
- (c) Voter Roll Maintenance. The secretary of state shall conduct a quarterly cross-reference of voter rolls against the San Andreas department of public health death records and the department of revenue residency records. any individual found to be deceased or no longer residing within the state shall be removed from the active voter rolls within thirty days.
- (d) Verification of Voter Rolls. The Secretary of State shall coordinate with the Department of Corrections and the Judicial Department to ensure that individuals disqualified from voting due to a felony conviction are removed from the active voter rolls within ten days of conviction or sentencing.

**SECTION 8.3. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR ELECTIONS.**

State and local election officials are authorized and encouraged to solicit, accept, and expend philanthropic grants and donations from nonpartisan individuals, corporate entities, and nonprofit organizations to fund voter outreach, purchase tabulation equipment, and establish secure drop box locations.

**SECTION 8.5. CHAIN OF CUSTODY REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) The Secretary of State shall mandate a uniform chain-of-custody log for the movement of all ballots from drop boxes or polling places to central counting facilities.

(b) such logs shall be signed by at least two election officials of differing political party affiliation at every point of transfer and shall be made available for public inspection within forty-eight hours of the close of polls.

**SECTION 9. INTERSTATE COOPERATION.**

the Secretary of State shall participate in multi-state data-sharing compacts and electronic registration information systems to cross-reference voter roll data with other jurisdictions to maximize accuracy and maintain up-to-date lists of eligible electors.

**SECTION 9.5. VOTING ACCESSIBILITY AND MODERNIZATION.**

All tabulation equipment used in the state of San Andreas shall utilize secure, cloud-enabled network configurations to allow for the real-time reporting of county-level results to the public. The secretary of state shall establish a secure web-based portal to allow voters to cast a verified digital mail-in ballot remotely via computer or mobile application.

**SECTION 9.6. ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY.**

Election day, as defined in section 3, shall be observed as a legal state holiday. All non-election related state offices shall be closed, and all eligible employees shall be granted three hours of paid leave for the purpose of casting a ballot.

**SECTION 10. STATE SOVEREIGNTY, AUTHORITY, AND PREEMPTION.**

(a) This Act preempts any future federal legislation attempting to control voter registration, identification, or election procedures within San Andreas.

(b) The General Assembly, as the direct representative of the people, retains the exclusive and sovereign authority to determine election procedures so long as elections are secure and no qualified voter is disenfranchised.

(c) the General Assembly hereby declares that the provisions of this act relating to the time, place, and manner of holding elections for federal office are an exercise of the state's plenary authority under article I, section 4 of the United States constitution.

(d) No executive order, federal regulation, or judicial decree from a federal court shall have the effect of altering the procedures established by this act without the express concurrence of the general assembly by joint resolution.

**SECTION 10.5. LEGISLATIVE STANDING TO CHALLENGE.**

the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the President of the Senate, or their designees, shall have automatic standing to intervene in any legal challenge brought against the provisions of this act to defend the sovereign interest of the state of san andreas in determining the manner of its elections.

**SECTION 10.6. REMEDIES FOR VIOLATIONS.**

The exclusive remedy for any person alleging a violation of this act shall be an action for declaratory or injunctive relief filed in the Supreme court of San Andreas, which shall have exclusive original jurisdiction over all challenges to the constitutionality or implementation of this act.

**SECTION 11. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this Act or its application is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications.