

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

October 20, 2020

Dean C. Logan
Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

Dear Mr. Logan:

We write to express our concern about erroneous ballots sent to over two thousand registered voters in Los Angeles County. According to recent reports, the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's office (RRCC) sent approximately 2,100 ballots to residents in Woodland Hills that repeated a list of state ballot measures twice on pages four and five of the six page ballots, but did not include a means to vote for the office of President of the United States.¹ These reports come against a larger backdrop of growing instances across the country of administrative error, or worse, by election officials and others in the wake of the rapid expansion of mail-in balloting. In light of these reports, we write to request additional information to ensure the RRCC is taking requisite measures to guard against further error or fraud.

Widespread mail-in voting has presented ongoing challenges for years, even in jurisdictions with large amounts of experience conducting elections by mail.² These problems are growing more acute and extensive as jurisdictions—many without experience, expertise, or safeguards in place—make last-minute changes to conduct an election largely with mail-in ballots. Late changes and the sheer increase of volume in mail-in ballots increase the likelihood for election-related crime and administrative errors, putting the integrity of the nation's electoral process at risk.³

¹ Campa, Andrew J. *Some 2,100 L.A. County voters got ballots missing one thing: a way to vote for president*, LA TIMES (Oct. 6, 2020), available at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-10-06/presidential-candidates-left-off-about-2-100-l-a-county-absentee-ballots>.

² Republican Staff Report, *How Democrats are Attempting to Sow Uncertainty, Inaccuracy, and Delay in the 2020 Election*, U.S. House of Representatives, Comm. on the Judiciary & Comm. on Oversight and Reform (Sept. 23, 2020), available at <https://republicans-judiciary.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020-09-23-How-Democrats-Are-Attempting-to-Sow-Uncertainty-Inaccuracy-and-Delay-in-the-2020-Election.pdf>.

³ Republican Staff Report, *supra* note 2.

California's decision to mail a ballot to every registered voter in the state⁴ raises serious concerns about the integrity of its election, particularly where apparent administrative errors send faulty ballots to thousands of voters.

A spokesman for the Clerk's office apologized for the mistake and indicated that voters would be notified and new ballots sent.⁵ He further indicated that any voters who have already completed and mailed in their faulty ballots would be able to vote again and their original ballot cancelled.

Questions remain, however, about how this error occurred. Further, it is unclear whether the RRCC has an accurate and complete accounting of each voter who received an incorrect ballot in order to mail new ballots and ensure that new ballots will only be sent to those who received the faulty ballots.

To assist the Committee in understanding the RRCC's procedures and protections in place as it relates to its universal mail-in balloting process, please provide information sufficient to answer the following questions by October 27, 2020:

1. Does RRCC have an accounting of the error(s) that led to the mailing of the 2,100 faulty ballots?
2. Is RRCC able to account for each of the faulty ballots sent to voters in order to send new ballots to those voters?
3. Given that some voters may have already returned their original faulty ballots, how will RRCC ensure that those original ballots are cancelled in the event that voters cast new complete ballots?
4. How will RRCC ensure that only voters affected by the faulty ballot mailing receive additional ballots to prevent voters from receiving multiple valid ballots?
5. What procedures does RRCC have in place to detect instances where an individual might attempt to cast multiple ballots?
6. What procedures does RRCC have in place to prevent a single voter from casting multiple ballots?

⁴ Myers, John, *Check your mailbox: 21 million California ballots are on their way to voters*, LA TIMES (Oct. 4, 2020), available at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-10-04/california-ballots-mailed-voters-2020-presidential-election?_amp=true.

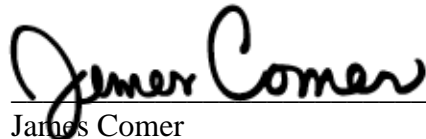
⁵ Campa, Andrew J., *supra* note 1.

7. What procedures are in place to ensure that voters who cast ballots by mail are prevented from also attempting to cast a ballot in-person on election day?
8. What procedures are followed in the case RRCC detects a fraudulently cast ballot?

To schedule a briefing or document delivery, or to ask any follow-up or related questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform staff at (202) 225-5074.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations