



ELECTIONS DIVISION

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PRESS RELEASE

October 15, 2020

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OFFICIAL COUNTY ELECTION BALLOT DROP BOXES

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – Santa Barbara County Elections is responding to recent reports of groups promoting unofficial ballot drop boxes not affiliated with Santa Barbara County Elections. In some instances, these ballot drop boxes are promoted as “official” or “secure.” However, the use of unauthorized, non-official ballot drop boxes is prohibited by state law.

Voters who want to return their ballot via a drop box should only use official county drop boxes that are clearly recognizable, designed to meet state standards for security, and bear the official Santa Barbara County Elections logo, as shown here.



The public can view an image of each of the 30 official Santa Barbara County Elections drop boxes shown installed at each location and the address at SBCVote.com.

County Elections installed 30 secure ballot drop boxes throughout the county to assist voters in the safe and secure return of their voted ballot directly to the Elections office. Additionally, each of the official 35 polling place locations open

starting October 31 through Election Day will have a ballot reception station located outside the polling place entrance to provide another safe option for voters to return their ballot.

Elections staff are asking for the public’s assistance in identifying potentially illegal ballot drop boxes by calling 800-SBC-VOTE or (800) 722-8683. Please help protect the rights of all registered voters to cast their ballot.

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Again, locations of official Santa Barbara County Elections drop boxes can be found at [SBCVote.com](https://sbcountyvotes.com), then click on “Elections” and another click on the “Drop Box Locations” image displayed below. In addition, the Secretary of State website lists official ballot drop boxes at <https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov/>.



Tips for Voters:

- Make a plan to vote. You can return your vote-by-mail using the prepaid postage return envelope or by bringing it to any official drop box, voting location, or county elections office.
 - Voters can also choose someone to return their ballot. Only choose someone you trust to return your ballot. You and the other person must sign the back of the return envelope. Never give your ballot to someone else unless you have completed, signed, and sealed the return envelope.
- Sign up for ballot tracking at <https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/> to get automatic notifications by text message (SMS), email, or voice message about the status of your vote-by-mail ballot. Voters will be notified once the local Elections Office has received the ballot, once it has been counted, and if there are any issues with the ballot.
- Get information on voting from the trusted official sources, which are the Santa Barbara County Elections office and the Secretary of State. Resources for Santa Barbara County voters are available at [SBCVote.com](https://sbcountyvotes.com). The Secretary of State has resources for California voters at vote.ca.gov.