

Last week Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 2159 into law. This Bill allows California community associations to adopt or revise election rules that will allow an owner to request electronic voting. It does not automatically make electronic voting proper. An association must adopt rules that permit electronic voting and an owner must opt in for it to apply.

Specifically, the Bill permits a member to change their preferred method of voting from written ballot to electronic ballot, or vice versa, no later than 90 days before an election. There are additional timelines and notices that need to be followed in order for an association to utilize electronic voting. As electronic voting gains traction it should help reduce association costs by reducing mailing and copy costs, making it easier for members to return ballots and helping to establish a quorum for meetings.

Although the Bill does not become effective until January 1, 2025, associations need to review and revise their election rules to incorporate changes that will allow for the option of electronic voting for members. Associations that hold annual meetings in the first quarter of 2025 should start planning soon to provide an electronic voting option. Please contact counsel for assistance in revising the Election Rules.