

ELECTIONS OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Reviewing and Overturning Canceled –In Review (CNCLD) Challenges

PROCEDURE DOCUMENT - Version 1.5

Lydia Charles 9/30/2022

Reviewing and Overturning Canceled-In Review (CNCLD) Challenges

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Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to assist in the process of reviewing a voter's Canceled-In Review (CNCLD) challenged Vote-by-Mail (VBM) envelope and identify instances in which it can be overturned to Valid or another code. VBMs fall under the category of "Canceled – In Review" for a variety of reasons; such as, the voter moved within or out of the county, they reregister and the old and new records merged, canceling the old record, or the voter is a felon, etc... No matter the reason, it is imperative to do thorough research.

Scope

This procedure is only to be used in the Ballot Department and is not applicable to any other departments. It has been designed for the Challenged Ballot Resolution Team and any other personnel appointed to reviewing and overturning challenged ballots. This procedure does not cover all possible scenarios but will outline the most common occurrences.

Supplies Needed

- Challenged Ballot Labels
- Research Labels
- Desk File Organizer
- File Organizer tags
- 1 Foot Mail tray
- Mail Trav label: "CHALLENGE TYPE: CANCELED-IN REVIEW (CNCLD)"
- 2x Binder clips
- Access to DIMS.net v 2021.07.15.12881

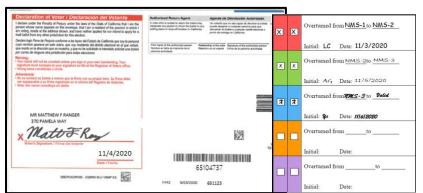
Disclaimer

Starting after E-15, the processing of this challenge code should be conducted after IT has synced the ePoll Pads to DIMS (this could take up to 2-weeks after Election Day; speak to your supervisor to determine when this is complete). Researching this challenge code may be conducted prior to ePoll Pad sync.

Vote-By-Mail (VBM) Envelope Labels

Challenge Labels

Challenge Labels are required when processing any challenged envelope. These labels assist with traceability of each envelope so that we always know what step in the process it is on.



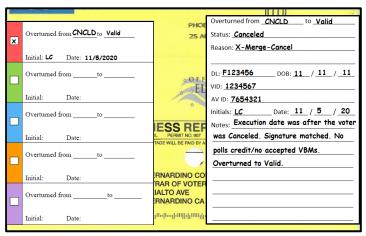
Place the first column of the label on the RIGHT-HAND side of the back of the envelope. Wrap the rest of the label around, onto front (left-hand side) of the envelope.

Check	Color Code	
First Check	Red	
Second Check	Green	
Third Check	Blue	

Each color on the label indicates a different check/step in the process. A new/different person must conduct each check.

Research Labels

The Canceled-In Review (CNCLD) challenge code will also need a research label. Research labels are used in this capacity to keep track of what research went into this envelope to help the next reviewers avoid doing extra work.



The Research Label will always be placed on the front of the envelope on the RIGHT-HAND side, unless previously indicated by supervisor.

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Note: When writing on any label, make sure to write neatly and legibly. Do not write too big or too small for the allotted space. Do not place the label over the signature, barcodes, legal information, or the hole in the center of the envelope. Do not leave any voter information blank on the Research Label. If there is no information to provide, put "N/A".

DIMS.net



Logging-In

- 1. Double-click the DIMS.net icon.
- 2. Click on the **Login** button.



Note: Make certain that the **My Windows Account** option in the **Login Using** field is selected. Your user name should auto-populate in the **User Name** field. The **Password** text box should remain blank.

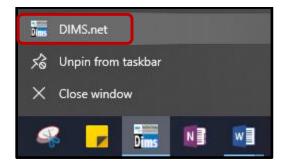
Launching Additional Windows of DIMS.net

When researching Canceled- In Review (CNCLD) challenges, two or more windows of DIMS.net must be open for efficiency.

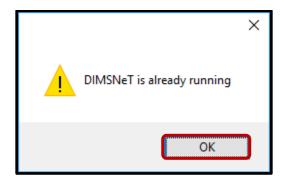
1. Right-click on the DIMS.net icon on the taskbar



2. Click on the DIMS.net icon



3. A pop-up window will appear, indicating that DIMS.net is already running. Click **OK.**



- 4. Follow the steps for <u>Logging into DIMS.net</u> and <u>Setting the Default Election</u>.
- 5. Click the maximize icon in the right-hand corner of the dims window.

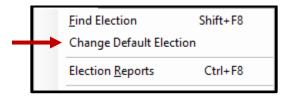


Setting the Default Election

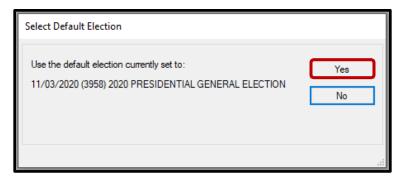
1. Click on the <u>E</u>lections menu.



2. Click Change Default Election.

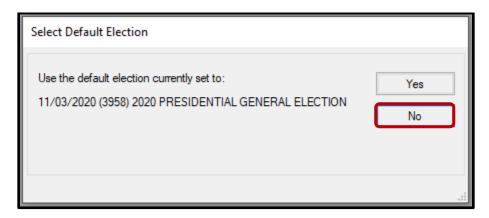


3. A *Select Default Election* window will appear. If the election displayed is correct, click **Yes**.

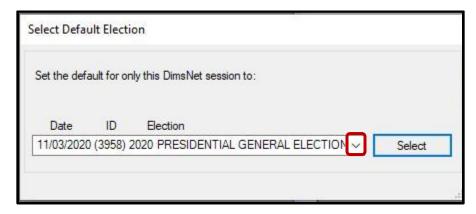


Incorrect Default Election

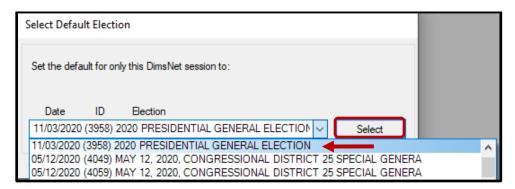
1. If the displayed election in the *Select Default Election* window is incorrect, click **No**.



2. The Select Default Election window will change to display a drop-down list.



3. Click the arrow of the drop-down list to expand it. Click on the correct election and then click **Select**.

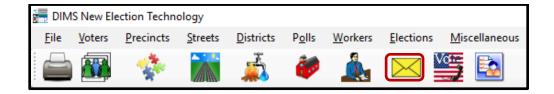


4. A Selection Confirmed window will appear. Click **OK**.

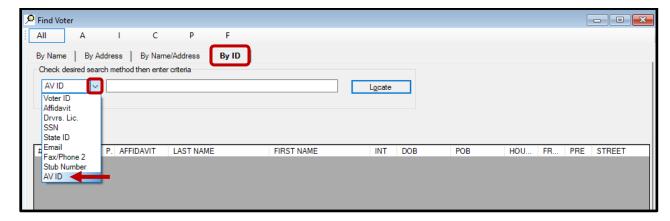


Locating Voter Record

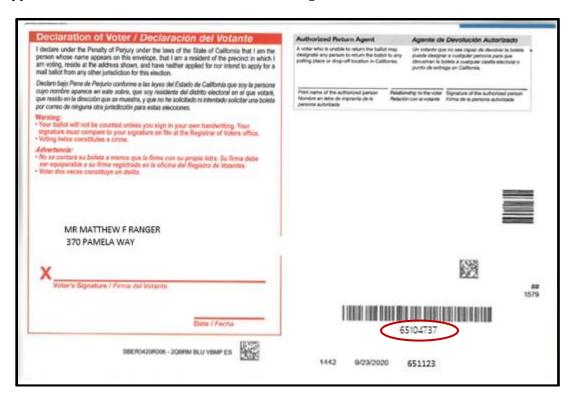
1. In the 1st window of DIMS.net, click on the *Enter Absent Voter Ballots* icon.



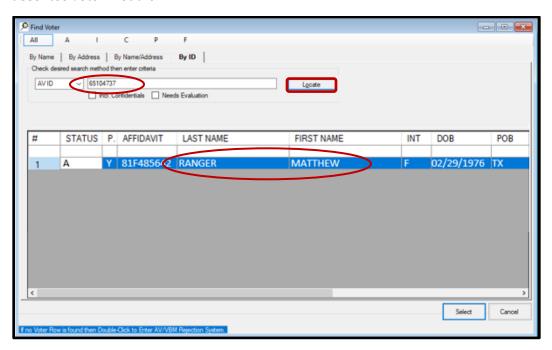
- 2. A *Find Voter* window will appear. Click on the **By ID** tab.
- 3. Click the arrow of the drop-down list and then select **AV ID** (Absentee Voter [Ballot] ID).



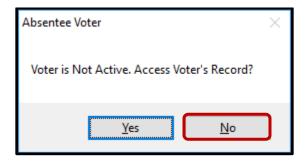
4. Type in the **AV ID** number found at the bottom right of the ballot, then **Locate** button.



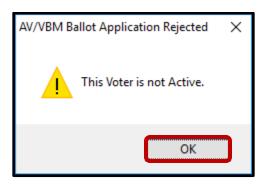
5. If the voter's name matches that of the ballot, double-click the voter's record to open the absentee voter module.



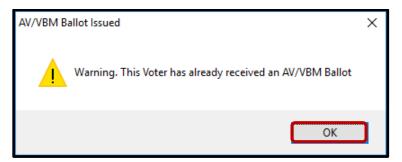
6. An Absentee Voter window should appear. Click No.



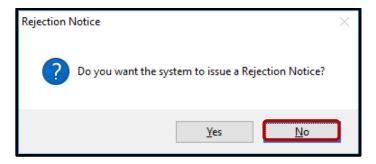
Note: You may see an AV/VBM Ballot Application Rejected window. Simply click **OK** if this occurs.



7. An AV/VBM Ballot Issued window should appear. Click **OK**.



8. A Rejection Notice window should appear. Always, click No.



Note: We never issue rejection notices to voters. This requires a higher authority.

Canceled - In Review (CNCLD) Challenges

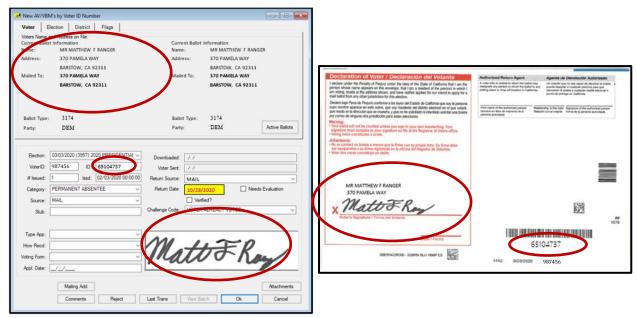
A Vote-By-Mail (VBM) envelope can be challenged as Canceled-In Review (CNCLD) for various reasons; the voter moved out of county, the voter's new record and old record merged canceling the old record, the voter reregistered to vote after 14-Day Close*, the voter is a felon, etc... Most CNCLD challenged envelopes will be overturning to Valid, the following steps do not cover all possible scenarios but do outline the most common occurrences.

*14-Day Close: Eligible citizens have within 14 days of an election to register or re-register to vote.

Researching CNCLDs

Before conducting any research on a VBM, we must verify the voter's information.

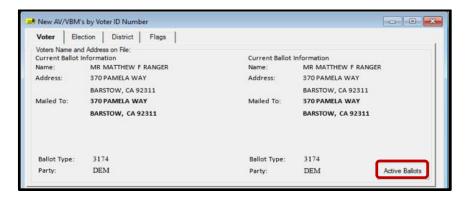
1. Using the VBM to compare, verify the Name, Address, Signature, and AVID on the VBM and in the *New AV/VBM's by Voter ID Number* window.



Note: if the signature on the on-hand VBM does not match the signatures on file, bring this to the attention of your direct supervisor, but continue to process the VBM. After Step 23, skip to the Non-Matching Signature section of this procedure.

Overturn to Valid

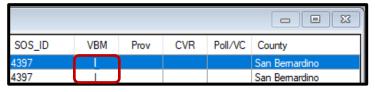
1. In the *New AV/VBM's by Voter ID Number* window, click **Active Ballots**.



2. Verify that the voter has only one issued ballot in the *Active Ballots* window.



3. If there is more than one Active Ballot, make sure that the *VBM*, *Prov*, *CVR*, and *Poll/VC* columns are either blank or only have an "I" for *issued*.

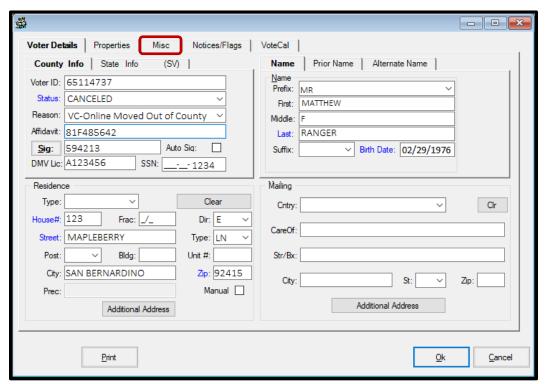


Note: If any of the VBM, Prov, CVR, and Poll/VC columns have an "A" for Accepted or "Yes" that means that this voter has already voted. Continue processing the VBM. After Step 23, skip to Voted section of this procedure.

- 4. Click **OK** on the *Active Ballots* window.
- 5. In the top left corner of DIMS.net, click the **Find Voter** icon.



6. The voter's record window will appear. Click the **Misc** tab.

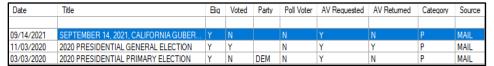


Note: While in the **Voter Details** tab, make sure to fill out the Research Label with the Status, Reason, DL, DOB, VID, and AVID.

7. Click on **Voting History**.



8. Within the *Voting History* window, verify that the current election is listed. If the current election is present, make sure that the *Voted* and *Poll Voter* columns have an "N".



Note: If either the Voted or the Poll Voter columns have a "Y", that means that the voter has participated in the current election. Continue processing the VBM. After Step 23, skip to <u>Voter Already Voted</u> section of this procedure.

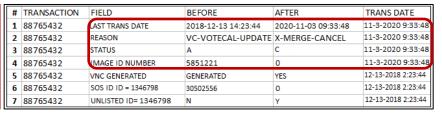
- 9. Click **OK** to close the *Voting History* window.
- 10. Click Last Transaction.



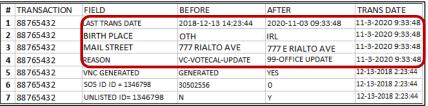
11. Under the *Trans Date* column, look for the most recent transaction, but more specifically look at the most recently changed item. Under the *Field* column look for key words, such as, "Reason" or "Status", these mean that the record's status and reason code have changed. If there is only "Reason", that means that there was only an update made to the record but their status was not changed.

Note: No matter what changes were made to a record, the same amount of research is required.

If a voter has an old record and new record, the records merge. DIMs cancels the old record (X-Merge-Cancel) and the new record becomes Active (X-Merge-Active). The record shown is the canceled record.



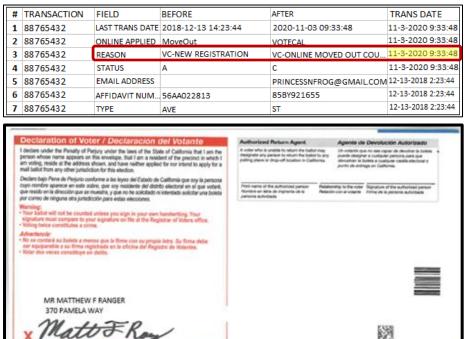
This record was updated after the close of registration.



This record was canceled because the voter moved out of the county. *Note:* when a record is canceled because of an out of county move, you must do a statewide search.

#	TRANSACTION	FIELD	BEFORE	AFTER	TRANS DATE
1	88765432	LAST TRANS DATE	2018-12-13 14:23:44	2020-11-03 09:33:48	11-3-2020 9:33:48
2	88765432	ONLINE APPLIED	MoveOut	VOTECAL	11-3-2020 9:33:48
3	88765432	REASON	VC-NEW REGISTRATION	VC-ONLINE MOVED OUT COU	11-3-2020 9:33:48
4	88765432	STATUS	A	С	11-3-2020 9:33:48
5	88765432	EMAIL ADDRESS		PRINCESSNFROG@GMAIL.COM	12-13-2018 2:23:44
6	88765432	AFFIDAVIT NUM	56AA022813	85BY921655	12-13-2018 2:23:44
7	88765432	TYPE	AVE	ST	12-13-2018 2:23:44

12. Compare the date that the voter's *Last Trans Date* to the execution date of their VBM envelope (the date the voter signed their mail ballot envelope). If the execution date is before the *Last Trans Date*, continue to step 13. If the execution date is after the *Last Trans Date*, make a note of it, saying "the voter's record was canceled prior to execution date" on the Research Label and continue to step 13.



- 13. Click **OK** on *Last Transaction* window.
- 14. In the second DIMS.net window; click the **Find Voter Records** icon.

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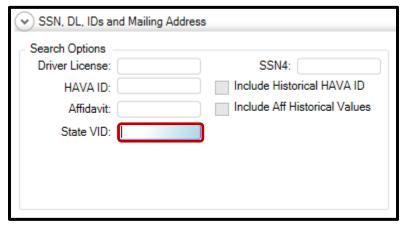
9/23/2020

15. A *Voter Search* window will appear. Click on the **Statewide/County** radio button.



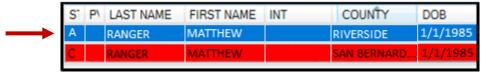
16. Click the arrow to the left of the SSN, DL, IDs and Mailing Address section.

17. Enter the voter's state ID into the *State VID* field. Press the **Enter** key.



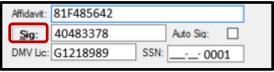
Note: You may also attempt this search with a driver's license; however, the voter may not have added their driver's license to their new record. Searching by name (using the % wildcard) and birthday are also viable options.

18. Double-click on the voter's out of county record or their Active record, if applicable.

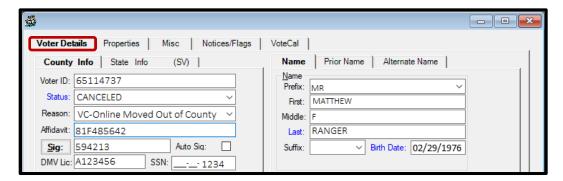


Note: If the only record available is the voter's San Bernardino record that is already open in the first instance of DIMS.net, no need to open the record.

19. Click on the **Sig** button.



- 20. Compare the signature(s) available to the signatures on the VBM and the canceled record. If they match, it is time to overturn this challenge code to Valid.
- 21. In the first instance of DIMS, navigate to the *Voter Details* tab within the voter's record.



22. Double-check the information on the Research Label with the voter's record.

23. Click Cancel.

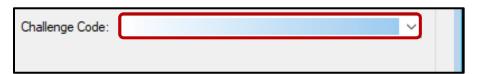


24. Within the *New AV/VBM's by Voter ID Number* window click twice on the arrow for the Challenge Code drop down list

Note: The drop down menu will extend with the first click and retract with the second click, highlighting the current challenge code.



25. Press Backspace key.



26. Click **OK**.



27. A Green Light Scenario window should appear. Click **OK**.



28. Re-enter the voter's *AV module* to verify that the Challenge Code field is blank.

29. Close out of the *AV Module* by clicking the red X.



- 30. Write the following on the Challenge Resolution Label:
 - "Overturned from CNCLD to Valid"
 - The date and your initials.
- 31. Make sure that the Research Label is completely filled out, if no information is provided write "N/A". Use the Research Label Comment section of this procedure for verbiage.

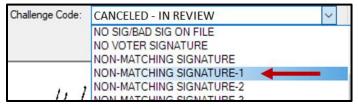
Non-Matching Signature (NMS)

If the signatures in the voter's record do not match their corresponding VBM but it has otherwise been confirmed that this is the correct voter (address, name, AVID are a match), the CNCLD challenge must be changed to Non-Matching Signature-1 (if this VBM has been NMS-1 in the past, it must be challenged as NMS-2 now).

1. Within the *New AV/VBM's by Voter ID Number* window click the arrow for the Challenge Code drop down list.



2. Select Non-Matching Signature-1.



3. Click Ok.

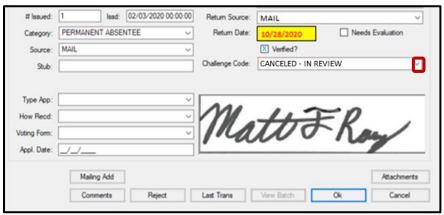
Note: You may see a Yellow Light Scenario window indicating that the voter's record has a status other than active. Click **Continue** if this happens.

- 4. Write the following on the Challenge Resolution Label:
 - "Overturned from CNCLD to NMS-1"
 - The date and your initials.
- 5. Make sure that the Research Label is completely filled out. Use the Research Label Comment section of this procedure for verbiage.

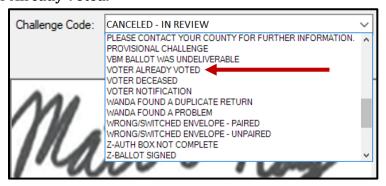
Voter Already Voted (VAV)

If within the *Voting History* window or the *Active Ballot* window there is evidence that the voter has already voted, or a *Red Light Scenario* window appears when overturning the challenge code, this VBM must be challenged as Voter Already Voted (VAV).

1. Within the *New AV/VBM's by Voter ID Number* window click the arrow for the Challenge Code drop down list.



2. Select Voter Already Voted.



3. Click **0k**.

Note: You may see a Yellow Light Scenario window indicating that the voter's record has a status other than active. Click **Continue** if this happens. You may also see a Red Light Scenario window stating that the voter has already voted. Click **Continue** if this happens.

- 4. Write the following on the Challenge Resolution Label:
 - "Overturned from CNCLD to VAV"
 - The date and your initials.
- 5. Make sure that the Research Label is completely filled out. Use the Research Label Comment section of this procedure for verbiage.

Exhausted (EXH)

Exhausted (EXH) is an unofficial challenge code that simply means that a VBM can no longer be processed and must be placed on an indefinite hold. It is rare that a Canceled – In Review VBM will need to be exhausted but the following are a couple of the most common scenarios.

Note: Supervisors may give direction to Exhaust a VBM that does not fall under the following scenarios.

X-Felon-Ineligible

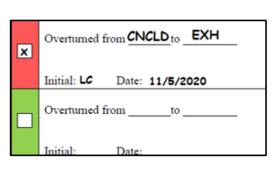
- The Last Trans states that the voter became a felon prior to execution date.

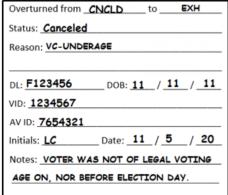
X-Underage Voter

- The voter did not become of legal voting age before or on Election Day.

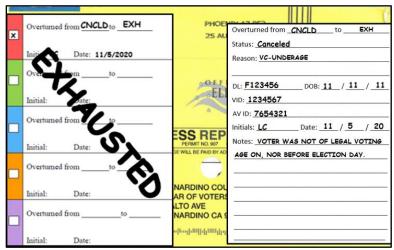
Note: If that execution date was prior to the voter becoming of legal age, but they are legal voting age by Election Day, then continue to process this VBM.

- 1. When Exhausting a VBM, the challenge code within the *New AV/VBM's by Voter ID Number* window will remain same (Canceled In Review).
- 2. Fill out both the Challenge Label and the Research Label to reflect that this VBM is Exhausted.
 - a. Overturned from **CNCLD** to **EXH**. Initial and date.

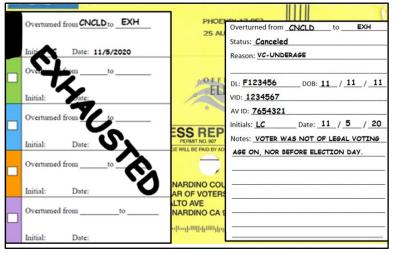




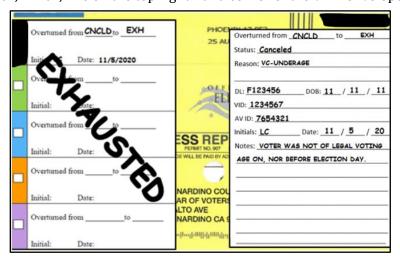
3. Using black sharpie; in large, all capital letters, write "Exhausted" in the empty space on the Challenge Label.



4. Black out the color-coded checks section of the challenge label, on both sides (only black out up to the check that the VBM is currently on.



5. Make a thick, 1 inch, line on the top right-hand corner of the VBM envelope.



San Bernardino County Elections Office of the Registrar of Voters Reviewing and Overturning Canceled – In Review (CNCLD) Challenges (Version 1.4)

Authorization

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