Positive Messaging
You may have seen recent news regarding the dispute between the California Republican Party and the California Secretary of State related to the use of unauthorized drop boxes in a ballot collection effort. Instead of getting embroiled in the dispute, the best thing that local Leagues can do is to counteract any confusion by disseminating accurate information with positive messaging to voters. We recommend:

- Reminding voters that they have the choice to return their ballots by mail, drop them off at an official drop box or any voting location in the county, or that they can vote in person at a voting location. Find locations on votersedge.org
- Directing people to caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov for Official Ballot Drop Boxes and In-Person Early Voting Locations (or the link to the county equivalent).
- Encouraging people to use wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov to track their ballots
- Here’s a few examples of good messaging
  - twitter.com/cavotes/status/1316052904113893376?s=20
  - twitter.com/CASOSvote/status/1315709628416745483?s=20
  - twitter.com/FutureCAElect/status/1315723478864064513?s=20
  - twitter.com/FresnoCountyCA/status/1315761998160826368?s=20

Ballot Collection Law in California
- In California, voters who cannot return their vote by mail ballot may designate another person to return the ballot to the county elections office, any voting location, or to an official dropoff location. Cal. Elec. Code § 3017(a)(2)
- The person designated must return the ballot in person, or put the ballot in the mail, no later than three days after receiving it from the voter or before the close of the polls on election day, whichever time period is shorter. Cal. Elec. Code § 3017(a)(2)
- A person designated to return a vote by mail ballot shall not receive any form of compensation based on the number of ballots that the person returns and an individual, group, or organization shall not provide compensation on this basis. Cal. Elec. Code § 3017(e)(1)
- A ballot shall not be disqualified from being counted solely because it was returned or mailed more than three days after the designated person received it from the voter, provided that the ballot is returned by the designated person before the close of polls on election day. Cal. Elec. Code § 3017(a)(2)
- Vote by mail return envelopes are required to list:
  - The name of the person authorized to return the ballot
  - The authorized person’s relationship to the voter
- A ballot shall not be disqualified solely because the person authorized to return it did not provide on the identification envelope his or her name, relationship to the voter, or signature. Cal. Elec. Code § 3011(c)
- Despite the fact that ballots with incomplete designation information will be counted, it remains illegal to operate a ballot collection program that violates the law.

Resources
- Secretary of State of CA Cease and Desist Letter on Unauthorized Drop Boxes
- Secretary of State of CA Advisory to Counties on Unauthorized Drop Boxes
- Attachments to Cease and Desist Letter