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**CENTER FOR
INCLUSIVE
DEMOCRACY**

**Voter's Choice Act: 2020 General Election
Voter Registration and Turnout**

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This research was commissioned by the California Secretary of State's Office and was independently conducted by Center for Inclusive Democracy.

About the Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID)

Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID), formerly California Civic Engagement Project, is a nonpartisan research center serving the U.S. Founded and directed by Dr. Mindy S. Romero, CID moved to the USC Price School of Public Policy, Sacramento, California in 2018. CID conducts a range of national and multi-state research initiatives exploring voting behavior, civic engagement, electoral and economic research, the intersection of social justice and democracy, and more. Inclusive civic and political participation is critical in addressing disparities in social and economic well-being, and can improve health, education and employment outcomes.

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We note here that the California Secretary of State's office did not provide review or feedback to CID on the contents of this report. The California Secretary of State's office did not transmit this report to the state's official VCA Task Force for formal review and input by its members. The Task Force members include select California county elections officials and representatives from many of the state's leading voter advocacy groups with an expertise in VCA implementation.

A draft of this report was submitted to the California Secretary of State's office on July 2, 2021. All data collection and analysis were completed prior to this date. Data presented in this report was published after July in independent reports by the Center for Inclusive Democracy. Some text in this report was updated in March 2022 to reflect the report's delayed publication by the Secretary of State and to indicate that the report is now final.

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Executive Summary

In 2020, fifteen California counties, consisting of approximately half the state's registered voter population, opted to conduct elections as prescribed by the Voter's Choice Act (VCA). This new voting model replaces neighborhood polling places with multi-service vote centers available up to ten days before Election Day. VCA counties send vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots to all registered voters, who can return them by mail, at a vote center, or at a secure ballot drop box. Voters may choose instead to vote in person by completing a ballot at a vote center.

To address the state's VCA research requirements for the 2020 general election, the California Secretary of State has commissioned a series of five reports from university-based researchers with an expertise in state elections. This research report is one of three conducted independently by the Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID) at the University of Southern California. For a discussion of the study's methodology, please see the full report (page 11). This report addresses the following research areas for VCA counties in the 2020 general election:

1. Method of voting
2. Vote-by-Mail ballot rejection rates
3. Reasons for Vote-by-Mail ballot rejection
4. Voter registration
5. Voter turnout
6. Conditional voter registration
7. Provisional voting

Two additional CID reports commissioned by the California Secretary of State examine VCA-related voter outreach and education efforts and the specific impact of the VCA on the electoral experience for voters with disabilities in the 2020 general election.

Key Findings from VCA Implementation in the 2020 General Election

Due to Los Angeles County's large proportion of the total number of the registered voters in California's VCA counties in the 2020 general election (52.8%), its voting data significantly influenced the overall findings for VCA counties presented in this report. For this reason, we present data in this report for VCA counties with and without the inclusion of Los Angeles County.

1. Voting Methods in the 2020 General Election

Nearly 90% of voters used Vote-by-Mail ballots

The overwhelming majority of California voters used VBM ballots. A full 87.5% of California voters used VBM ballots in the 2020 general election, an increase from 72.2% in the primary election in March 2020. Nearly 38% of Californians dropped off their VBM ballot at a drop box, while another 33.5% voted by mail. A smaller percentage (16.4%) dropped off their ballot at a voting location site and just 12.6% did not use a VBM ballot, instead voting in person.

While VBM ballots were commonly used across the state, the rates of using different methods to cast ballots varied between VCA counties and non-VCA counties. VCA counties had higher rates of voting by drop box than non-VCA counties and higher rates of in-person voting (see table). Voting by drop box was the leading method for all VCA counties except Calaveras and Nevada, which had higher rates of mail and vote location drop off, respectively. This drop box rate was even higher (44.3%)—and the in-person voting rate lower (11.3%)—with Los Angeles County excluded.

Voting Methods in the 2020 General Election				
	California-wide	VCA Counties	VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	Non-VCA Counties
Mailed VBM Ballot	33.5%	28.6%	31.8%	38.2%
Dropped off VBM ballot at vote center	16.4%	12.9%	12.6%	19.8%
Dropped off VBM ballot at drop box location	37.6%	42.9%	44.3%	32.4%
Voted in person	12.6%	15.7%	11.3%	9.6%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

The likelihood of voting in person or voting by mail varied by voter characteristic. Latino, youth voters (ages 18 to 24), new voters, and previous polling place voters had higher rates of in-person voting compared to the general population. Conversely, Asian-American voters voted in person at lower rates than the general population. In VCA counties, foreign-born voters voted by mail at higher rates and via drop box at lower rates than U.S.-born voters. Men voted in-person and by mail at higher rates than women, while women voted by drop box at higher rates than men. Republican voters voted in-person at higher rates than both Democratic and No Party Preference voters.

2. Vote-by-Mail Ballot Rejection Rates

Vote-by-Mail ballot rejection rates varied by voter characteristics

A small but significant proportion of California ballots are rejected in elections, typically at disproportionate rates in certain voter populations. In our analysis, VCA counties had the same VBM rejection rate as the statewide rate, but rates varied by county and were higher among young voters, new voters, Latino voters, and voters who had previously voted at a polling place.

In the general population, rates of VBM ballot rejection were similar in VCA counties to the state as a whole, but also varied from county to county. Across California, 0.5% of all VBM ballots cast were rejected in the 2020 general election (see table). The VBM rejection rate in VCA counties (0.5%) was slightly lower than the rejection rate in non-VCA counties (0.6%). When excluding Los Angeles County, VCA counties had a lower rejection rate (0.4%) than the statewide rate. Among individual VCA counties, the VBM rejection rate ranged from 0.2% (Sacramento, Santa Clara, and Tuolumne) to 1.4% (Fresno).

VBM Ballot Rejection Rates by Group in the 2020 General Election				
	California-wide	VCA Counties	VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	Non-VCA Counties
Young voters	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.6%
New voters	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.3%
Previous polling place voters	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%
Latino voters	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.9%
Asian-American voters	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
General population	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Rates of VBM ballot rejection varied more substantially among specific voter groups. Youth voters (1.4%), new voters (1.2%), Latino voters (0.8%), and previous polling place voters (0.6%) had higher VBM rejection rates than the general population. For these groups, VCA counties had lower VBM rejection rates than non-VCA counties, with the exception of previous polling place voters who had matching rejection rates in VCA and non-VCA counties.

We also saw differences in VBM ballot rejection rates when analyzed by party affiliation. Democratic voters (0.4%) had lower VBM rejection rates than Republican (0.5%) and No Party Preference voters (0.7%). Democratic voters had a lower rejection rate than the general population, while Republican voters had matching rates and No Party Preference voters had a higher rejection rate than the general population.

3. Reasons for Vote-by-Mail Ballot Rejection

Signature issues caused most rejections of Vote-by-Mail ballots

Our analysis discovered a significant shift in the reasons for rejecting VBM ballots from the 2020 primary election and previous California statewide elections. In the 2020 general election, the majority of rejected VBM ballots had signature issues. In contrast, the majority of rejected VBM ballots in the 2020 primary election were rejected for being received late.

Non-matching signatures were the most common reason for VBM ballot rejection across the state in the general election. Over three quarters of rejected VBM ballots were rejected for signature issues, including non-matching and missing signatures. In California, 59.5% of rejected ballots had non-matching signatures, 17.3% had missing signatures, 16.1% were received late, and 7.1% were rejected for other reasons (see table). It appears the 2020 general election's expanded window (by two weeks) for the acceptance of VBM ballots may have contributed to a reduction in late ballots for California voters.

Reasons for VBM Ballot Rejection in the 2020 General Election				
	California-wide	VCA Counties	VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	Non-VCA Counties
Too late	16.1%	16.2%	19.3%	16.1%
Signature doesn't match	59.5%	56.9%	55.6%	61.6%
No signature	17.3%	18.6%	14.2%	16.3%
Other	7.1%	8.4%	10.9%	6.0%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Compared to non-VCA counties, VCA counties had a lower share of rejected VBM ballots with non-matching signatures, a higher share of VBM ballots with missing signatures, and a slightly higher rate of late ballots. However, rejection reasons varied greatly among VCA counties, with the share of VBM ballots rejected for non-matching signatures ranging from 32.5% (Santa Clara) to 85.2% (Nevada and Madera).

Our analysis by voter characteristics revealed some differences between groups. Asian-American and previous polling place voters had higher rates of late VBM ballots than the general population. Republican voters had higher rates of late ballots than Democratic voters. Latino, youth voters, and new voters had higher rates of VBM rejection for non-matching signatures than the general population.

4. Voter Registration

Voter registration rates varied by demographic group

Across the general population, voter registration rates were historically high. In California, 83.2% of eligible voters were registered to vote. VCA counties had a higher registration rate for eligible voters (85.2%) than non-VCA counties (81.3%). However, when excluding Los Angeles County, the VCA registration rate dropped to 82.9%.

Although some demographic groups have lower registration rates across the board, the disparities were somewhat different in VCA counties compared to non-VCA counties. Both statewide and in VCA counties, Latino, Asian-American, and youth voters had notably lower registration rates than the general population. VCA counties had higher

registration rates for these groups than non-VCA counties. When excluding Los Angeles County, however, Latino voters in VCA counties had lower registration rates than non-VCA counties.

Registration rates among Latino, Asian-American, and youth eligible voters varied widely from county to county. At the VCA county level, Latino registration rates ranged from 42.9% (Amador) to 77% (Los Angeles); Asian-American registration rates ranged from 42.9% (Butte) to 85% (Tuolumne); and registration rates for youth ranged from 46.1% (Butte) to 98.8% (San Mateo).

5. Voter Turnout

Registered voter turnout was higher in VCA counties (excluding Los Angeles County)

Generally, making a causal connection between an election reform and voter turnout calls for caution because turnout is potentially influenced by a wide variety of factors, making it difficult to assess the specific impact of the reform. The 2020 general election took place within the context of a global pandemic and a politically charged national environment where many voters felt a high degree of saliency regarding the presidential race.

Voter turnout is commonly measured in two ways: eligible voter turnout measures the percent of adult citizens who voted and registered voter turnout measures the percent of those registered to vote (a subset of all adult citizens) who cast a ballot. In California, 66.7% of eligible voters and 80.1% of registered voters voted in the 2020 general election. VCA counties had a higher eligible voter turnout (67.6%) than non-VCA counties (65.8%) and a lower registered voter turnout (79.3%) than non-VCA counties (81%). When excluding Los Angeles County, VCA counties' registered voter turnout rates in the general population and in specific groups were higher than rates in non-VCA counties (see table).

Registered Voter Turnout by Group in the 2020 General Election				
	California-wide	VCA Counties	VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	Non-VCA Counties
U.S. born voters	81.9%	80.8%	85.8%	82.9%
Foreign born voters	80.9%	80.2%	85.6%	81.9%
Asian-American voters	81.0%	80.5%	83.8%	82.0%
Latino voters	72.8%	73.1%	76.9%	72.5%
Women	82.0%	81.1%	86.0%	82.8%
Young voters	70.9%	72.5%	74.2%	69.5%
General population	80.1%	79.3%	84.4%	81.0%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Our study looked at disparities in voter turnout among Latinos, Asian-Americans, and young voters. Latino, Asian-American, and youth voters had lower eligible voter turnout rates than the general population. Latino and youth voters also had lower registered voter turnout than the general population, while Asian-American voters had higher registered voter turnout than the general population. Although turnout rates in VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County were higher than statewide, these disparities were still present.

Registered voter turnout varied by nativity, gender, and political affiliation—both statewide and in VCA counties. U.S.-born voters had higher registered voter turnout rates than foreign-born voters. Women registered to vote voted at higher rates than men registered to vote. Republican voters had higher registered voter turnout than Democratic and No Party Preference voters.

6. Conditional Voter Registration

Approximately one in ten new voters used conditional voter registration

VCA adopting counties are required to provide the option to conditionally register to vote and cast a ballot while visiting a vote center. This option allows voters who missed the traditional registration deadline to participate in the current election. In the 2020 general election, 1.0% of California voters used conditional voter registration (CVR). VCA counties had a higher rate of CVR use (1.2%) than non-VCA counties (0.9%). When excluding Los Angeles County, however, CVR use dropped to 1.0% (see table).

Use of Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) in the 2020 General Election				
	California-wide	VCA Counties	VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	Non-VCA Counties
New voters	10.5%	12.3%	10.4%	8.9%
Young voters	3.0%	3.2%	2.8%	2.7%
Asian-American voters	1.1%	1.2%	1.2%	0.8%
Latino voters	1.5%	1.6%	1.7%	1.5%
Previous polling place voters	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.2%
General population	1.0%	1.2%	1.0%	0.9%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

New voters used CVR at a substantial rate. Across California, 10.5% of new voters used CVR and the rate was 12.3% in VCA counties. Among Latino and young voters, the use of CVR was also more common than in the general population. Asian-American voters had a slightly higher rate of CVR use than the general population.

CVR use also varied by foreign-born status and political affiliation. Foreign-born voters (1.3%) used CVR at higher rates than U.S.-born voters (0.9%). Republican voters (1%) used CVR at higher rates than Democratic voters (0.7%), while No Party Preference voters (1.5%) had the highest CVR use rate of party affiliations.

7. Provisional Voting

Provisional voting was much less common in VCA counties than in non-VCA counties

California election law provides that any voter whose qualifications cannot be immediately established is entitled to cast a provisional ballot. Provisional ballots are checked by county election officials to confirm that the person who voted provisionally is both registered and that they did not cast a ballot by mail or at another polling location on Election Day.

Overall, a small percentage of ballots were cast provisionally in California's 2020 general election, but differences were evident between VCA and non-VCA counties. Statewide, 0.3% of ballots cast and counted were provisional. VCA counties had notably lower rates of provisional ballots than non-VCA counties. Only a very small number of ballots in VCA counties were provisional (3,727 ballots, calculated at 0.0%), compared to 0.6% (50,960 ballots) in non-VCA counties. Latino, youth voters, and previous polling place voters had higher provisional ballot use rates than the general population.

Conclusion

In the 2020 general election, which took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, voters overwhelmingly used Vote-by-Mail ballots to vote, primarily mailing them or placing them in a drop box. Our analysis reveals several notable differences in voter behavior in VCA counties compared to the state as a whole.

Voting method. Voters in VCA counties used the range of voting options available to them under the new model. In VCA counties, the most common method was to vote by drop box whereas in non-VCA counties the most common method was to mail the VBM ballot. Voters in VCA counties voted in person at slightly higher rates than those in non-VCA counties.

Voter registration and turnout. VCA counties saw higher rates of voter registration than non-VCA counties, although the difference appeared to be driven largely by high registration rates in Los Angeles County. The voter turnout of eligible voters was higher in VCA counties than non-VCA counties, but the turnout of registered voters was higher in VCA counties only when excluding Los Angeles County, suggesting that high voter registration in that county did not fully translate into voter turnout in this election.

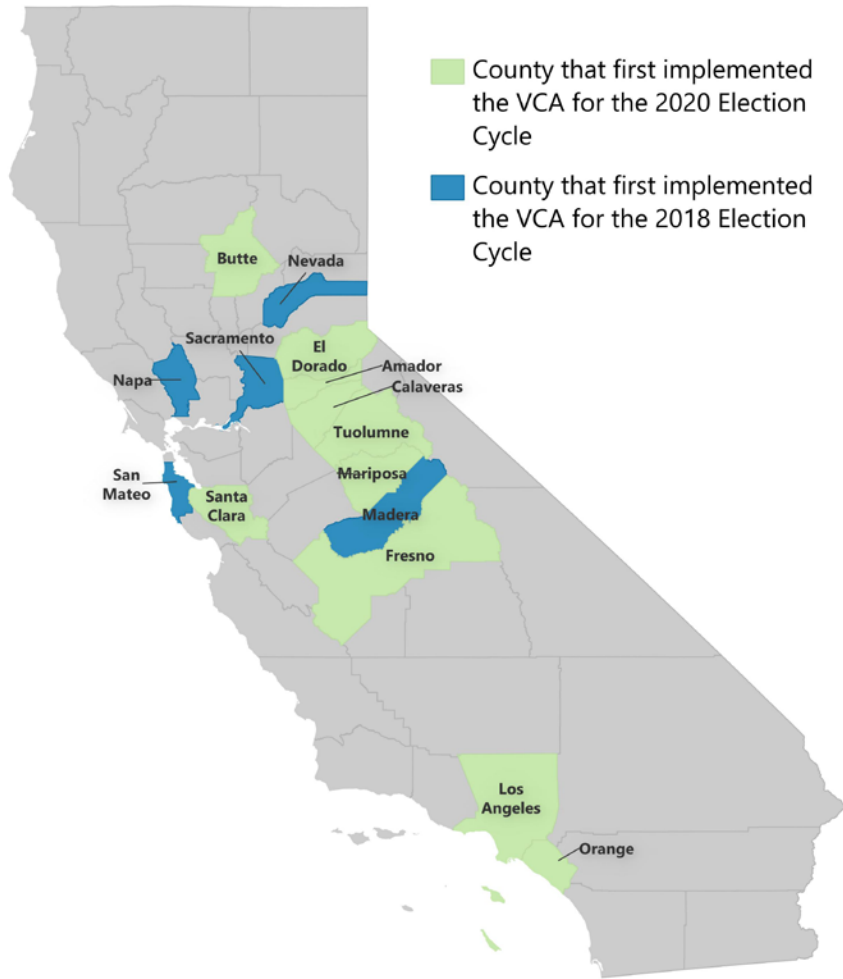
Conditional voter registration and provisional voting. A small percentage of California voters use conditional voter registration (CVR) to cast a ballot if they have missed the state's official registration deadline. In VCA counties, CVR was more common than in non-VCA counties, driven in part by Los Angeles County. Provisional voting is available to voters whose registration cannot be immediately established when they are ready to vote. In VCA counties, rates of provisional voting were effectively zero and lower than in non-VCA counties.

Our findings also underscore differences in voting outcomes by demographic group. Latino and young voters had lower voter turnout than the general population. Within the small percentage of VBM ballots that were rejected after being cast, rejection rates were substantially higher for young voters, new voters, and Latino voters than for the general population. The reasons for VBM ballot rejection also vary by voter characteristic, with late ballots being relatively more common among Asian-American, Republican, and previous polling place voters, while non-matching signatures were a more common reason among Latino, youth, and new voters.

Additional research reports from CID examine VCA-related voter outreach efforts and the specific impact of the VCA on the electoral experience for voters with disabilities in the California's 2020 general election.

Introduction

FIGURE 1



In 2016, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 450, which allows California counties to choose to adopt a new voting system known as the Voter's Choice Act (VCA).¹ Under the VCA, neighborhood polling places are replaced with vote centers and Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballots are automatically sent to all registered voters in a county. Vote centers offer a variety of services including in-person voting, accessible voting options, language assistance, VBM ballot drop-off, and conditional voter registration. With the goal of expanding in-person early voting, these centers are distributed throughout the county and are available to all voters for up to ten days before and on Election Day. Additionally, voters in VCA counties can cast a ballot at any vote center within their county. The VCA also requires counties to provide secure ballot drop boxes to voters, giving them additional opportunities to return their ballots. Proponents of the VCA highlight the potential of the new model to make the voting process more accessible to voters, to possibly increase voter turnout and representativeness, and to reduce the cost of elections over time.

Fourteen of California's 58 counties were eligible to adopt the model for the 2018 election cycle, and five counties did so—Madera, Napa, Nevada, Sacramento

and San Mateo. All other California counties were eligible to adopt the model in 2020. For the 2020 election cycle, an additional 10 counties adopted the new voting system. The following counties adopted the VCA for the 2020 election cycle (see Figure 1): Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Los Angeles, Mariposa, Orange, Santa Clara and Tuolumne. In total, fifteen California counties conducted elections under the Voter's Choice Act in 2020—approximately half the state's current registered voter population.

We note that Los Angeles County was not required to and did not automatically send all registered voters VBM ballots in the 2020 primary election (63.3% of Los Angeles County's registered voters were mailed a VBM ballot in the primary). The 2020 general election was the first election in Los Angeles County where all registered voters received VBM ballots.

We also note that eligible voters in the five counties (Sacramento, San Mateo, Madera, Napa, and Nevada) that adopted the VCA in 2018 had additional exposure to the VCA model from that election cycle compared to eligible voters in the counties adopting the VCA for the first time in 2020.

Under the VCA, the Secretary of State is required to submit a report to the California Legislature. The purpose of this report is to inform the public and the Legislature on the impact of the VCA on the 15 adopting counties and to help identify changes necessary to improve performance, voter experience, and turnout. As specified under the new law, this report must include, to the extent possible, all of the following information by categories of race, ethnicity, language preference, age, gender, disability, permanent vote-by-mail status, historical polling place voters, political party affiliation, and language minorities as it relates to the languages required under subdivision (c) of Section 14201 and Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965:

1. Voter turnout.
2. Voter registration.
3. Ballot rejection rates.
4. Reasons for ballot rejection.
5. Provisional ballot use.
6. Accessible vote by mail ballot use.
7. The number of votes cast at each vote center.
8. The number of ballots returned at ballot dropoff locations.
9. The number of ballots returned by mail.
10. The number of persons who registered to vote at a vote center.
11. Instances of voter fraud.
12. Any other problems that became known to the county elections official or the Secretary of State during the election or canvas.

About the Study

To address the California Voter's Choice Act's research requirements for the 2020 general election, the California Secretary of State has commissioned a series of five reports from university-based researchers with an expertise in state elections. This research report is one of three produced for the Secretary of State and conducted independently by the Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID) at the University of Southern California. As requested by the Secretary of State's office, we address seven main research areas for each VCA county for the following voter categories: race, ethnicity, age, gender, foreign-born status, permanent vote-by-mail status, historical polling place voters, new voters, and political party affiliation.

1. Method of voting
2. Vote-by-Mail ballot rejection rates
3. Reasons for Vote-by-Mail ballot rejection
4. Voter turnout
5. Voter registration
6. Conditional voter registration
7. Provisional voting

Two additional CID reports commissioned by the California Secretary of State examine VCA-related voter outreach and education efforts and the specific impact of the VCA on the electoral experience for voters with disabilities in the 2020 general election. The California Secretary of State also released two VCA research reports by other university researchers: 1) A report by UCLA researchers examining VCA implementation in the general election specifically with regard to the language preference of voters, and 2) a report by researchers at Cal Tech providing a detailed examination of the challenges Los Angeles County experienced in its 2020 general election.²

Study Methodology

In order to provide the analysis of the 2020 general election required by the VCA, individual voter records must be examined as these are the only data source that includes a person's voting registration information, voting behavior, ballot type, and whether their vote-by-mail ballot was rejected and for what reasons. For this report, such voter records were provided by the California Secretary of State (VoteCal voter database system).³ Available in these data are a registrant's date of birth (used to identify age), party affiliation, voting activity, registration date, type of ballot cast (in-

person, mail, or provisional), VBM ballot rejection status, and reasons for ballot rejection. However, the specific voter data provided by the Secretary of State does not include information needed to address several of the required elements of the study's scope. Due to privacy concerns involving the level of voter detail provided in these files, the Secretary of State removed voters' names, addresses, foreign-born status and voting history from the VoteCal data file provided to CID. Additionally, gender, race, and ethnicity are not present for most voters in these files. Registered voters in California have the option to self-report their gender, race, and ethnicity data on the voter registration application, but this has historically been done by only a small percent of registrants. Because of the incomplete nature of the Secretary of State voter data, they are not representative of California's total registered voter population with regard to these demographic groups and not reliable for research purposes. We also note that voter records do not identify those registrants who were formerly incarcerated in the state.

Identifying Voters' Gender, Race and Ethnicity

The commonly applied research method to identify a voter's gender, race, and ethnicity from state and county voter records uses a combination of the registrant's name (first name commonly associated with gender or surname for race/ethnicity) and neighborhood characteristics (geocoding with census tract data) to infer the information. Because voters' names and addresses are not available in the VoteCal files provided by the Secretary of State, we must use an additional data source in order to identify the gender, race, and ethnicity of voters to address the full scope of work for this report.⁴ With agreement from the Secretary of State's office, CID utilized 2020 general election voter files provided by Political Data, Inc. (PDI). PDI's voter files (originating from county election offices) provided additional voter data identified by gender, race, and ethnicity through surname matching and geocoding.⁵ PDI data also includes other data missing from the VoteCal files for counties in California: foreign-born status and vote history (used to identify historical polling place and VBM voters). Datasets were merged with VoteCal files (with the voter ID number) and non-matching records were excluded to maintain a consistent and comparable registrant dataset for each demographic analysis. The resulting dataset used for this report's analysis varies slightly from the official Statement of the Vote certified by the California Secretary of State's Office.

Additionally, because the voter file provided by the Secretary of State did not include voter history, CID utilized historical voter data from the Statewide Database at UC Berkeley (California Legislature's official data source for the redistricting process) to conduct an analysis of the change in voter turnout from the 2016 to 2020 general elections for the total population by race, ethnicity, and age.

Data Limitations in Identification of Voters' Race and Ethnicity

While matching a voter's first name to their gender is known to be accurate in the identification of gender (although limited in its ability to identify only men and women; non-binary and other genders cannot currently be identified from the voter file), the accuracy of the surname matching and geocoding approach for racial and ethnic identification varies greatly by group. For this report, analysis of the voter file by race and ethnicity is limited to Latinos and Asian Americans. The method of using surname matching and geocoding for these groups, while not a perfect identifier, is generally reliable for research purposes (although to a lesser degree for Asian Americans). Both Black and white voters cannot be reliably matched to an ethnic group based only on their last name (or by first name). For white and Black voters, geocoding can help produce some level of accuracy at the census tract level, especially for Black voters who are more likely than other groups to live in segregated neighborhoods in the U.S. However, for this report's research questions, geocoding is not reliable for Black voters at the county level due to this group's smaller proportion of California's population (5.5% percent) compared to some other states. This is especially true in the many California counties where nearly every census tract has a small Black population and geocoding can erroneously assign Black voters to other racial and ethnic groups.⁶ Due to the difficulty in reliably identifying Black and white voters at the county level through geocoding, we do not provide a discussion of the data for these groups in the body of the report but do make their data available in the report's appendix for information purposes. Geocoding for identifying other population groups (such as Asian-American subgroups and Indigenous populations) is also generally not reliable at the county level in California. For more information on the voter file limitations for identifying race and ethnicity, see CID's website.

We note here that as part of CID's data validation process, we compared PDI's gender, race and ethnicity estimates to our own analysis of these demographic characteristics from the merged voter file. We used an alternative but similar

method that combines the U.S. Census' gender and surname lists with information from geocoded voter registration records (extension of the ecological inference model). For this analysis, we employed the commonly used R package WRU developed by leading political methodologists Kosuke Imai and Kabir Khanna at Princeton University.⁷ Estimates produced through this approach agreed with PDI's estimates at the state level on 95% of the Latino population assignments (71% not Latino and 24% Latino). Only 2% of voters were identified by the Imai and Khanna approach as Latino and by PDI as not Latino. Conversely, only 2% of voters were identified by PDI as Latino and by the Imai and Khanna approach as not Latino (numbers do not sum to 100% due to rounding). There is a similar consistency between the two approaches with regard to how frequently they identified Asian-American registered voters. Our validation process also found similarities with UC Berkeley's Statewide Database estimates for California Latino and Asian Americans, as well as those produced by other sources of voter data files (e.g. Catalist and L2).

Due to Los Angeles County's large proportion of the total number of registered voters in California's VCA counties in the 2020 general election (52.8%), its voting data significantly influenced the overall findings for VCA counties presented in this report. For this reason, we present data in this report for VCA counties with and without the inclusion of Los Angeles County.

Glossary:

Eligible Voter Turnout: The percent of adult citizens who cast a ballot.

Registered Voter Turnout: The percent of those registered to vote who cast a ballot.

Conditional Voter Registration (CVR): CVR allows eligible voters to register or update their voter registration information after the deadline and cast a conditional ballot, up to and on Election Day itself. CVR ballots are counted once the county election official has verified the registration. CVR is also commonly referred to as Same Day Registration.

Provisional Ballot: Any voter whose eligibility cannot be confirmed when at a voting location has the right to vote using a provisional ballot. Provisional ballots are counted if election officials have verified that the voter is registered to vote in the county and has not already voted.

2020 General Election Context

Conducting a Safe and Accessible Election

Conducting a safe and accessible general election during the COVID-19 pandemic was challenging. Assembly Bill 860 and Senate Bill 423 were signed into law to help the state navigate the impact of the pandemic on the election: Both bills directed changes in how the election was administered in VCA counties.⁸ Most notably for VCA voters, Assembly Bill 860 expanded the window of acceptance for a VBM ballot by two weeks. VBM ballots that were mailed were accepted if postmarked on or before Election Day and received by the county elections office no later than 17 days after Election Day. VCA counties were only required to open vote centers beginning three days before Election Day, but were required to still provide the number of drop boxes (1 for every 15,000 registered voters) and voting locations (one for every 10,000 registered voters) as specified by the VCA. In addition, non-VCA counties were required to mail all registered voters a VBM ballot and were given the option to consolidate their voting locations to one location for every 10,000 registered voters and open those locations beginning three days before the election. Under Senate Bill 423, VCA counties were allowed to reduce the length of time their 11-day vote centers were open to only 4 days (starting 3 days prior to Election Day).

General Election Coronavirus Funding

Assembly Bill 89 and Assembly Bill 100 appropriated state and county funding for the 2020 general election consistent with California's requirements to reduce the spread of COVID-19.⁹ This funding was in addition to funds allocated under state or local budget authority, as part of the normal conduct of elections. A portion of the funding was used for the following activities in order to conduct the general election during the COVID-19 pandemic: increased costs related to all aspects of voting by mail, equipment needs for processing increased VBM ballots and meeting the in-person voting

requirements, permanent and temporary staffing, additional security, specialized training of staff and election workers, cleaning and disinfection, personal protective equipment, and polling locations and election facilities. Another portion of the new funding was used for outreach and communication (see appendix for allocated funding amounts per VCA county).

History of Vote-by-Mail Use in California

The use of VBM ballots in California has increased nearly every election since voters were given the ability to register as permanent VBM voters in 2002.¹⁰ Prior to the first implementation of the VCA, VBM ballots comprised 57.8% of all votes cast in the 2016 general election, a notable increase from 27.1% of ballots in the general election of 2002.

Figures 2 and 3 show the percent of general election ballots cast and counted over time in VCA counties that were VBM.¹¹ All five VCA counties in 2018 saw VBM use rates much higher than the state VBM totals (ranging from 88% in San Mateo to 99% in Napa). In contrast, counties first implementing the VCA in 2020 varied more significantly in their voters' experiences with VBM (ranging from 45% VBM use rate in Los Angeles to 84% in Tuolumne in the 2018 general election). We note here the historically low VBM use in Los Angeles County compared to other VCA counties.

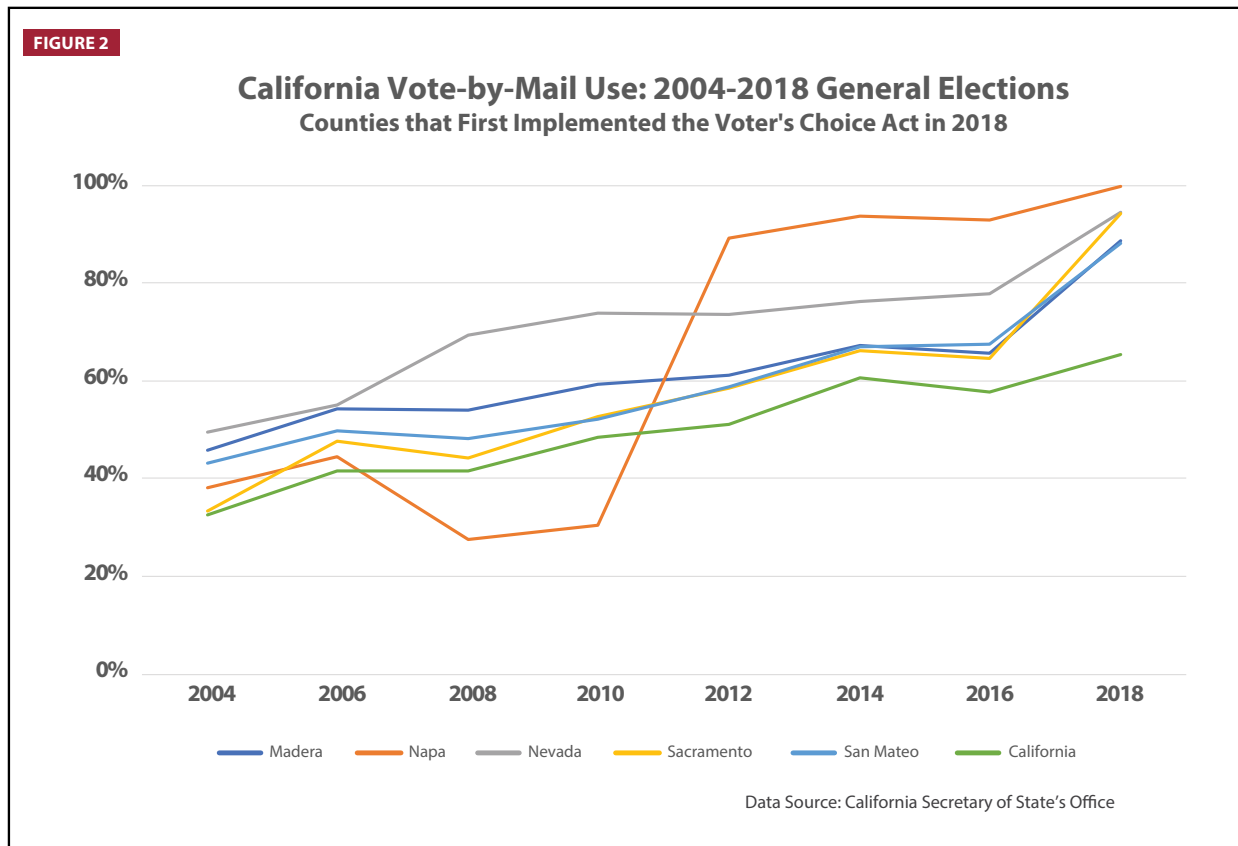
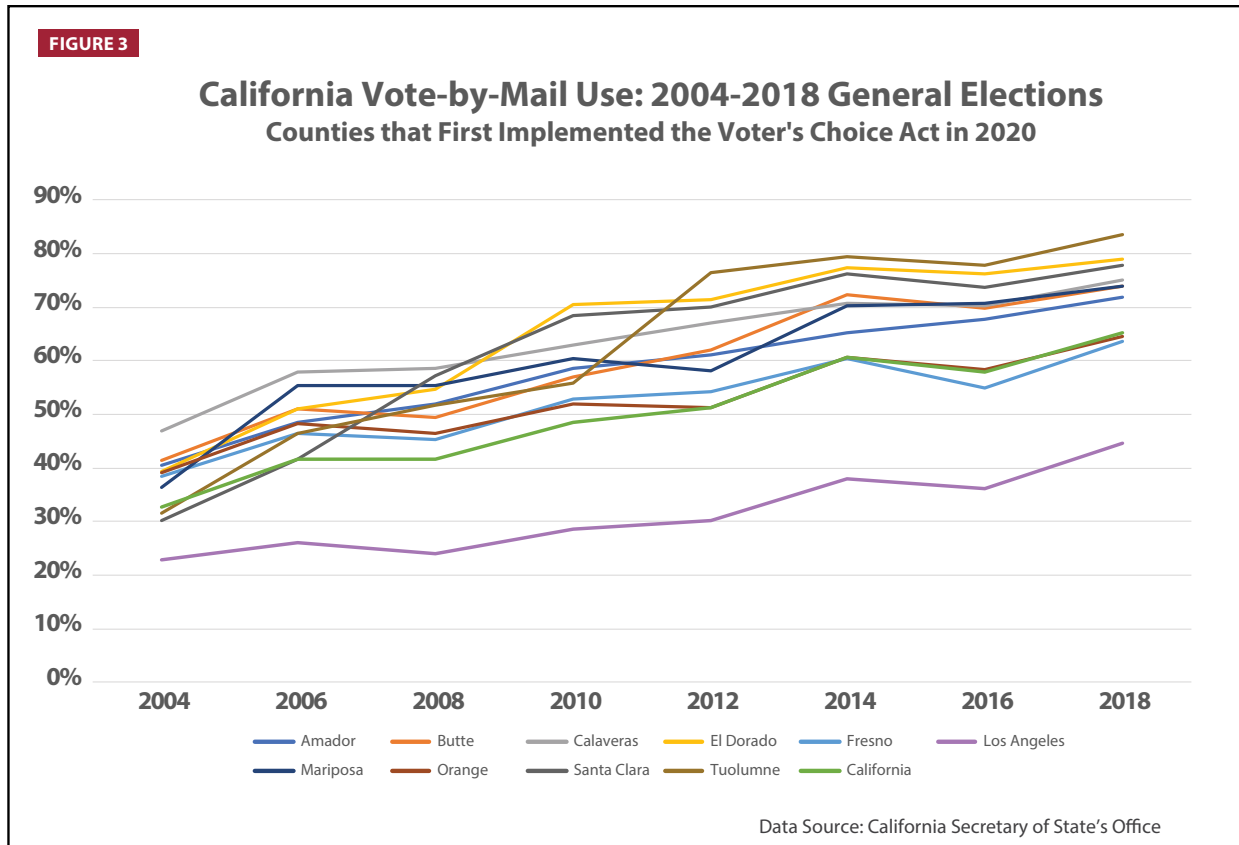


Chart Note: Between 2010 and 2012 Napa County converted a large number of registered voters to permanent vote by mail.



Demographic Profile of VCA Counties

Counties adopting the VCA have populations that range from small and rural (Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Madera, Mariposa, Napa, Nevada, and Tuolumne) to two of the largest metropolitan counties in the nation (Los Angeles and Orange). Because the VCA is an election reform implemented with a goal to better serve the needs of voters and to increase voting access for historically underrepresented groups, understanding the diversity of county populations is an important component in the assessment of whether implementation was successful.

Overall, eligible voters in counties adopting the VCA in 2020 are more racially and ethnically diverse, and have higher proportions of the population who are foreign-born and who are limited English proficient than California, at large. Tables 1-3 show that the larger metropolitan counties tend to be more racially diverse and have higher percentages of residents that are foreign-born and identify as limited English proficient as compared to the smaller counties adopting the VCA, which generally have a higher percentage of residents that have a disability.

In Table 1, we see that VCA counties have higher proportions of Latino, Asian-American, and Black populations than non-VCA counties. Madera (57.8%), Fresno (53.1%), and Los Angeles (48.5%) have notably larger Latino populations compared to the California total (39.0%). The Asian-American populations in Santa Clara (36.3%) and San Mateo (28.3%) counties are nearly double that of the statewide average (14.3%). In contrast, the white, non-Latino populations in Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Mariposa, Nevada, and Tuolumne are over twice the statewide average of 37.2%.

Table 2 shows the racial and ethnic composition of the population of VCA counties, specifically for those eligible to vote (adult citizens). When compared to the general population (39.9%), the percentage of Latino eligible voters in VCA counties is lower at 32.2%, while the non-Latino white proportion is higher at 40.8%, and lower for Asian-Americans (18.1%), and Black eligible voters (7.4%).¹² In Table 3, we see the proportion of each VCA county that is foreign-born, limited English proficient, and those that report a disability. The foreign-born population ranged from 4.8% in both Calaveras and Tuolumne to 39.2% in Santa Clara, and the limited English proficient population ranges from 2.1% in Calaveras to 25.3% in Los Angeles.¹³

**Table 1: Total Population by Race and Ethnicity
Voter's Choice Act Counties**

	Latino % Population	White, Non-Latino % Population	Asian-American % Population	Black % Population	American Indian and Alaska Native % Population	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander % Population	All Others Combined % Population
Amador County	13.9%	78.2%	1.2%	2.2%	0.6%	0.1%	3.7%
Butte County	16.3%	72.0%	4.5%	1.5%	0.8%	0.2%	4.8%
Calaveras County	12.1%	80.9%	1.5%	0.7%	0.4%	0.0%	4.4%
El Dorado County	12.8%	77.8%	4.5%	0.8%	0.5%	0.3%	3.3%
Fresno County	53.1%	29.4%	10.1%	4.5%	0.5%	0.1%	2.3%
Los Angeles County	48.5%	26.2%	14.4%	7.8%	0.2%	0.2%	2.6%
Madera County	57.8%	34.1%	1.9%	3.1%	1.0%	0.1%	2.0%
Mariposa County	11.3%	80.0%	1.2%	1.5%	1.9%	0.3%	3.9%
Napa County	34.1%	52.4%	8.0%	2.0%	0.3%	0.2%	3.0%
Nevada County	9.4%	85.2%	1.1%	0.5%	0.4%	0.1%	3.3%
Orange County	34.1%	40.6%	20.3%	1.6%	0.2%	0.3%	3.0%
Sacramento County	23.2%	44.7%	15.4%	9.5%	0.4%	1.1%	5.7%
San Mateo County	24.4%	39.2%	28.3%	2.2%	0.2%	1.3%	4.4%
Santa Clara County	25.5%	31.5%	36.3%	2.3%	0.2%	0.3%	3.9%
Tuolumne County	12.2%	80.2%	1.4%	1.8%	1.4%	0.2%	2.8%
VCA Counties	39.9%	33.2%	17.4%	5.7%	0.2%	0.4%	3.1%
VCA (w/o LA County)	30.6%	40.8%	20.7%	3.4%	0.3%	0.5%	3.7%
Non-VCA	38.2%	41.0%	11.2%	5.3%	0.5%	0.4%	3.4%
State	39.0%	37.2%	14.3%	5.5%	0.4%	0.4%	3.3%

Data Source: American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates- 2015-2019

**Table 2: Eligible Voter Population by Race and Ethnicity*
Voter's Choice Act Counties**

	Latino % Eligible Voter Population	White Non-Latino % Eligible Voter Population	Asian-American % Eligible Voter Population	Black % Eligible Voter Population	American Indian and Alaska Native % Eligible Voter Population	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander % Eligible Voter Population	All Others Combined % Eligible Voter Population
Amador County	13.1%	78.0%	0.9%	3.8%	0.7%	0.1%	3.4%
Butte County	13.0%	78.0%	4.3%	1.7%	0.9%	0.2%	2.0%
Calaveras County	10.0%	83.7%	1.1%	1.4%	0.5%	0.1%	3.2%
ElDorado County	10.3%	82.8%	3.8%	1.0%	1.1%	0.2%	0.8%
Fresno County	44.0%	38.0%	10.2%	6.1%	0.5%	0.1%	1.1%
Los Angeles County	39.9%	32.9%	16.0%	10.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%
Madera County	44.1%	46.0%	2.2%	4.8%	1.3%	0.1%	1.5%
Mariposa County	9.6%	82.1%	1.4%	1.4%	1.7%	0.4%	3.5%
Napa County	25.6%	62.0%	8.1%	2.2%	0.4%	0.3%	1.5%
Nevada County	8.8%	84.9%	1.9%	1.8%	0.4%	0.2%	2.0%
Orange County	25.8%	49.7%	21.6%	2.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
Sacramento County	18.0%	52.4%	14.8%	11.6%	0.4%	1.0%	1.8%
SanMateo County	21.0%	45.1%	28.3%	3.2%	0.2%	1.3%	1.0%
SantaClara County	22.4%	37.4%	35.3%	3.0%	0.2%	0.4%	1.4%
Tuolumne County	11.2%	81.6%	0.8%	3.0%	0.2%	0.2%	3.0%
VCA Counties County	32.2%	40.8%	18.1%	7.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.7%
VCA (w/o LA County)	24.3%	49.0%	20.3%	4.4%	0.4%	0.5%	1.1%
Non-VCA	27.4%	52.1%	9.5%	5.8%	0.6%	0.4%	4.2%
Statewide	29.8%	46.6%	13.7%	6.6%	0.4%	0.4%	2.5%

Data Source: American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates- 2015-2019

*Eligible voter population defined as adult citizens

**Table 3: Selected Demographics
Voter's Choice Act Counties**

	Foreign-Born % Population	Limited English % Population*	Disability % Population**
Amador County	6.0%	3.2%	18.9%
Butte County	7.3%	5.1%	17.1%
Calaveras County	4.8%	2.1%	21.1%
El Dorado County	9.2%	4.4%	13.2%
Fresno County	21.2%	19.0%	13.1%
Los Angeles County	34.0%	25.3%	9.9%
Madera County	20.2%	18.5%	13.0%
Mariposa County	5.8%	2.9%	20.3%
Napa County	22.1%	16.7%	11.7%
Nevada County	4.8%	2.6%	14.3%
Orange County	30.1%	20.4%	8.5%
Sacramento County	20.9%	13.6%	11.8%
San Mateo County	34.8%	18.7%	8.2%
Santa Clara County	39.2%	21.1%	8.0%
Tuolumne County	4.8%	11.1%	19.6%
VCA Counties	31.1%	21.6%	10.0%
VCA (w/o LA County)	27.9%	17.6%	10.1%
Non-VCA Counties	22.6%	13.9%	11.09%
Statewide	26.8%	17.7%	10.5%

Data Source: American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates- 2015-2019

*The percent of the population with limited English proficiency. Limited English proficiency is defined as people who speak English "less than very well".

**The percent of residents (age 5 to over 75) with disabilities out of the total population.

1. Voting Methods in the 2020 General Election

Table 4: Definition of Voting Methods Used in the 2020 General Election

Mail	A Vote-by-Mail ballot that was returned using the mail.
Vote Center Ballot Drop Off	A Vote-by-Mail ballot that was returned by dropping the ballot off at a vote center.
Drop Box Location	A Vote-by-Mail ballot that was returned by dropping the ballot off at a drop box location (internally and externally placed).
Vote Center	A ballot that was cast in person at a vote center.

Key Takeaways:

- Nearly 38% of Californians dropped off their VBM ballot at a drop box, while another 33.5% voted by mail. Another 16.4% dropped off their ballot at a voting location site and 12.6% voted in person.
- VCA counties had higher rates of voting by drop box (42.9%) than non-VCA counties (32.4%) and higher rates of in-person voting (15.7%). Among individual VCA counties, voting by drop box was the leading method for all counties, except Calaveras County, which had higher rates of mailing ballots, and Nevada County, which had higher rates of voting location drop off.
- Excluding Los Angeles County, drop box use in VCA counties was 44.3%, while in-person voting was lower at 11.3%. Additionally, 31.8% voted by mail and 12.6% dropped off their ballot at a voting location drop off site.
- Latino, youth voters (age 18 to 24), new voters, and previous polling place voters had higher rates of in-person voting compared to the general population. Conversely, Asian-American voters voted in person at lower rates than the general population.
- In VCA counties, foreign-born voters voted by mail at higher rates and via drop box at lower rates than U.S.-born voters. Men voted in person and by mail at higher rates than women, while women voted by drop box at higher rates than men. Republican voters voted in person at higher rates than both Democratic and No Party Preference voters.

In the 2020 general election, voters in VCA counties had four main ways they could cast their ballot: by returning their Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot through the mail, dropping their VBM ballot off at a ballot drop box location, dropping their VBM ballot off at a vote center, or voting in person at a vote center. For the 2020 general election, vote-by-mail ballots postmarked on or before Election Day and received by county elections officials no later than 17 days after Election Day were counted (changed from three days in previous elections).

All counties in California provided a postage-paid ballot return envelope for voters to use if they chose to mail in their VBM ballot. In the 2020 general election, all counties were required to use the new statewide tracking tool “Where’s My Ballot”, launched by the California Secretary of State in the 2020 election cycle.¹⁴ Over 5 million California voters signed up to receive automated notifications about their vote-by-mail ballots by email, text (SMS), or voice call. Voters had the opportunity to cure their rejected VBM ballot.

In addition, the VCA requires counties to offer the option of Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM). With this option, voters with disabilities can request a ballot to be sent electronically to them that they can download, read, and mark on their computer using their own accessible technology. Voters using RAVBM are then able to print and mail in their ballot.

Vote centers were utilized by voters during the early voting period and on Election Day for a range of services such as dropping off VBM ballots; receiving language assistance; or replacing spoiled ballots (ballots upon which the voter made a mistake and wanted a replacement), lost ballots, or envelopes. If voters were not already registered or needed to update their voter registration, they were able to conditionally register to vote and cast a ballot (conditional voter registration was available in all counties in 2020).¹⁵

California Voting Methods

The overwhelming majority (87.5%) of Californians voted with VBM ballots (15,068,811 VBM ballots of 17,236,299 ballots cast) in the 2020 general election. Figure 4 shows that the share of votes from VBM ballots was a notable increase from the 2020 primary election, in which 72.2% of all votes cast were from VBM ballots. In the 2020 general election, the most popular voting method used was drop box (37.6%, 6,474,134 ballots), followed closely by voting by mail (33.5%, 5,772,616 ballots). Voting location drop off (16.4%, 2,822,061 ballots) was the third highest used voting method, while in-person voting at vote centers and polling places (12.6%, 2,167,488 ballots) was the lowest used voting method. The rate of in-person voting dropped markedly from the 2020 primary election (27.8%). In our method of voting analysis, voted includes all ballots that were cast and counted and does not include rejected ballots in the voted totals.

VCA and Non-VCA Counties Methods

While voting by drop box was the most used voting method in the general election, the rates at which voters used voting methods varied greatly between VCA counties and non-VCA counties. Of the 8,462,033 ballots cast in VCA counties, at 42.9%, voting by drop box was highest in VCA counties (3,630,170 ballots), compared to 32.4% in non-VCA counties (2,843,964 ballots). Voting by mail was highest in non-VCA counties with 38.2% (3,354,450 ballots) of votes cast sent through the mail, compared to 28.6% in VCA counties (2,418,166 ballots). VCA counties had the highest rate of in-person voting with 15.7% (1,324,707 ballots), while 9.6% of voters in non-VCA counties (842,781 ballots) voted in-person. Non-VCA counties had a higher rate of voting by voting location drop off (19.8%, 1,733,071 ballots), compared to 12.9% in VCA counties (1,088,990 ballots).

VCA Counties, excluding Los Angeles County

When Los Angeles is excluded, methods in VCA counties shifted away from in-person voting and towards VBM ballots. Of the 4,311,185 votes counted, drop box use rates in VCA counties were higher at 44.3% (1,911,854 ballots) and voting by mail was 31.8% (1,369,305 ballots). Additionally, voting in person was also lower at 11.3% (486,056 ballots) and voting by drop off location slightly higher at 12.6% (543,970 ballots).

Individual VCA Counties

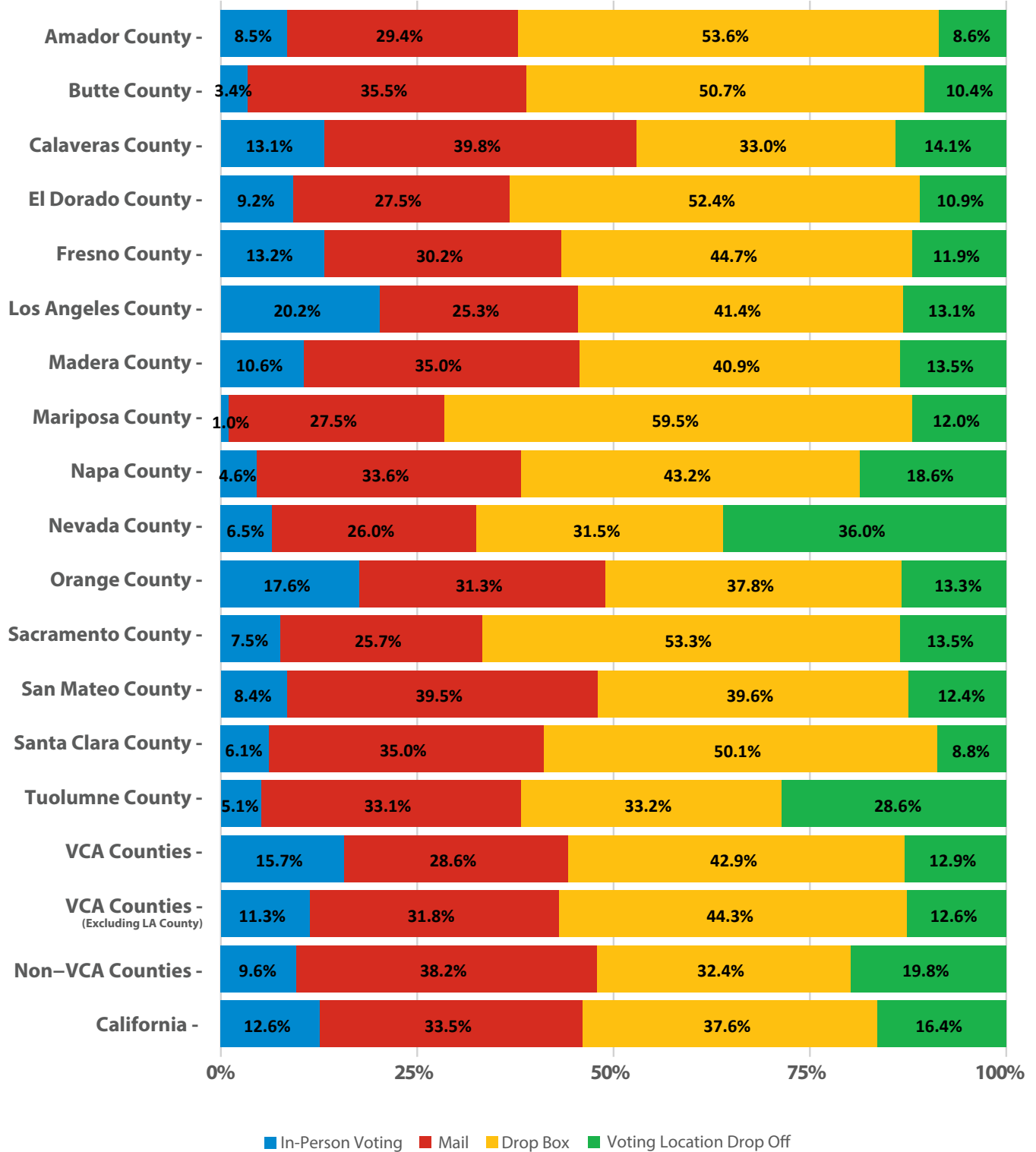
Among individual VCA counties, voting by drop box was the leading method for all counties except Calaveras County, which had a higher rate of voting by mail, and Nevada County, which had a higher rate of voting by voting location drop off. Voting in person ranged from 1.0% (Mariposa) to 20.2% (Los Angeles). Voting by mail ranged from 25.3% (Los Angeles) to 39.8% (Calaveras). Voting by drop box ranged from 31.5% (Nevada) to 59.5% (Mariposa). Voting by voting location drop off ranged from 8.6% (Amador) to 36.0% (Nevada).

Smaller counties with under 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) had lower rates of in-person voting compared to larger counties with over 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles). In-person voting in smaller counties ranged from 1.0% (Mariposa) to 13.1% (Calaveras). In-person voting in larger counties ranged from 6.1% (Santa Clara) to 20.2% (Los Angeles). Smaller counties had higher rates of voting location drop off, ranging from 8.6% (Amador) to 28.6% (Tuolumne). Larger counties' voting location drop off rates ranged from 8.8% (Santa Clara) to 13.5% (Sacramento).

Note: Voting method analysis presented in this section does not include a small number of conditional voter registration ballots (664) from Nevada County due to inconsistencies in the VoteCal data.

FIGURE 4

Methods of Voting - All Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



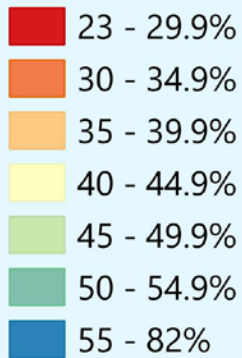
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 5

Voting Method in the 2020 General by County

Voted by Mail

Percent of Total Voters Who Voted by Mail



Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

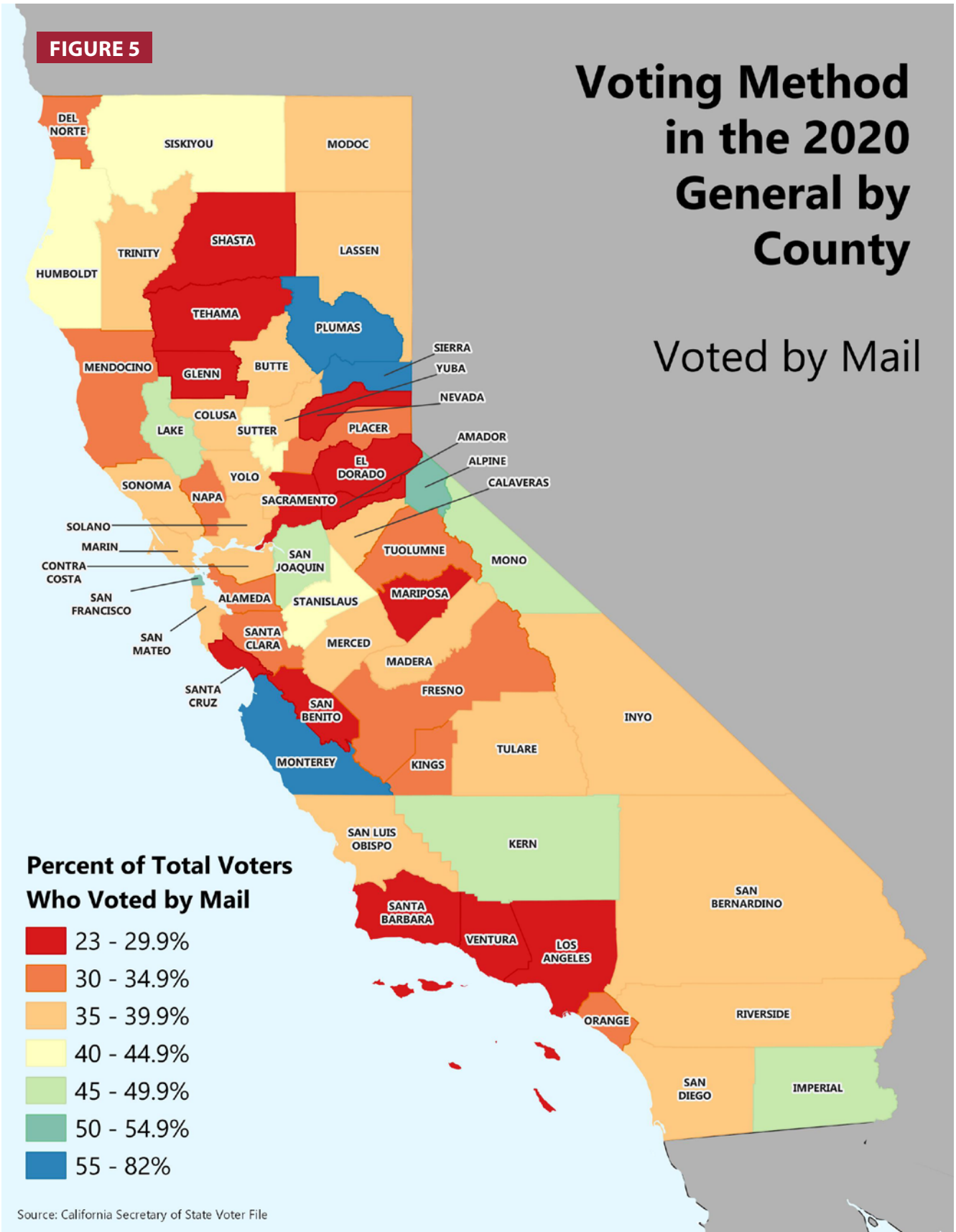
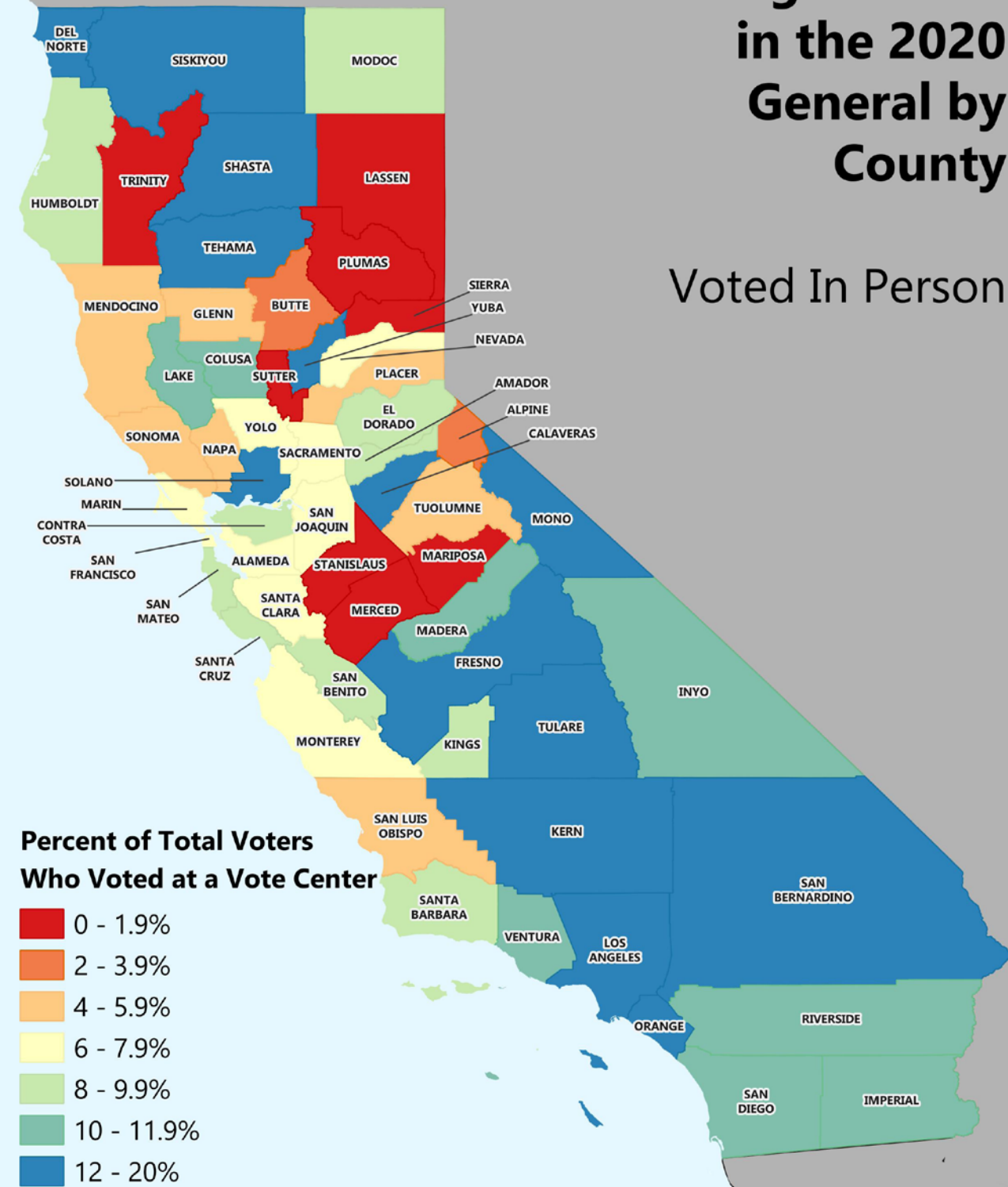


FIGURE 6

Voting Method in the 2020 General by County

Voted In Person



Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Voting Methods: Latinos

Latino voters had higher rates of in-person voting and voting location drop off voting compared to the total voter population (see Appendix A for detailed data chart). In California, nearly 16% of Latino voters voted in person and 19.5% voted by voting location drop off, compared to 12.6% and 16.4% respectively for the total population. Additionally, 30.1% of Latino voters voted by mail and 34.6% voted via drop box.

In VCA counties as a whole, Latino voters also voted in person and at drop off sites at higher rates than the total voter population. Just under 20% voted in person and over 15% voted at a drop off site. Another 24.1% voted by mail and 41% voted by drop box. In non-VCA counties, 11.8% of Latino voters voted in person, 36.4% voted by mail, 27.7% voted via drop box, and 24.1% used a voting location drop off site.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, Latino voters continued to vote in person at higher rates than the total voter population. Just over 14% voted in person (compared to 11.3% of all voters), 28.2% voted by mail, 43% voted via drop box, and 14.5% voted by voting location drop off.

Every individual VCA county also saw higher rates of in-person voting by Latino voters compared to the total voter population. Among Latino voters, voting in person ranged from 1.8% (Mariposa) to 22.7% (Los Angeles), voting by mail ranged from 21.9% (Los Angeles) to 37.7% (Calaveras), voting via drop box ranged from 28.2% (Nevada) to 53.7% (Mariposa), and voting by voting site drop off ranged from 9.6% (Amador) to 38% (Nevada).

Latino voters in smaller counties with fewer than 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) voted in person at lower rates than Latino voters in larger counties with more than 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles). Among Latino voters in smaller counties, in-person voting ranged from 1.8% (Mariposa) to 15.5% (Calaveras), compared to in-person voting among Latino voters in larger counties ranging from 8.4% (Santa Clara) to 22.7% (Los Angeles).

Voting Methods: Asian Americans

Asian-American voters had higher rates of voting by mail than the total voter population (see Appendix A for detailed data chart). Additionally, Asian Americans had lower rates of in-person voting and voting at drop off sites than the total population. In California, 40.1% of Asian-American voters voted by mail, compared to 33.5% of all voters. Almost 9% of Asian-American voters voted in person and 12.9% voted at a voting location drop off site, while 12.6% of all voters voted in person and 16.4% voted at a drop off site. Just over 38% of Asian-American voters voted by drop box, close to the total population rate of 37.6%.

In VCA counties, Asian-American voters continued to vote by mail at higher rates than the total voter population. Among Asian-American voters, 10.2% voted in person, 36.4% voted by mail, 42.5% voted via drop box, and 10.9% voted at a voting location drop off. In non-VCA counties, an even larger share of Asian-American voters voted by mail. Around 6.4% of Asian-American voters voted in person, 46% voted by mail, 31.6% voted via drop box, and 16% voted at a voting location drop off.

When excluding Los Angeles County, Asian-American voters also voted by mail at higher rates and in person at lower rates than the total voter population. Just over 8% voted in person, compared to 11.3% of the total population. Slightly under 38% voted by mail, while 31.8% of all voters voted by mail. Additionally, 42.9% of Asian-American voters voted by drop box and 11% voted at a voting location drop off site.

Among Asian-American voters in individual VCA counties, voting in person ranged from 0% (Mariposa) to 13.2% (Los Angeles), voting by mail ranged from 29.6% (Nevada) to 48.4% (Madera), voting via drop box ranged from 27.8% (Nevada) to 58.7% (Mariposa), and voting by voting location drop off ranged from 7.3% (Butte) to 37.2% (Nevada).

Voting Methods: Youth Voters

Young voters voted in person and at voting location drop off sites at higher rates than the total population (see Appendix A for detailed data chart). In California, over 15% of voters aged 18 to 24 voted in person, compared to 12.6% of the total population. Additionally, 19% of young voters voted at a voting location drop off site, while 16.4% of all voters did the same. Just under 28% of young voters voted by mail and over 38% voted by drop box.

In VCA counties, young voters continued to vote in person at higher rates and by mail at lower rates than the total population. Just over 23% of young voters voted by mail, 18% voted in person, 43.6% voted via drop box, and 15.4% voted at a voting location drop off site. In non-VCA counties, a smaller share of young voters voted in person compared to the VCA and statewide rates. Around 12.2% of young voters in non-VCA counties voted in person, 32.7% voted by mail, 32.5% voted via drop box, and 22.6% voted at a voting location drop off site.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, in-person voting among young voters (13.7%) decreased but was still higher than the total population rate (11.3%). Young voters voting by mail increased to 27.4% but was still lower than the total population's rate of 31.8%. Additionally, 44.7% of young voters voted via drop box and 14.2% voted at a voting location drop off site.

Among individual VCA counties, young voters voting in person ranged from 2.8% (Mariposa) to 22.2% (Los Angeles). Voting by mail among young voters ranged from 18.8% (Los Angeles) to 38.3% (San Mateo), voting by drop box ranged from 26.1% (Nevada) to 54.6% (Mariposa), and voting by voting location drop off ranged from 9.7% (Santa Clara) to 36% (Nevada).

Voting Methods: Gender

In California, men used in-person voting and voting by mail at higher rates than women, while women voted by drop box and vote location drop off at higher rates than men (see Appendix A for detailed data chart). Just under 12% of women and 13.5% of men voted in person. Almost 33% of women voted by mail, compared to 34% of men. Over 38% of women and 36.6% of men voted by drop box. Additionally, 16.8% of women voted by drop off site, compared to 15.9% of men.

In VCA counties, just under 15% of women and 16.6% of men voted in person, while 27.9% of women and 29.1% of men voted by mail. Nearly 44% of women voted by drop box, compared to 42% of men. Almost 13.5% of women and 12.3% of men voted by voting location drop off. In non-VCA counties, 10.5% of men and 8.8% of women voted in person, just under 39% of men and 37.6% of women voted by mail, 31.4% of men and 33.4% of women voted via drop box, and 19.3% of men and 20.2% of women voted by voting location drop off.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, men continued to vote in person and by mail at higher rates than women. Over 12% of men voted in person, while 10.6% of women did the same. Just under 31% of women and 32.3% of men voted by mail. Women voted by drop box (45.6%) at higher rates than men (43.1%), while voting by voting location drop off was slightly higher for women (12.9%) than for men (12.4%). Among all individual VCA counties, these patterns continued with men voting in person and by mail at higher rates than women, and women voting by drop box at higher rates than men.

Voting Methods: Nativity

Foreign-born voters voted by mail at higher rates than U.S.-born voters, while U.S.-born voters voted by drop box and voting location drop off sites at higher rates than foreign-born voters (see Appendix A for detailed data chart). In California, 38.6% of foreign-born voters voted by mail, while just over 32% of U.S.-born voters voted by mail. Foreign-born voters had lower rates of drop box use (34.5%) and voting location drop off (14.6%) than U.S.-born voters (38.6% and 16.8%). In-person voting was very similar between foreign-born (12.4%) and U.S.-born (12.5%) voters.

In VCA counties, 34% of foreign-born voters voted by mail, compared to 27% of U.S.-born voters, while 39% of foreign-born voters voted via drop box and 44.3% of U.S.-born voters voted by drop box. Around 12% of foreign-born voters

voted at a voting location drop off site, compared to 13% of U.S.-born voters. In-person voting was slightly higher for U.S.-born voters (15.7%) than foreign-born voters (15%). In non-VCA counties, over 45% of foreign-born voters voted by mail, while 36.6% of U.S.-born voters voted by mail. Around 28% of foreign-born voters voted by drop box, lower than the U.S.-born voters' rate of 33.5%. Over 20% of U.S.-born voters voted by voting location drop off, compared to 18.3% of foreign-born voters. U.S.-born voters had a higher rate of in-person voting (9.7%) than foreign-born voters (8.5%).

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, foreign-born voters continued to have higher rates of voting by mail than U.S.-born voters. Just over 37.6% of foreign-born voters voted by mail, while 30.3% of U.S.-born voters did the same. Over 45% of U.S.-born voters voted by drop box, compared to 40.5% of foreign-born voters. Other methods of voting were comparable. Under 12% of foreign-born voters and 12.7% of U.S.-born voters voted by voting location drop off. Around 10% of foreign-born voters voted in person, compared to 11.3% of U.S.-born voters. Among the individual VCA counties, foreign-born voters voted by mail at higher rates than U.S.-born voters in all fifteen counties.

Voting Methods: New Voters

While voting by drop box was still the most used method, new voters voted by drop box and by mail at lower rates than the total population (Figure 7). In California, 21.2% of new voters voted in person, compared to 12.6% of the total population. New voters voting by drop box (34.1%) and by mail (28.2%) was lower than the total population (37.6% and 33.5% respectively). Voting by voting location drop off rates were very similar between new voters (16.5%) and the total population (16.4%).

In VCA counties, new voters voted by drop box and in person at higher rates than new voters in non-VCA counties. Around 24.5% of new voters voted in person, 22.9% voted by mail, 39.7% voted by drop box, and 12.9% voted by voting location drop off. In non-VCA counties, 18.2% of new voters voted in person, 33.0% voted by mail, 29.0% voted by drop box, and 19.8% voted by voting location drop off.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, new voters continued to vote in person at higher rates than new voters in non-VCA counties but voted in person at lower rates than those in all VCA counties including Los Angeles. Additionally, new voters voted by drop box at higher rates than both non-VCA new voters and VCA counties (all fifteen counties). Excluding Los Angeles County, 20.1% of new voters in VCA counties voted in person, compared to 26.7% by mail, 40.3% by drop box, and 12.9% by voting location drop off.

Looking at the individual VCA counties, new voters voting in person ranged from 3.9% (Mariposa) to 29.0% (Los Angeles), voting by mail ranged from 19.0% (Los Angeles) to 37.3% (San Mateo), voting via drop box ranged from 19.5% (Nevada) to 52.3% (Mariposa), and voting via voting location drop off ranged from 9.3% (Santa Clara) to 42.0% (Nevada).

New voters in smaller counties with under 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) had lower rates of in-person voting compared to larger counties with over 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles). New voters in smaller counties voting in person ranged from 3.9% (Mariposa) to 23.9% (Calaveras), while new voters in larger counties voting in person ranged from 15.3% (Santa Clara) to 29.0% (Los Angeles).

Voting Methods: Previous Polling Place Voters

Previous polling place voters voted in person at much higher rates compared to the total population (Figure 8). In return, voting by mail was notably lower among previous polling place voters compared to the total population.

In California, 24.5% of previous polling place voters voted in person, compared to 12.6% of the total population. Additionally, 21.8% voted by mail (compared to 33.5% of the total population), 35.6% voted via drop box, and 18.1% voted by voting location drop off.

In VCA counties, previous polling place voters continued to vote in person at much higher rates than the total population. Around 28.6% voted in person (compared to 15.7% of the total population), 18% voted by mail, 39.5% voted via drop box, and 13.9% voted by voting location drop off. In non-VCA counties, 19.9% voted in person, 26.0% voted by mail, 31.2% voted by drop box, and 22.8% voted by voting location drop off.

When excluding Los Angeles County, the share of ballots cast in person by previous polling place was slightly smaller than when comparing all fifteen VCA counties but was still notably higher than the total population. About 27% of previous polling place voters in VCA counties (excluding Los Angeles County) voted in person, while 11.3% of the total population voted in person. Additionally, just over 20% voted by mail, 38.7% voted by drop box, and 14.1% voted by voting location drop off.

Among individual VCA counties, previous polling place voters voting in person ranged from 2.7% (Mariposa) to 33.5% (Orange), voting by mail ranged from 15.8% (Nevada) to 26.8% (Calaveras), voting via drop box ranged from 24.7% (Nevada) to 49.9% (Mariposa), and voting by voting location drop off ranged from 12.3% (Santa Clara) to 38.8% (Nevada).

Voting Methods: Party Affiliation

California voters who registered to vote without affiliating with a political party are known as No Party Preference (NPP) voters. Republican voters voted in person at much higher rates than those registered as Democratic or No Party Preference voters (Figure 9). Registered Democratic voters voted via drop box at notably higher rates than those registered as Republican or No Party Preference voters. In California, 17.9% of registered Republicans voted in person, compared to just over 9% of Democratic voters and 12.8% of No Party Preference voters. Just over 34% of registered Democrats voted by mail, while 32.2% of registered Republican and 33.8% of No Party Preference voters voted by mail. Registered Democrats voted by drop box (41.6%) at much higher rates than both Republican (30.8%) and No Party Preference (37.5%) voters. Over 19% of registered Republicans voted by voting location drop off, compared to only 15% of registered Democrats and 16% of No Party Preference voters.

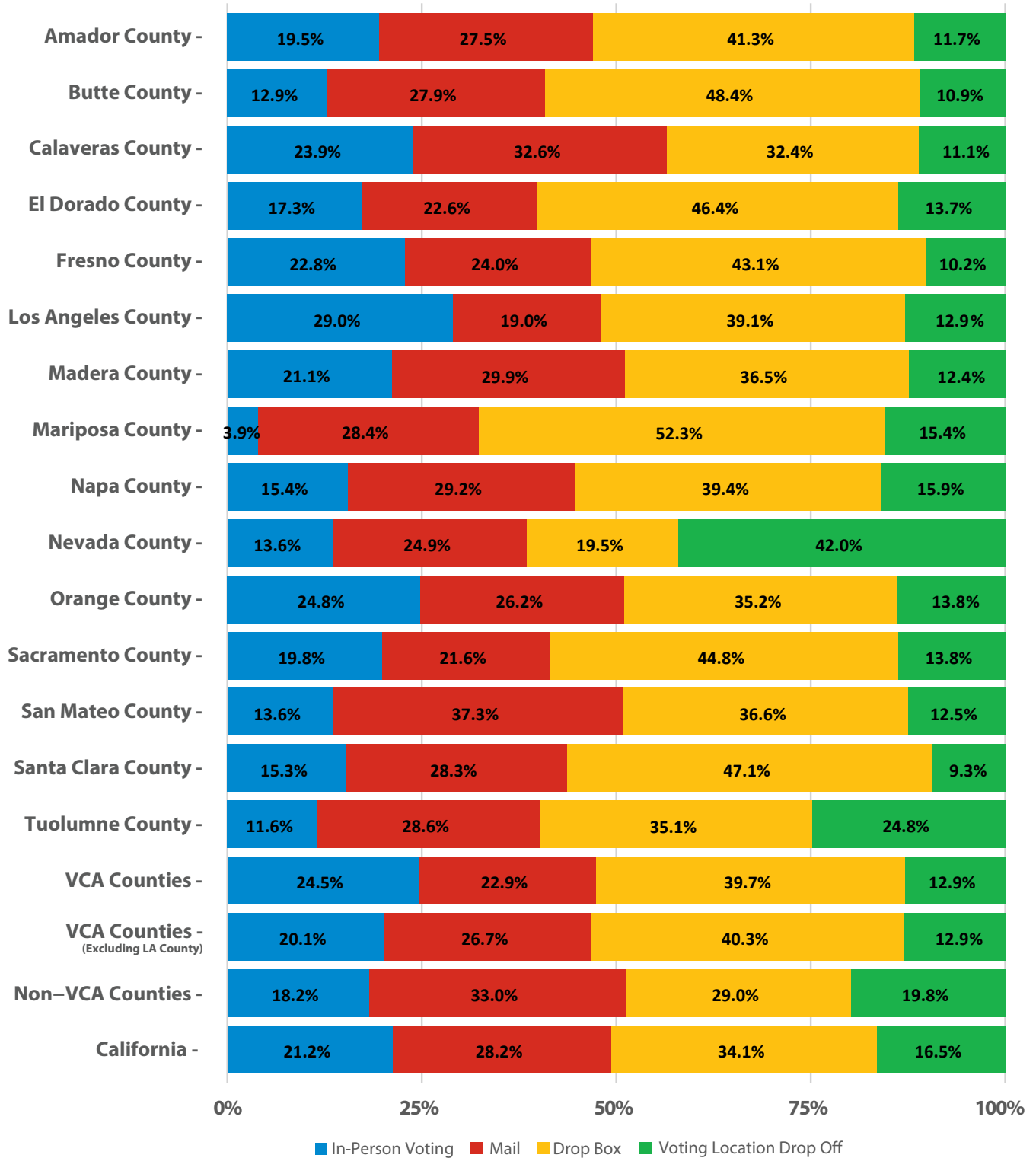
In VCA counties, registered Republican voters continued to vote in person at higher rates than both registered Democrats and No Party Preference voters. Around 22.6% of registered Republicans voted in person, while 12% of registered Democrats and 15.5% of No Party Preference voters voted in person. All party categories had similar rates of voting by mail with 28.6% of Democrats, 28.3% of Republicans, and 28.9% of No Party Preference voters sending their ballots through the mail. Democratic voters (47.5%) voted by drop box at much higher rates than Republican (34.5%) and No Party Preference voters (42.6%). Lastly, 12% of Democrats, 14.5% of Republicans, and 13.0% of No Party Preference voters voted by voting location drop off.

The patterns in VCA counties are broadly similar when excluding Los Angeles County. Over 17% of Republican voters voted in person, while 7% of Democrats and 11.1% of No Party Preference voters voted in person. Almost 30% of Republican voters voted by mail, while 32.7% of both Democratic and No Party Preference voters voted by mail. Just under 50% of Democratic voters voted by drop box, compared to 37.9% of Republicans and 43.7% of No Party Preference voters. Exactly 15% of Republican voters voted by voting location drop off, compared to 11% of Democratic and 12.5% of No Party Preference voters.

Registered Republicans voted in person at higher rates than registered Democrats in all fifteen counties. Additionally, registered Republicans voted in person at higher rates than No Party Preference voters in all but one VCA county (Butte). In-person voting ranged from 1.2% (Mariposa) to 31.4% (Los Angeles) for Republicans, 0.5% (Mariposa) to 16.0% (Los Angeles) for Democrats, and from 1.1% (Mariposa) to 20.1% (Los Angeles) for No Party Preference voters.

FIGURE 7

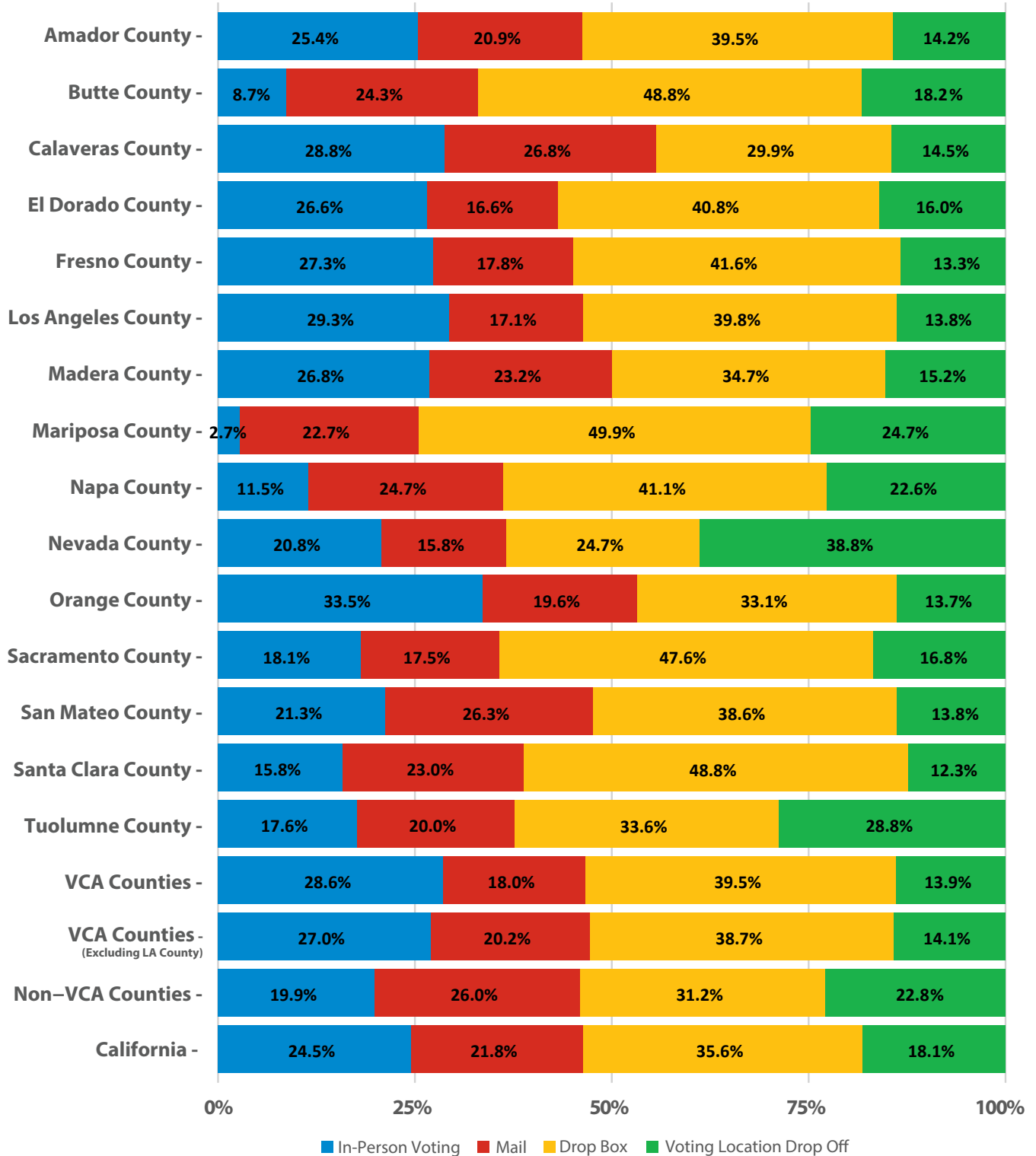
Methods of Voting - New Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 8

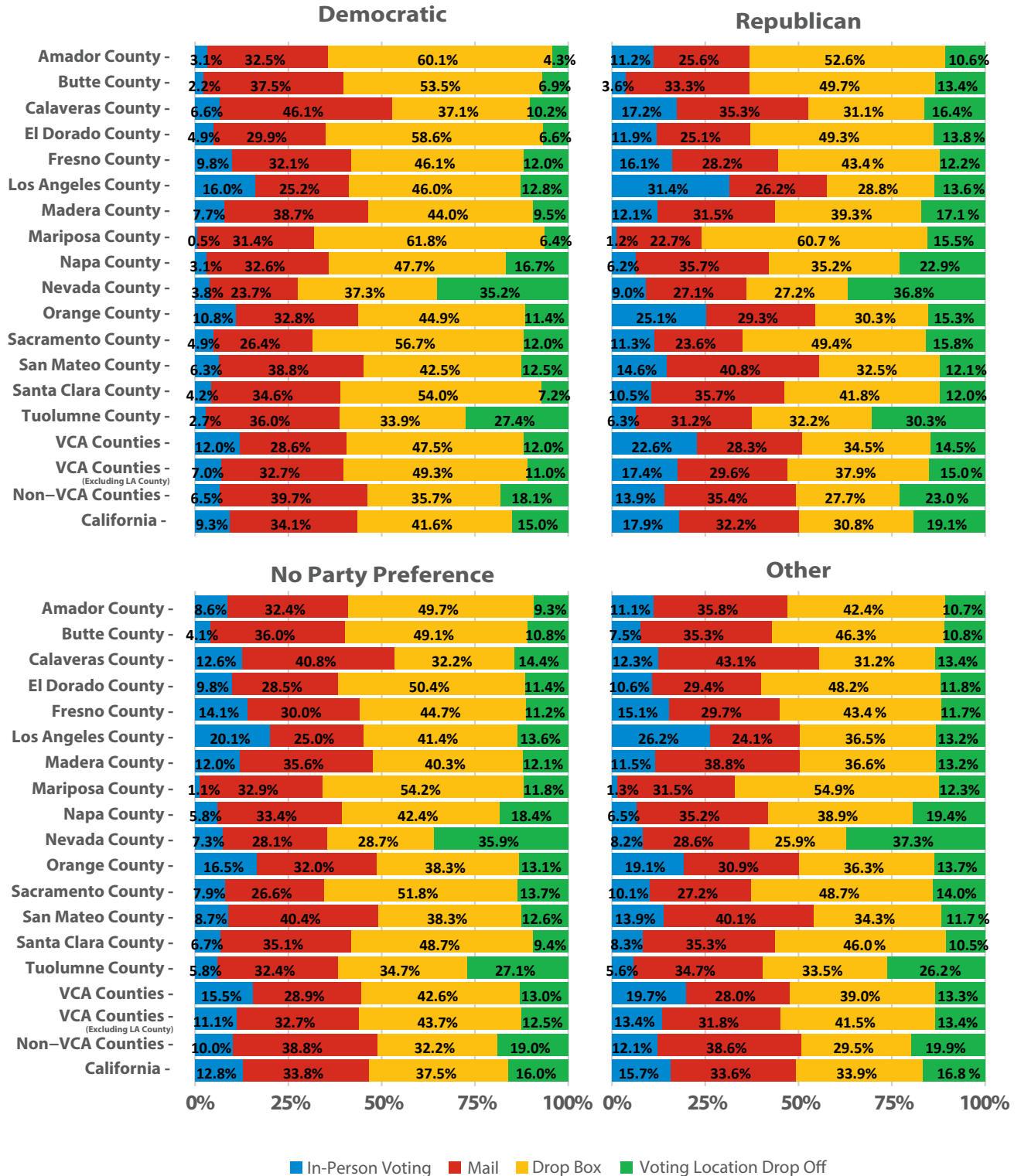
Methods of Voting - Previous Polling Place Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 9

Methods of Voting - Party Affiliation Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

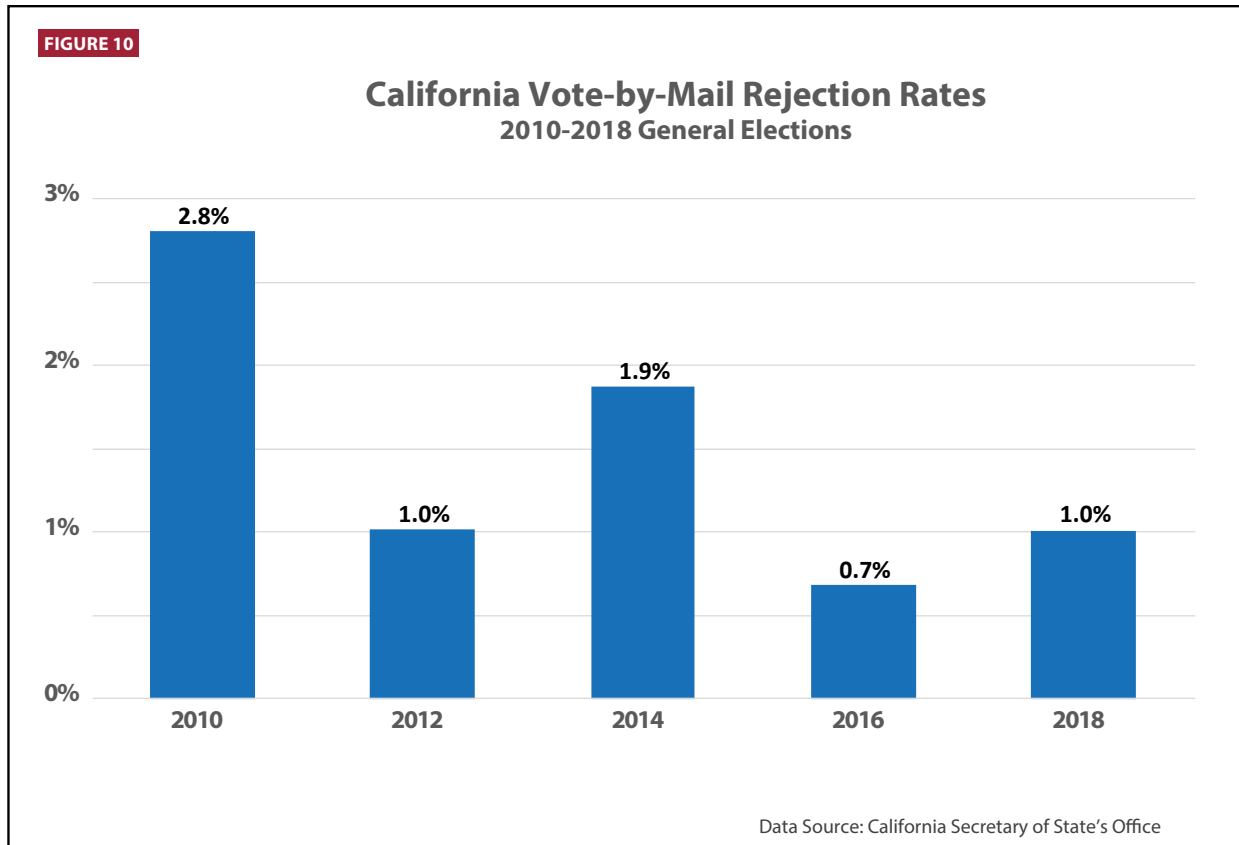
2. Vote-by-Mail Ballot Rejection Rates

Key Takeaways:

- 0.5% of all VBM ballots cast in California were rejected in the 2020 general election. The VBM rejection rate in VCA counties (0.5%) was slightly lower than the rejection rate in non-VCA counties (0.6%).
- When excluding Los Angeles County, VCA counties had a lower rejection rate (0.4%) than the statewide rate.
- Latino (0.8%), youth voters (1.4%), new voters (1.2%), and previous polling place voters (0.6%) had higher VBM rejection rates than the general population. For these groups, VCA counties had lower VBM rejection rates than non-VCA counties, with the exception of previous polling place voters who had matching rejection rates in VCA and non-VCA counties.
- Democratic voters (0.4%) had lower VBM rejection rates than Republican (0.5%) and No Party Preference voters (0.7%). Democratic voters had a lower rejection rate than the general population, while Republican voters had matching rates and No Party Preference voters had a higher rejection rate than the general population.

Figure 10 shows California's official Vote-by-Mail rejection rates over the past decade based on data from the California Secretary of State's office.¹⁶ In this section, we examine the rejection rates of VBM ballots (percent of cast VBM ballots that were rejected and uncounted) for the 2020 general election (see Appendix B for the 2020 general election rejection rates for all California counties). This analysis includes all VBM ballots whether they were returned through the mail, dropped off at a drop box location or dropped off at a voting site. Additionally, VBM rejection rates are calculated looking at all VBM ballots cast, both counted and rejected.

For the 2020 general election, VBM ballots postmarked on or before Election Day and received by county elections officials no later than 17 days after Election Day were counted (changed from 3 days in previous elections). Voters had the opportunity to cure a missing or non-matching signature on their rejected VBM ballot. Voters with signature issues on their VBM ballot envelopes were contacted by their local elections officials.

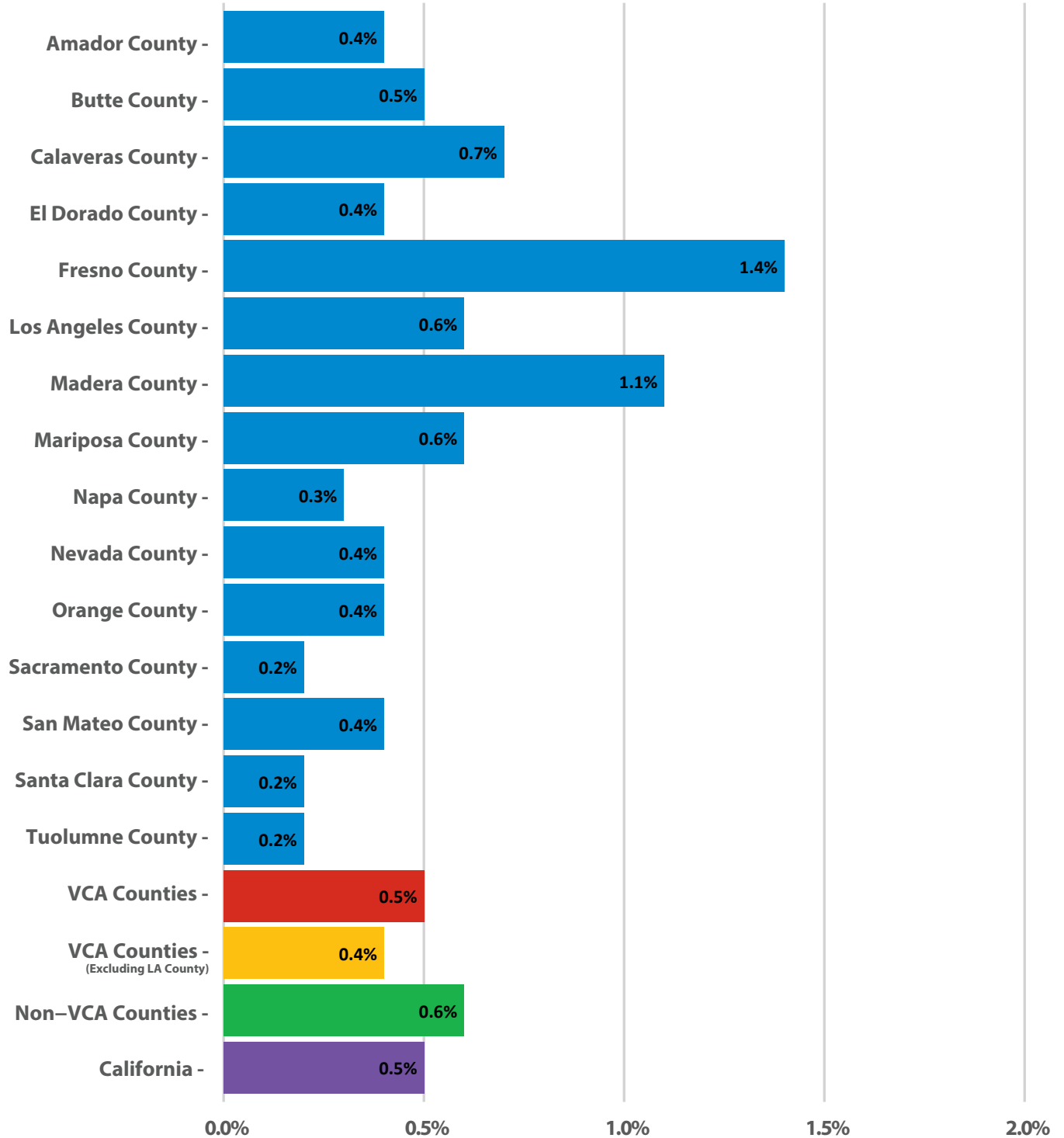


Our analysis found that 0.5% (80,363 ballots) of all VBM ballots cast in California (15,149,174) were rejected in the 2020 general election (Figure 11). The VBM rejection rate in this election was far below the 1.4% rejection rate seen in the 2020 primary election. In the 2020 general election, VBM rejection rates in VCA counties match the statewide rate of 0.5% (36,236 of 7,173,562 VBM ballots). Comparatively, non-VCA counties had a slightly higher rejection rate of 0.6% (44,127 of 7,975,612). VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County had a slightly lower VBM rejection rate of 0.4% (16,367 of 3,841,496 VBM ballots).

Among individual VCA counties, the VBM rejection rate ranged from 0.2% (Sacramento, Santa Clara, and Tuolumne) to 1.4% (Fresno). Smaller counties containing fewer than 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) had similar VBM rejection rates as larger counties containing more than 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles). VBM rejection rates in small counties ranged from 0.2% (Tuolumne) to 0.7% (Calaveras), while the VBM rejection rates in large counties ranged from 0.2% (Sacramento and Santa Clara) to 0.6% (Los Angeles). Fresno (1.4%) and Madera (1.1%) counties, both mid-sized counties, had the highest VBM rejection rates among VCA counties.

FIGURE 11

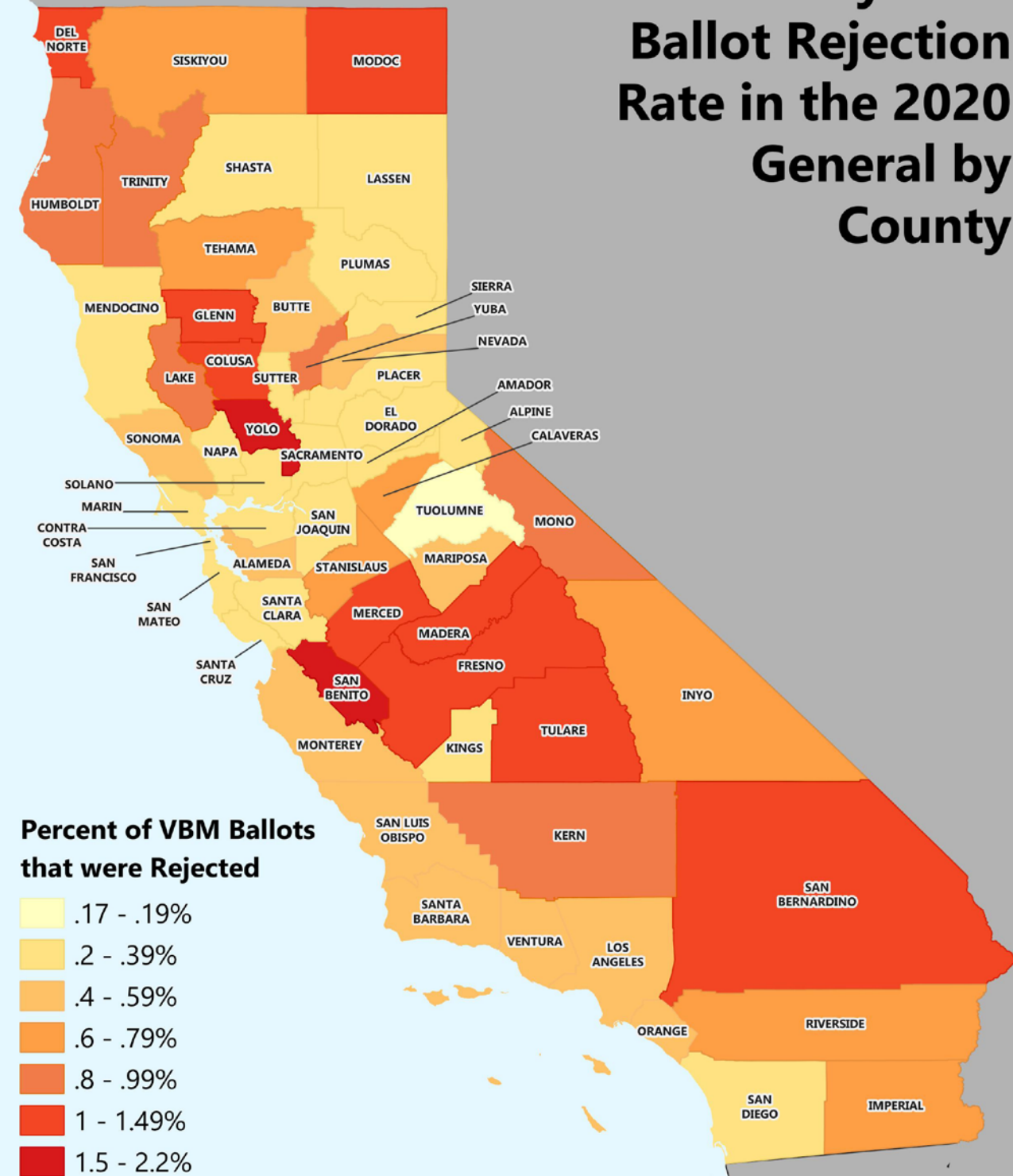
Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rate - All Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 12

Vote-by-Mail Ballot Rejection Rate in the 2020 General by County



Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

VBM Rejection Rates: Latinos

Latino voters saw higher VBM ballot rejection rates than the total population (see Appendix B for detailed data chart). In California, 0.8% of VBM ballots cast by Latino voters were rejected, compared to 0.5% of all voters. In VCA counties, 0.7% of Latino VBM ballots were rejected, while 0.5% of all voters' VBM ballots were rejected. In non-VCA counties, 0.9% of VBM ballots cast by Latino voters were rejected, compared to 0.6% of all voters. When excluding Los Angeles County, the VCA rejection rate for Latino voters stays at 0.7%, compared to 0.4% of all voters.

All but one VCA county had higher VBM rejection rates for Latino voters than the total population. Calaveras County was the only county with a lower VBM rejection rate for Latino voters (0.5%) than the total population (0.7%). The VBM rejection rate for Latino voters ranged from 0.3% (Sacramento and Santa Clara) to 1.8% (Mariposa).

VBM Rejection Rates: Asian Americans

In the 2020 general election, Asian-American voters had the same VBM rejection rate as the overall population (see Appendix B for detailed data chart). In California and in VCA counties, the VBM rejection rate for Asian Americans and the total population was 0.5%. In non-VCA counties, the VBM rejection rate for Asian-American voters was slightly lower at 0.5% than the total population's rate of 0.6%. When excluding Los Angeles County, the VBM rejection rate for Asian-American voters in VCA counties matched the total population's rate of 0.4%.

Among individual counties, the VBM rejection rate for Asian-American voters ranged from 0% (Tuolumne and Mariposa) to 1.8% (Fresno). Seven VCA counties (Amador, Butte, Fresno, Madera, Nevada, Orange, and Sacramento) had higher VBM rejection rates for Asian-American voters than the total population.

VBM Rejection Rates: Youth Voters

Young voters, ages 18 to 24, had notably higher VBM rejection rates than the overall population (see Appendix B for detailed data chart). In California, 1.4% of VBM ballots cast by young voters were rejected, compared to 0.5% of the total population. In VCA counties, 1.3% of youth VBM ballots were rejected, compared to 0.5% of the total population. In non-VCA counties, 1.6% of ballots cast by young voters were rejected, while only 0.6% of all voters' VBM ballots were rejected. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, the VBM rejection rate for young voters drops to 1.2% but is still notably higher than the total population's rate of 0.4%.

Among individual counties, the VBM rejection rate for young voters ranged from 0.5% (Napa, Santa Clara, Tuolumne) to 3.8% (Madera). Smaller counties with fewer than 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) had higher VBM rejection rates for young voters than larger counties with over 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles). The VBM rejection rate for young voters ranged from 0.5% (Tuolumne) to 2.6% (Calaveras) in small counties and from 0.5% (Santa Clara) to 1.3% (Los Angeles) in large counties.

VBM Rejection Rates: Gender

Men had higher VBM rejection rates than women in the 2020 general election (see Appendix B for detailed data chart). In both California as a whole and in VCA counties, 0.6% of VBM ballots cast by men were rejected, compared to 0.4% of women's VBM ballots. In non-VCA counties, the gap is smaller with 0.6% of men's VBM ballots and 0.5% of women's VBM ballots being rejected. When excluding Los Angeles County, men in VCA counties had a rejection rate of 0.5%, while women had a rejection rate of 0.4%.

Among the individual VCA counties, men's VBM rejection rate ranged from 0.2% (Santa Clara and Tuolumne) to 1.6% (Fresno). Women's VBM rejection rate ranged from 0.1% (Tuolumne) to 1% (Fresno). Fresno County had the largest gap between men and women's VBM rejection rate, with 1.6% of men's VBM ballots and 1% of women's VBM ballots being rejected.

VBM Rejection Rates: Nativity

Throughout California, foreign-born voters and U.S.-born voters had the same VBM rejection rates of 0.5% (see Appendix B for detailed data chart). In VCA counties, however, slightly more VBM ballots cast by U.S.-born voters (0.5%) were rejected than foreign-born voters (0.4%). In non-VCA counties and VCA counties excluding Los Angeles, foreign-born and U.S.-born voters had the same rejection rates of 0.5% and 0.4% respectively.

Looking at individual VCA counties, foreign-born voters' VBM rejection rates ranged from 0.1% (Tuolumne) to 1.4% (Fresno). U.S.-born voters' VBM rejection rates ranged from 0.2% (Napa, Sacramento, Santa Clara, and Tuolumne) to 1.2% (Fresno). Five VCA counties (Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, and Napa) rejected VBM ballots from foreign-born voters at a higher rate than U.S.-born voters. Calaveras County had the largest gap, with 1.1% of VBM ballots cast by foreign-born voters and 0.6% of VBM ballots cast by U.S.-born voters being rejected. 5 VCA counties (Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Nevada, and Tuolumne) rejected VBM ballots from foreign-born voters at a lower rate than U.S.-born voters. Mariposa County had the largest gap, with 0.3% of VBM ballots cast by foreign-born voters being rejected and 0.5% of VBM ballots cast by U.S.-born voters being rejected.

VBM Rejection Rates: New voters

New voters had a higher VBM rejection rate than the total population (Figure 13). 1.2% of new voters in California had their VBM ballots rejected, compared to 0.5% of the total population. In VCA counties (both including and excluding Los Angeles County), 1.1% of new voters had their VBM ballots rejected. New voters in non-VCA counties had a higher rejection rate than both California and VCA counties as a whole, with a rejection rate of 1.3%.

The majority of individual VCA counties rejected VBM ballots cast by new voters at 2 or 3 times the rate of the total population. Tuolumne County was the only county that rejected VBM ballots cast by new voters at a similar rate to the total population (0.3% to 0.2%). VBM rejection rates for new voters ranged from 0.3% (Tuolumne) to 3.3% (Fresno).

VBM Rejection Rates: Previous Polling Place Voters

Previous polling place voters had slightly higher VBM rejection rates than the overall population (Figure 14). In California, 0.6% of VBM ballots cast by previous polling place voters were rejected, compared to 0.5% of the total population. In VCA counties, 0.6% were rejected, compared to 0.5% of the total population. In non-VCA counties, however, the rejection rate for previous polling place voters matched the total population's rate of 0.6%. When excluding Los Angeles County, 0.5% of VBM ballots cast by previous polling place voters were rejected, compared to 0.4% of the total population.

Among individual VCA counties, the rejection rate for previous polling place voters ranged from 0.3% (Sacramento, Santa Clara, and Tuolumne) to 1.7% (Madera). Many small and mid-sized counties rejected VBM ballots from previous polling place voters at much higher rates than the total population. Previous polling place voters in Amador County and Butte County, for example, had a rejection rate of more than double the total population (0.9% versus 0.4% for Amador and 1.2% versus 0.5% for Butte).

VBM Rejection Rates: Party Affiliation

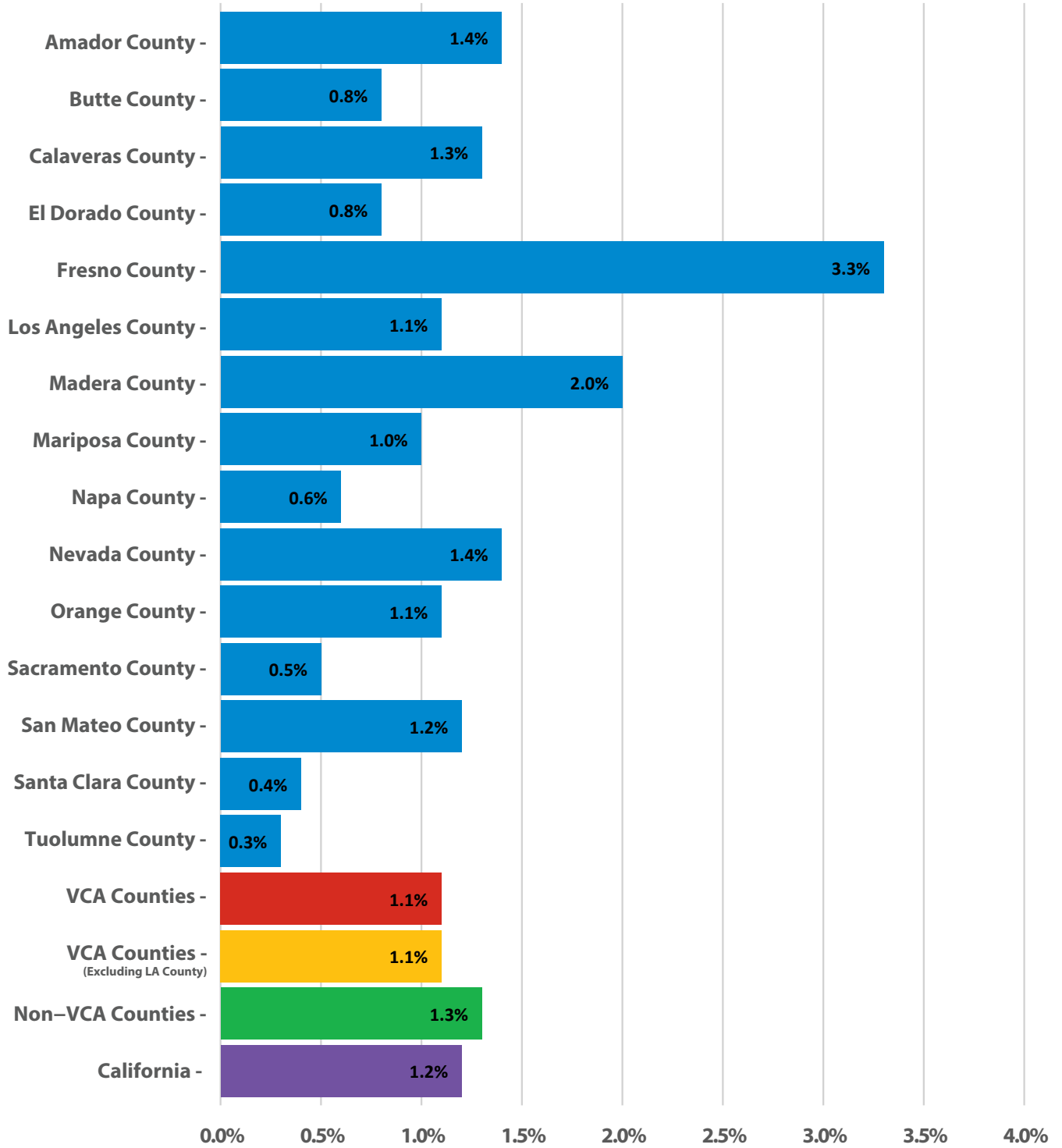
In California as a whole, Republican voters (0.5%) had a higher VBM rejection rate than Democratic voters (0.4%), while No Party Preference voters (0.7%) had the highest rate among party affiliations (Figure 15). In VCA counties, 0.4% of VBM ballots cast by both Republican and Democratic voters were rejected, compared to 0.7% of VBM ballots cast by No Party Preference voters. Rejection rates in non-VCA counties were higher than those in VCA counties for all party affiliations (0.5% for Democrats, 0.5% for Republicans, and 0.8% for No Party Preference voters). When excluding Los Angeles County, Democratic voters' rejection rate drops to 0.3%, No Party Preference voters' rejection rate drops to 0.6%, and Republican voters' rejection rate remains at 0.4%.

Among individual VCA counties, the VBM rejection rate ranged from 0.2% (Napa, Sacramento, Santa Clara, and Tuolumne) to 1.2% (Fresno) for Democrats, from 0.2% (Napa, Sacramento, Santa Clara, and Tuolumne) to 1.0% (Fresno) for Republicans, and from 0.2% (Tuolumne) to 2.1% (Fresno) for No Party Preference voters. No Party Preference VBM voters' VBM ballots were rejected at much higher rates, sometime twice the rate, than both Democratic and Republican voters for most VCA counties, except for Tuolumne County which rejected all party affiliation VBM ballots at the same rate (0.2%).

Note: Some groups within the individual VCA counties, especially counties with under 35,000 registered voters, had low VBM ballot and rejection totals, such as Latino, Asian-American, youth, and new voters. This should be considered when looking at individual VCA counties' VBM rejection rate results and the occasional large differences between groups.

FIGURE 13

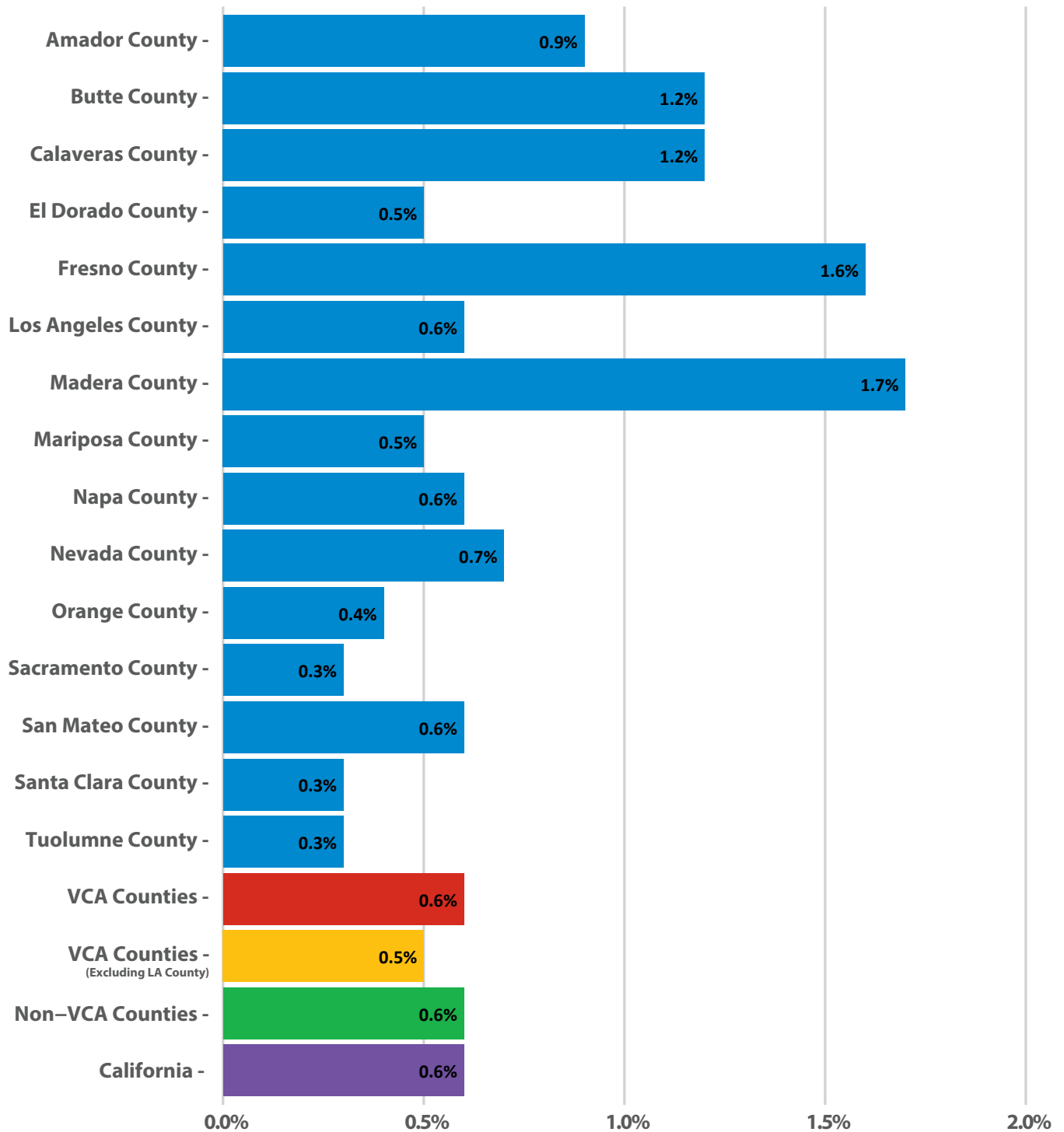
Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rate - New Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rate - Previous Polling Place Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election

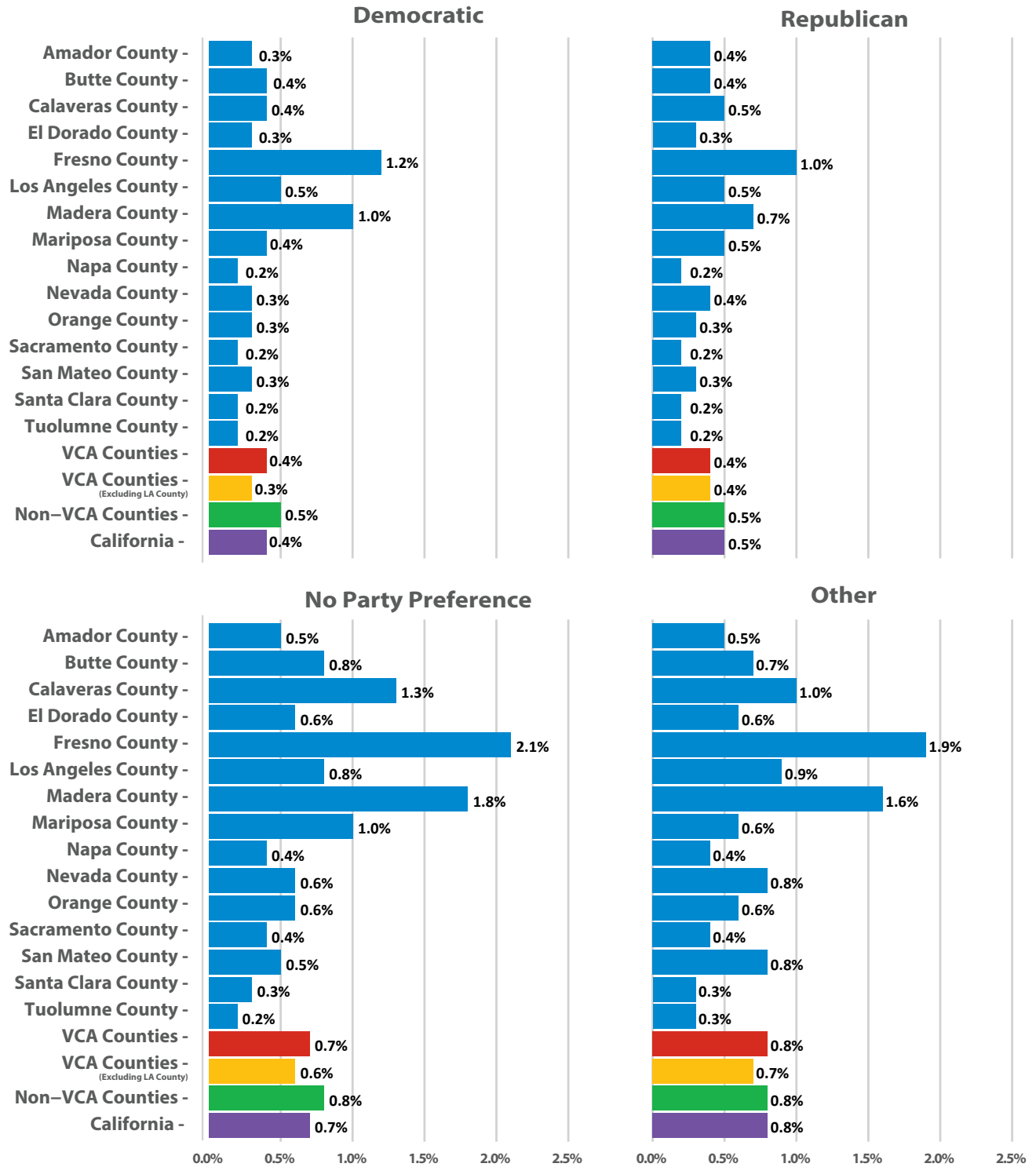
FIGURE 14



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rate - Party Affiliation Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election

FIGURE 15



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

3. Reasons for Vote-by-Mail Ballot Rejection

Key Takeaways:

- The majority (76.8%) of rejected VBM ballots were rejected for signature issues. In California, 59.5% of rejected ballots had non-matching signatures, 17.3% had missing signatures, 16.1% were received late, and 7.1% were rejected for other reasons.
- VCA counties had a lower share of rejected VBM ballots with non-matching signatures than non-VCA counties and had higher rates of missing signatures than non-VCA counties.
- Rejection reasons varied greatly across VCA counties, with the percent of VBM ballots rejected for non-matching signatures ranging from 32.5% (Santa Clara) to 85.2% (Nevada and Madera).
- Asian-American and previous polling place voters had lower rates of late VBM ballots than the general population. Republican voters had higher rates of late ballots than Democratic voters.
- Latino, youth voters, and new voters had higher rates of VBM rejection for non-matching signatures than the general population.

In this section, we examine the variation in the reasons for VBM ballot rejection in California's 2020 general election. VBM rejection reasons are calculated looking at all VBM ballots cast, both counted and rejected. Figure 16 shows the vast majority (76.8%) of rejected VBM ballots in California were rejected for having signature issues. In California, 59.5% of rejected ballots had non-matching signatures and 17.3% had missing signatures. The remaining were rejected for being late (16.1%) or for other reasons (7.1%). This is a stark difference from the 2020 primary election in which the majority of rejected VBM ballots were rejected for being received late (69.1%). This notable reduction in late ballots may be due to the 2020 general election's expanded ballot return window (by two weeks). The 2020 general election saw a more than fourfold increase in rejected VBM ballots with non-matching signatures when compared to the 2020 primary election (59.5% versus 14.7%).

In VCA counties, the majority of rejected ballots had signature issues, although a smaller share was rejected for non-matching signatures (56.9%) and a higher share were rejected for missing a signature (18.6%) than the statewide rates. Additionally, 16.2% were rejected for being late and 8.4% for other reasons. In non-VCA counties, VBM ballots were rejected for non-matching signatures (61.6%) at a higher rate than both VCA counties and California and were rejected for missing a signature (16.3%) at lower rates than VCA counties (including Los Angeles County) and California. Additionally, 16.1% of rejected ballots in non-VCA counties were rejected for being late and 6% for other reasons.

When excluding Los Angeles County, more rejected ballots were received late than missing signatures, with 55.6% of rejected ballots rejected for non-matching signatures, 14.2% for missing signatures, 19.3% for being late, and 10.9% for other reasons.

Among individual VCA counties, VBM ballots rejected for being late ranged from 4% (Tuolumne) to 45.6% (Santa Clara), ballots rejected for non-matching signatures ranged from 32.5% (Santa Clara) to 85.2% (Madera and Nevada), ballots rejected for missing signatures ranged from 5.3% (Nevada) to 36.7% (Butte), and ballots rejected for other reasons ranged from 0.6% (Madera) to 25.2% (Orange).

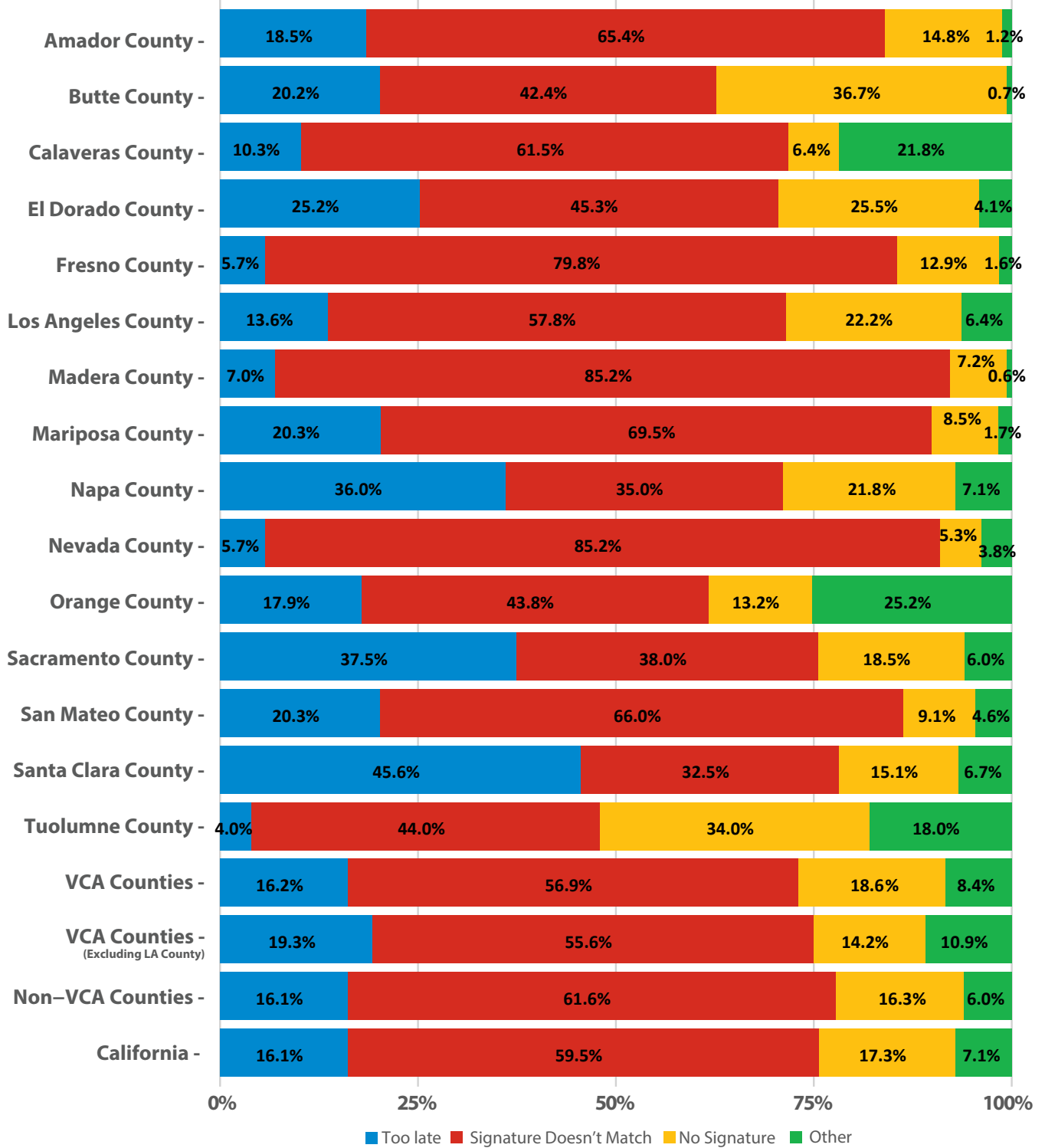
Smaller counties with fewer than 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) had higher rates of non-matching signatures than larger counties with more than 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles). VBM ballots rejected for non-matching signatures ranged from 44% (Tuolumne) to 69.5% (Mariposa) in small counties compared to 32.5% (Santa Clara) to 57.8% (Los Angeles) in large counties. Larger counties had higher rates of late ballots when compared to smaller counties. VBM ballots rejected for being late ranged from 13.6% (Los Angeles) to 45.6% (Santa Clara) in large counties while VBM ballots rejected for being late ranged from 4.0% (Tuolumne) to 20.3% (Mariposa) in small counties.

The Help American Vote Act (HAVA) requires those registering to vote to provide Identification information. If this information is not provided at registration, then a voter casting a ballot for the first time is required to include a photocopy of a HAVA approved ID. If using a VBM ballot, the voter must send a photocopy of personal identification to their county elections official before the election (or alternatively with their VBM application if they are in a non-VCA county) or with their returned VBM ballot. Examples of acceptable forms of identification include a passport, driver license, official California identification card, or student identification card, a copy of a recent utility bill, the official County Voter Information Guide a voter received. If identity cannot be verified, then the voter's VBM ballot envelope will not be opened and the ballot rejected.¹⁷

Not all California counties fully enforce the HAVA requirement for first time federal voters when voting using a VBM ballot and this impacts the number and proportion of rejected VBM ballots in a county. From Figure 16 we can see the proportion of a county's rejected VBM ballots that falls into a rejection category other than late, mismatch signature or missing signature varies significantly across the 15 VCA counties. VBM ballots rejected for other reasons include ballot missing from envelope, missing address, multiple ballots in one envelope, no ID provided, voter already voted, voter deceased, and rejection reason missing. VCA counties with rejected VBM ballots falling under the other category ranges from under 2% in counties such as Fresno and Butte to 25.2% in Orange County. Some counties that enforce the HAVA requirement have a larger proportion of rejected ballots in the other category, many of which are rejected for no ID provided. In Orange County, for example, 977 of 1357 rejected ballots in the other category were rejected for no ID provided.

FIGURE 16

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Reasons - All Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

VBM Rejection Reasons: Latinos

Latino voters had a higher share of their VBM ballots having non-matching signatures and a lower share being late or missing signatures than the total population (see Appendix B for detailed data chart). In California, almost 65% of Latino rejected VBM ballots had non-matching signatures, compared to 59.5% of the total population. Another 12.5% of rejected ballots from Latino voters were received late, while 16.1% of all voters' rejected ballots were received late. Over 16% of Latino voters' rejected ballots were missing signatures, slightly lower than the total population's rate of 17.3%. Additionally, 6.7% of Latino rejected VBM ballots were rejected for other reasons.

In VCA counties, 61.6% of rejected VBM ballots from Latino voters had non-matching signatures, compared to 56.9% of the total population. Just under 18% were missing signatures, 12% were received late, and 8.5% were rejected for other reasons. In non-VCA counties, a higher share of rejected VBM ballots from Latino voters had non-matching signatures (67%), while 12.8% were received late, 14.9% were missing signatures, and 5.3% were rejected for other reasons.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, a higher share of Latino VBM ballots were received late (14.7%) than when Los Angeles County was included. Additionally, 62.5% of rejected Latino ballots had non-matching signatures, 12.3% were missing signatures, and 10.4% were rejected for other reasons.

Among the individual VCA counties, Latino VBM ballots received late ranged from 4% (Fresno) to 42% (Santa Clara), ballots received with non-matching signatures ranged from 39.4% (Santa Clara) to 87.5% (Madera), VBM ballots with missing signatures ranged from 0% (Tuolumne) to 31.5% (Butte), and ballots rejected for other reasons ranged from 0% (Amador, Butte, and Mariposa) to 37.5% (Tuolumne).

VBM Rejection Reasons: Asian Americans

Asian-American voters had a higher share of their rejected VBM ballots missing signatures and lower rates of lateness and non-matching signatures than the total population (see Appendix B for detailed data chart). In California, 19% of rejected VBM ballots cast by Asian-American voters were missing signatures, compared to 17.3% of the total population. Just under 16% were rejected for being late, while 16.1% of all voters' rejected ballots were received late. Almost 58% of rejected ballots from Asian-American voters had non-matching signatures, lower than the total population share (59.5%). Asian-American voters had a slightly higher share of their VBM ballots rejected for other reasons (7.4%) than the total population (7.1%).

In VCA counties, just under 55% of rejected Asian-American VBM ballots had non-matching signatures, while 15.8% were received late, over 20% were missing signatures, and 9.1% were rejected for other reasons. In non-VCA counties, over 61% of rejected ballots cast by Asian-American voters had non-matching signatures, 15.9% were received late, over 17% were missing signatures, and 5.2% were rejected for other reasons.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, the share of rejected VBM ballots from Asian-American voters received late increased to 17.7%. Almost 54% of their rejected ballots had non-matching signatures, while 16% were missing signatures. Around 12% of rejected VBM ballots from Asian-American voters were rejected for other reasons.

Among individual VCA counties, Asian-American VBM ballots received late ranged from 0% (Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, and Nevada) to 41.1% (Tuolumne). Ballots rejected for non-matching signatures ranged from 23.5% (Butte) to 100% (Amador, Calaveras, Nevada). Rejected ballots with missing signatures ranged from 0% (Amador, Calaveras, Nevada) to 58.8% (Butte).

We should note that Amador and Calaveras Counties both had 2 rejected VBM ballots from Asian-American voters and Nevada County had 4 rejected VBM ballots from Asian-American voters, all of which had ballots with non-matching signatures.

VBM Rejection Reasons: Young Voters

Youth voters (ages 18 to 24) had higher shares of rejected ballots with non-matching signatures and lower shares of late ballots or ballots with missing signatures than the total population (see Appendix B for detailed data chart). In California, over 68% of rejected VBM ballots cast by young voters had non-matching signatures, compared to 59.5% of all voters. Nearly 11% had missing signatures, while 17.3% of the total population had missing signatures. Around 13% were received late, compared to 16.1% in the total population. Just over 8% were rejected for other reasons.

In VCA counties, just under 60% of VBM ballots cast by young voters had non-matching signatures, while 13.5% were received late, 13.8% were missing signatures, and 12.8% were rejected for other reasons. In non-VCA counties, just under 75% of rejected youth ballots had non-matching signatures, 12.6% were received late, 8.4% were missing signatures, and 4.5% were rejected for other reasons.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, youth's share of rejected ballots with non-matching signature increased to 63.1%. Another 15.6% were received late, 8.3% had missing signatures, and 13% were rejected for other reasons. In individual VCA counties, rejected youth VBM ballots received late ranged from 0% (Tuolumne) to 43.1% (Santa Clara). Rejected ballots with non-matching signatures ranged from 34.4% (Napa) to 95.2% (Amador). Ballots with missing signatures ranged from 0% (Amador, Mariposa, and Nevada) to 21.9% (Napa). Rejected youth VBM ballots rejected for other reasons ranged from 0% (Amador and Mariposa) to 31.5% (Orange).

VBM Rejection Reasons: Gender

Men had higher rates of rejected VBM ballots with non-matching signatures than women, while women had higher rates of late VBM ballots than men (see Appendix B for detailed data chart). In California, 14.6% of VBM rejected ballots cast by men were late, compared to 18.3% of women's rejected ballots. Almost 62% of men's rejected ballots had non-matching signatures, while 56.4% of women's rejected ballots had non-matching signatures. Men had a slightly higher share of rejected ballots with missing signatures (17.2%) than women (17.6%). Around 6.4% of men's rejected ballots and 7.8% of women's rejected ballots were rejected for other reasons.

In VCA counties, men continued to have a higher share of non-matching ballots and lower share of late ballots when compared to women. Over 15% of men's rejected ballots and 17.5% of women's rejected ballots were received late. Around 58.4% of men's rejected ballots had non-matching signatures, compared to 55% of women's rejected ballots. In non-VCA counties, just over 14% of men's ballot and just under 19% of women's ballots were received late. About 64.4% of men's rejected ballots and 57.6% of women's rejected ballots had non-matching signatures.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, nearly 59% of men's rejected ballots and 51.3% of women's rejected ballots had non-matching signatures. Around 18% of men's and 21.5% of women's rejected ballots were received late.

Among individual VCA counties, these patterns continued, with VBM ballots received late ranging from 3.4% (Tuolumne) to 44.9% (Santa Clara) for men and from 4.8% (Tuolumne) to 47.7% (Santa Clara) for women. Ballots with non-matching signatures ranged from 33.2% (Santa Clara) to 85% (Nevada) for men and from 30.4% (Santa Clara) to 86.6% (Madera) for women.

VBM Rejection Reasons: Nativity

Foreign-born voters had a higher share of their VBM ballots rejected for missing signatures than U.S.-born voters, while U.S.-born voters had a higher share late ballots and ballots with non-matching signatures (see Appendix B for detailed data chart). In California, 13.9% of foreign-born voters had late ballots, compared to 17.2% of U.S.-born voters. Around 55.4% of foreign-born voters' rejected ballots had non-matching signatures, where 59.1% of U.S.-born voters' rejected ballots had non-matching signatures. Nearly 23% of foreign-born voters' rejected ballots were missing signatures, compared to 16.6% of U.S.-born voters.

In VCA counties, 13.6% of rejected ballots cast by foreign-born voters were received late, while 17.4% of rejected ballots cast by U.S.-born voters were received late. Just over 53% of foreign-born voters' rejected ballots had non-matching signatures, compared to 57.1% of U.S.-born voters. About 24% of foreign-born voters' rejected ballots and 17.3% of U.S.-born voters' rejected ballots were missing signatures. In non-VCA counties, over 14% of foreign-born voters' rejected ballots were received late, compared to 17.1% of U.S.-born voters' rejected ballots. Around 58% of foreign-born and 60.7% of U.S.-born voters' rejected ballots had non-matching signatures. Additionally, 21.6% of foreign-born voters' rejected ballots were missing signatures, compared to 16% of U.S.-born voters' rejected ballots.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, over 50% rejected VBM ballots cast by foreign-born voters had non-matching signatures, compared to 54.6% of U.S.-born voters' rejected ballots. Another 16% of foreign-born voters and 21.3% of U.S.-born voters' rejected ballots were received late. Around 18.7% of foreign-born voters rejected ballots had missing signatures, while 13.8% of U.S.-born voters' rejected ballots had missing signatures.

Among the individual VCA counties, rejected ballots received late ranged from 0% (Tuolumne) to 38.7% (Butte) for foreign-born voters and from 0% (Calaveras) to 50.2% (Santa Clara) for U.S.-born voters. VBM ballots with non-matching signatures ranged from 0% (Tuolumne) to 100% (Mariposa) for foreign-born voters and from 29.8% (Santa Clara) to 86.3% (Madera) for U.S.-born voters. Rejected ballots with missing signatures ranged from 0% (Amador, Calaveras, and Mariposa) to 100% (Tuolumne) for foreign-born voters and from 5% (Calaveras) to 36.9% (Butte) for U.S.-born voters.

We should note here that both Mariposa and Tuolumne counties had only 1 rejected VBM ballot from a foreign-born voter.

VBM Rejected Reasons: New Voters

VBM ballots cast by new voters were rejected for non-matching signatures at higher rates than the total population (Figure 17). In California, 66.2% of VBM ballots cast by new voters were rejected for non-matching signatures (compared to 59.5% of the total population), 14.4% for being late, 11.7% for missing signatures, and 7.7% for other reasons.

In VCA counties, new voters continued to have a higher share of their rejected VBM ballots rejected for non-matching signatures than the total population. Around 62.6% of VBM ballots cast by new voters were rejected for non-matching signatures (compared to 56.9% of the total population), 14.8% for being late, 13.6% for missing signatures, and 9.1% for other reasons. VBM ballots cast by new voters in non-VCA counties had a higher rate of non-matching signatures (68.9%) than those in VCA counties (62.6%), while 14.1% were late, 10.4% were missing signatures, and 6.7% were rejected for other reasons. When excluding Los Angeles County, the rate of VBM ballots with non-matching signatures from new voters increased to 63.7%

Among individual VCA counties, rejected VBM ballots that were received late ranged from 0% (Tuolumne) to 44.7% (Santa Clara), ballots with non-matching signatures ranged from 20.7% (Napa) to 92.6% (Madera), ballots with missing signatures ranged from 4.3% (Nevada) to 34.5% (Napa), and ballots rejected for other reasons ranged from 0% (Madera and Mariposa) to 27% (Orange).

VBM Rejection Reasons: Previous Polling Place Voters

The majority of rejected VBM ballots cast by previous polling place voters were rejected for signature issues (Figure 18). In California, 60.4% were rejected for non-matching signatures, 21% for missing signatures, 14.2% for being received late, and 4.4% for other reasons.

In VCA counties, rejection reason rates were very similar to the statewide numbers for previous polling place voters with 60.4% being rejected for non-matching signatures, 21.7% for missing signatures, 14.2% for being late, and 3.7% for other reasons. In non-VCA counties, VBM ballots were rejected for similar reasons as VCA counties and California as a whole, with 14.1% being rejected for being late, 60.4% for non-matching signatures, 20.4% for missing signatures, and 5% for other reasons.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, a larger share of VBM ballots from previous polling place voters were rejected for lateness than the statewide, non-VCA, and VCA (all fifteen counties) rates. Late VBM ballots from previous polling place voters increased to 20.2%. Additionally, 55.4% were rejected for non-matching signatures, 17.9% for missing signatures, and 6.5% for other reasons.

Among individual VCA counties, late VBM ballots from previous polling place voters ranged from 0% (Mariposa and Tuolumne) to 50% (Napa), non-matching signature ballots ranged from 14.3% (Tuolumne) to 81.2% (Amador), missing signature ballots ranged from 10% (Napa) to 50% (Mariposa).

VBM Rejection Reasons: Party Affiliation

Registered Democratic voters had lower rates of missing signatures than registered Republican voters, while registered Republican voters had lower rates of non-matching signatures than registered Democratic voters (Figure 19). No Party Preference voters had higher rates of both late and non-matching signatures ballots than both Democratic and Republican ballots, but lower rates of missing signatures ballots. In California, 15.6% of Democratic rejected VBM ballots were late, 60% had non-matching signatures, 17.9% were missing signatures, and 6.5% were rejected for other reasons. Over 16% of No Party Preference rejected VBM ballots were late, 60.4% had non-matching signatures, 15.6% were missing signatures, and 7.3% were rejected for other reasons. Over 15% of Republican rejected VBM ballots were late, 58.4% had non-matching signatures, 18.3% were missing signatures, and 7.8% were rejected for other reasons.

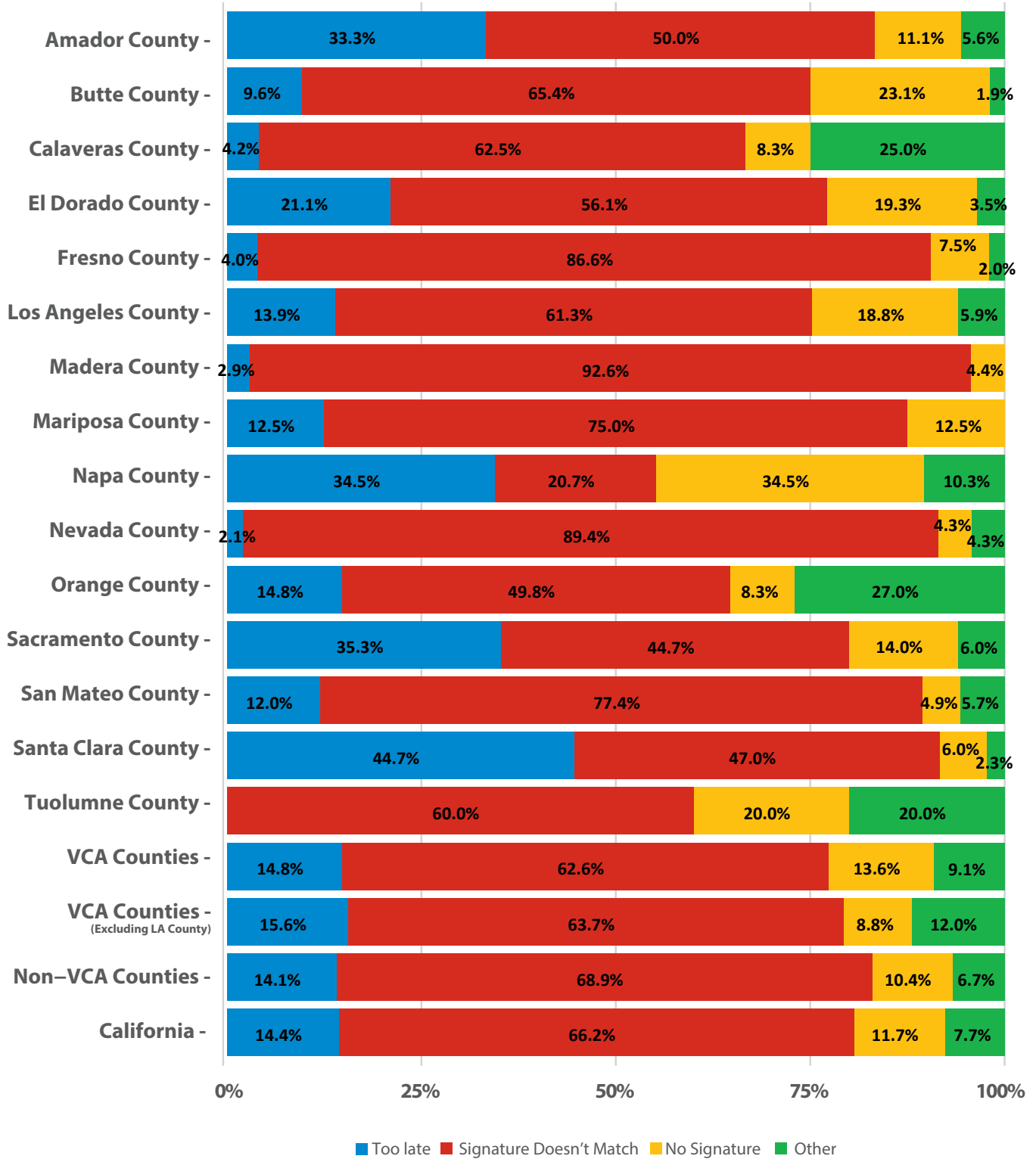
In VCA counties, 15% of Democratic rejected VBM ballots were late, 58.3% had non-matching signatures, 18.9% were missing signatures, and 7.7% were rejected for other reasons. Among No Party Preference rejected VBM ballots in VCA counties, 17.4% were received late, 55.5% had non-matching signatures, 17.4% were missing signatures, and 9.7% were rejected for other reasons. Among VBM ballots cast by Republicans in VCA counties, 16.0% were received late, 56.9% had non-matching signatures, 19.4% were missing signatures, and 7.7% were rejected for other reasons.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, the rate of late Democratic ballots increased to 19.8%, while non-matching signature ballots decreased to 54.8%, missing signature ballots decreased to 14.4%, and ballots rejected for other reasons increased to 11%. The rate of late No Party Preference ballots increased to 19.9% and, ballots with missing signatures decreased to 12.2%, while ballots with non-matching signatures increased to 55.8%, and ballots rejected for other reasons increased to 12.1%. Late ballots from Republican voters increased to 16.9%, while non-matching signature ballots slightly increased to 57.4%, ballots with missing signatures decreased to 16%, and ballots rejected for other reasons increased to 9.7%.

Note: As mentioned in the previous section, some groups within individual VCA counties have low VBM ballot and rejection totals, which can result in an under- or over-representation of VBM rejection reasons in some cases. This should be considered when looking at individual VCA counties' VBM rejection reason percentages.

FIGURE 17

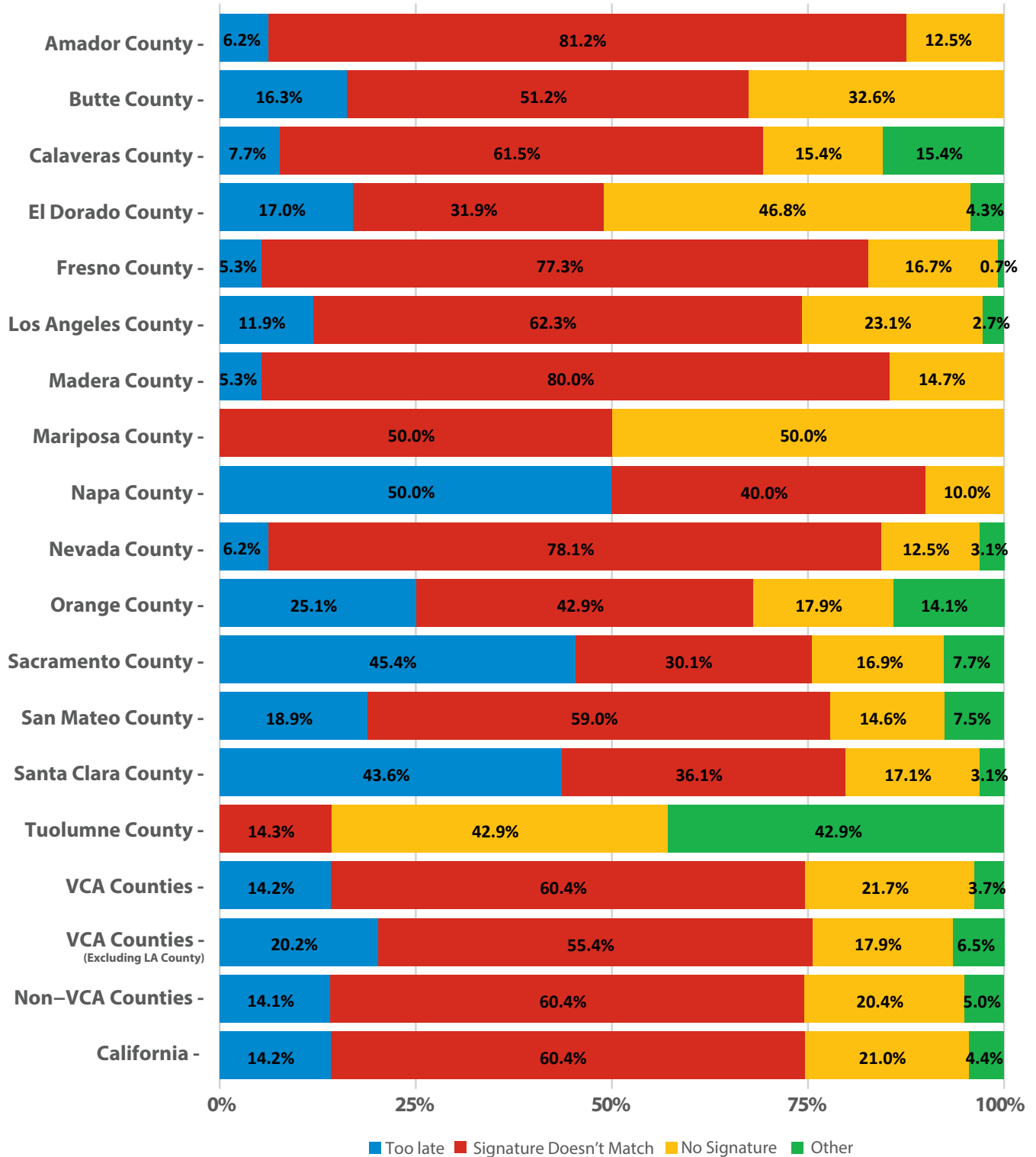
Vote-by-Mail Rejection Reasons - New Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 18

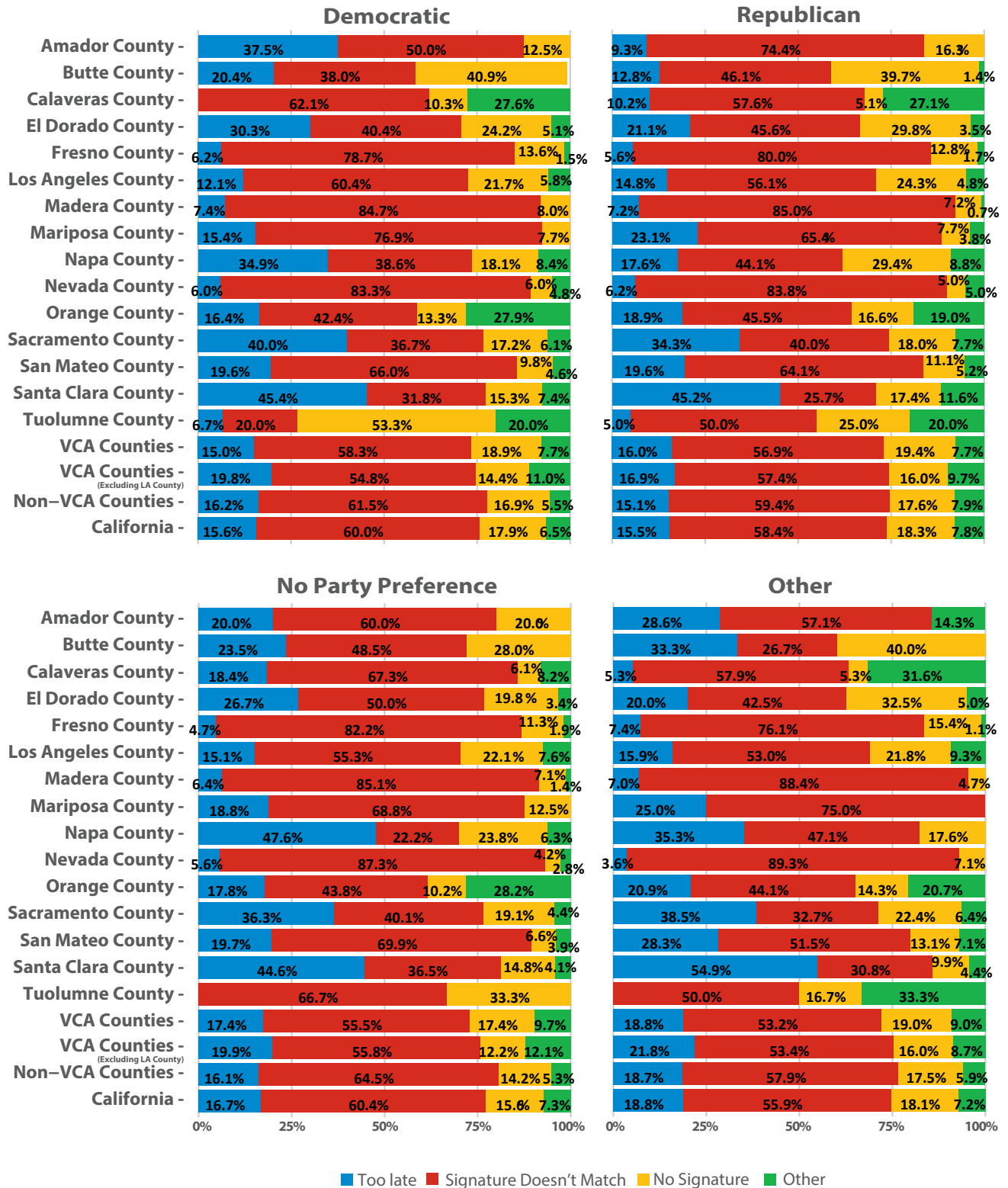
Vote-by-Mail Rejection Reasons - Previous Polling Place Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 19

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Reasons - Party Affiliation Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

4. Voter Registration

Key Takeaways:

- In California, 83.2% of eligible voters were registered to vote.
- VCA counties had a higher registration rate for eligible voters (85.2%) than non-VCA counties (81%). When excluding Los Angeles County, the VCA registration rate drops to 82.9%.
- Latino, Asian-American, and youth voters had notably lower registration rates than the general population.
- Among individual VCA counties, Latino registration rates ranged from 42.9% (Amador) to 77% (Los Angeles); Asian-American registration rates ranged from 42.9% (Butte) to 85% (Tuolumne); and registration rates for youth ranged from 46.1% (Butte) to 98.8% (San Mateo).

At the time of the 2020 general election, the official California registration rate (the percent of eligible adult citizens who are registered to vote) was 87.9% as reported by the Secretary of State's Office. This is the highest percentage of eligible citizens registered to vote heading into a general election in the past 80 years.¹⁸ Table 5 shows the growth in registration rates over time in VCA counties and statewide (see Appendix C for 2020 general election registration rates in every California county).

Table 5: Registration Rates: 2004-2020 General Elections*
Voter's Choice Act Counties

	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
Amador County	75.5%	77.2%	82.9%	81.8%	78.5%	78.2%	81.4%	82.3%	94.1%
Butte County	73.9%	73.5%	76.9%	72.2%	73.5%	70.0%	76.5%	71.5%	82.5%
Calaveras County	78.2%	76.9%	80.4%	82.4%	81.3%	76.3%	81.9%	82.0%	87.2%
El Dorado County	79.4%	80.2%	87.0%	83.5%	82.4%	78.8%	84.9%	85.8%	93.2%
Fresno County	69.0%	64.1%	71.5%	71.4%	73.3%	72.8%	75.0%	76.5%	82.0%
Los Angeles County	65.4%	68.6%	74.4%	76.4%	79.6%	80.3%	84.4%	84.8%	94.8%
Madera County	63.3%	62.9%	65.3%	64.7%	61.9%	61.1%	66.6%	63.9%	75.3%
Mariposa County	76.8%	79.3%	81.5%	80.7%	74.7%	68.7%	73.4%	72.7%	80.0%
Napa County	73.1%	73.4%	77.9%	75.2%	79.7%	77.0%	82.0%	84.6%	93.5%
Nevada County	83.1%	83.7%	85.5%	82.8%	82.5%	80.4%	88.9%	87.7%	95.7%
Orange County	77.0%	81.8%	86.4%	85.8%	87.4%	72.5%	76.4%	76.9%	88.6%
Sacramento County	68.2%	68.9%	73.5%	72.1%	74.0%	71.1%	78.1%	75.6%	86.0%
San Mateo County	71.5%	75.0%	81.3%	70.9%	75.4%	72.5%	78.6%	78.7%	87.8%
Santa Clara County	74.9%	69.8%	70.6%	68.4%	72.9%	69.6%	73.3%	73.3%	84.5%
Tuolumne County	80.9%	81.2%	87.7%	82.9%	80.9%	73.8%	76.2%	77.9%	82.2%
VCA Counties	69.5%	69.5%	76.4%	76.3%	79.2%	76.2%	80.5%	80.6%	90.7%
VCA Counties w/o LA	73.7%	73.7%	78.4%	76.3%	78.7%	71.9%	76.5%	76.2%	86.5%
Non-VCA Counties	68.4%	68.4%	72.8%	70.6%	74.2%	70.5%	75.6%	75.9%	85.2%
California	68.9%	69.9%	74.6%	73.4%	76.7%	73.3%	78.0%	78.2%	87.9%

Data source: California Secretary of State's Office.

*Registration rates defined as the percent of adult citizens who are registered to vote.

In the remainder of this section, we provide a detailed examination of California's voter registration rate for the 2020 general election for counties conducting elections under the VCA. We note here that comparable data is not available to identify registration rates by gender, nativity, party affiliation, length of voting and voting method. Thus, we limit our analysis of registration rates to the following categories: Latinos, Asian Americans, Youth, and Gender.

As mentioned earlier in this report, the dataset used for this section's analysis varies slightly from the official Report of Registration by the California Secretary of State's Office, resulting in some small differences in voter registration numbers compared to published rates.

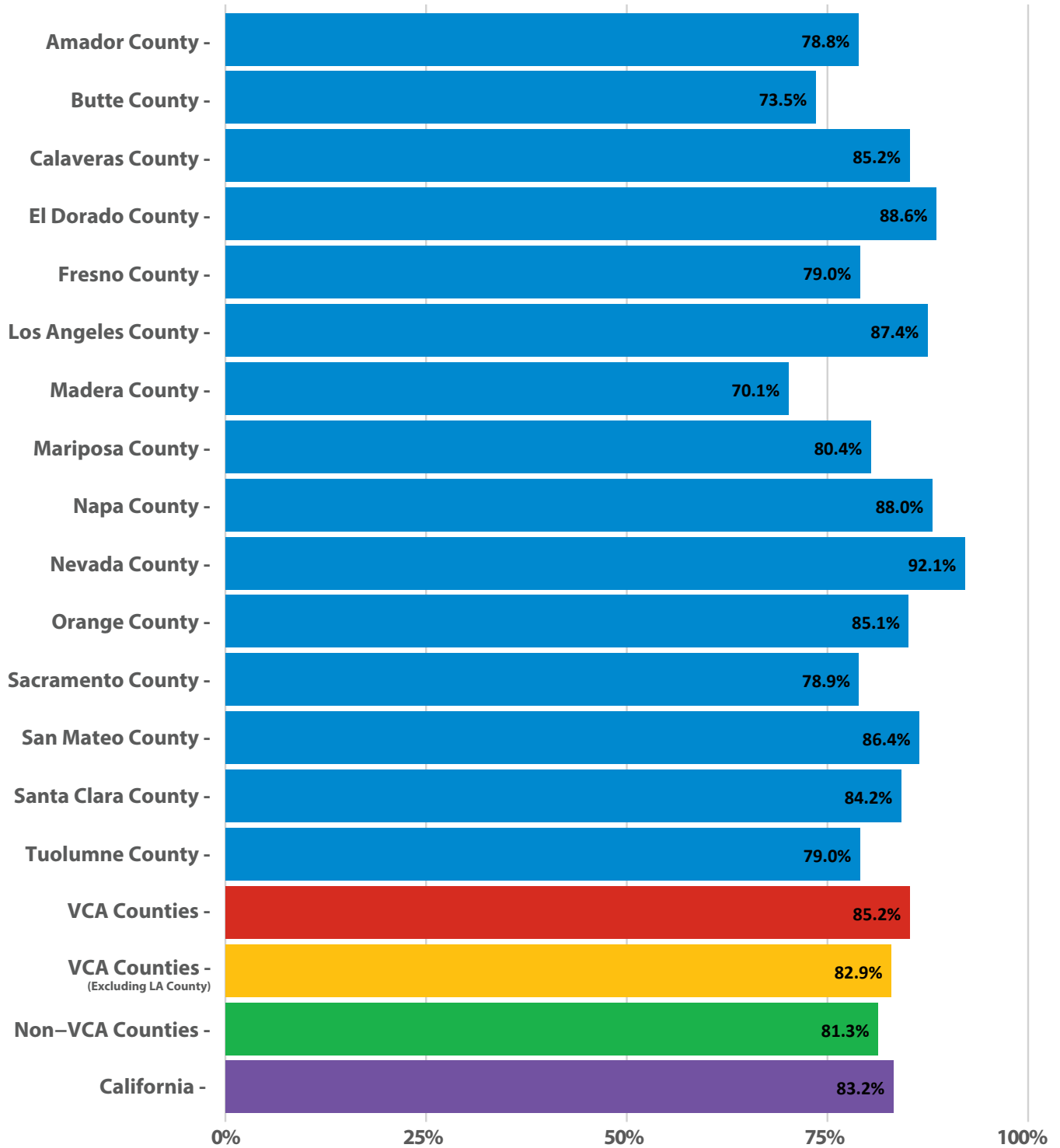
2020 Voter Registration Rates

VCA counties had a higher registration rate than statewide and non-VCA counties (Figure 20). In California, of the 25,851,350 eligible voters, 21,505,320 were registered to vote (83.2%), compared to 85.2% of eligible voters in VCA counties (10,674,409 registered out of 12,525,638 eligible). Of the 13,325,712 eligible voters in non-VCA counties, just over 81% (10,830,911) were registered to vote. When excluding Los Angeles County, however, the registration rate in VCA counties decreased to 82.9% (5,108,752 registered out of 6,161,109 eligible voters).

Among individual VCA counties, the registration rates ranged from 70.1% (Madera) to 92.1% (Nevada). Eight of the fifteen VCA counties had registration rates above the statewide number, ranging from 84.2% (Santa Clara) to 92.1% (Nevada).

FIGURE 20

Registration Rate - All Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



*Registration rates defined as the percent of adult citizens who are registered to vote
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File, California Department of Finance

2020 Voter Registration Rates: Latinos

Latino voters had lower registration rates than the overall population (see Appendix C for detailed data chart). In California, 71.8% of the eligible Latino population was registered to vote, while more than 83% of all eligible voters were registered. The Latino registration rate was higher in VCA counties than in non-VCA counties. Over 73% of eligible Latino voters in VCA counties were registered to vote, compared to 70.1% in non-VCA counties. When excluding Los Angeles County, however, the Latino registration rate in VCA counties drops to 67.3%, below the non-VCA and statewide rates.

Among individual VCA counties, registration rates for Latino voters ranged from 42.9% (Amador) to 77% (Los Angeles). Los Angeles was the only VCA county with a registration rate for Latinos above the statewide rate for Latinos.

2020 Voter Registration Rates: Asian-Americans

Asian-American voters had a lower registration rate than the overall population (see Appendix C for detailed data chart). In California, 59.3% of eligible Asian-American voters were registered to vote, compared to 83.2% of all eligible voters. Asian Americans in VCA counties (61%) had higher registration rates than those in non-VCA counties (56.7%). When excluding Los Angeles, the registration rate for Asian-American voters in VCA counties increased to 63.9%.

Among individual VCA counties, the registration rate for Asian-American voters ranged from 42.9% (Butte) to 85% (Tuolumne). Nine of the fifteen VCA counties (Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Madera, Mariposa, Orange, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Tuolumne) had higher registration rates for Asian-American voters than the statewide rate for Asian Americans, ranging from 60.3% (San Mateo) to 85% (Tuolumne).

2020 Voter Registration Rates: Youth

Young voters, ages 18 to 24, had lower registration rates than the overall population (see Appendix C for detailed data chart). In California, 67% of young eligible voters were registered to vote, compared to 83.2% of all voters. Youth voters in VCA counties (69.7%) had higher registration rates than youth voters in non-VCA counties (64.6%). In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, the youth registration rate increased to 72%.

Among the individual VCA counties, the youth registration rate ranged from 46.1% (Butte) to 98.8% (San Mateo). Seven VCA counties (El Dorado, Los Angeles, Madera, Napa, Orange, San Mateo, and Santa Clara) had youth registration rates higher than the statewide rate for young voters, ranging from 67.7% (Los Angeles) to 98.8% (San Mateo).

5. Voter Turnout

Making a causal connection between any new election reform and voter turnout calls for caution. First, turnout is a difficult outcome to model because it is potentially influenced by a variety of factors, including the competitiveness of individual races, characteristics of candidates, as well as the greater electoral context. Additionally, turnout can be influenced by other factors specific to a county or other jurisdiction's electorate such as demographic and political composition and historical turnout trends, making it difficult to assess the specific impact of an individual election reform. While there are tools available to researchers that, in many cases, can help produce reasonably plausible causal estimates, this is not the scope of our analysis in this report.

As mentioned earlier, the race and ethnicity of every voter is not available from county voter registration files. In order to examine the change in voter turnout of racial and ethnic groups in the 2020 general election compared to 2016, we used data provided by the Statewide Database (the official redistricting database for the California State Legislature) at UC Berkeley. As noted earlier in this report, data by race and ethnicity from the Statewide Database is limited to Latinos and Asian Americans (data for white and Black voters are not provided by the Statewide Database due to data limitations).¹⁹

2016-2020 General Election Voter Turnout

Voter turnout in the 2020 California general election was historically high. The state saw an official eligible voter turnout (turnout of adult citizens) higher than in 2016 and the highest eligible turnout in any of the state's general elections since 1952 (see Appendix C for detailed certified election results from the California Secretary of State).²⁰

Utilizing data from the Statewide Database (Table 6), California eligible voter turnout was 67.4% in the 2020 general elections, an increase of just under ten percentage points over the 2016 general elections. A majority of VCA counties saw even greater change in eligible turnout than the overall state increase. However, seven VCA counties, including Los Angeles (8.8 percentage point increase) saw an increase in eligible turnout that was below the statewide increase over 2016.

Table 7 shows registered voter turnout as measured by the percentage of only those who are registered to vote increased by just 5 and a half percentage points for the state, from 73.5% in 2016 general to 79.0% in 2020. Every VCA county also saw an increase in registered voter turnout, from Los Angeles (7.5 percentage points) to Mariposa (1.3 percentage point).

We caution here that the increased rates of registration discussed in section 4 may be due, in part, to an increased ease in voter registration as a result of new California elections policies like New Motor Voter (Californians are able to automatically register or update their registration when interacting with the Department of Motor Vehicles). Measuring turnout of only those registered to vote may not allow for an apples-to-apples comparison to prior elections that were conducted before the major changes to California's registration laws and procedures.

2016-2020 General Election Voter Turnout: Latinos and Asian Americans

Table 6: Eligible Voter Turnout by Race and Ethnicity: 2016-2020 General Elections*

Voter's Choice Act Counties									
	2016			2020			Percent Change		
	All Voters	Asian American	Latino	All Voters	Asian American	Latino	All Voters	Asian American	Latino
Amador County	61.2%	56.0%	29.7%	70.4%	n/a	34.9%	9.1%	49.0%	5.2%
Butte County	56.0%	26.9%	42.4%	61.2%	28.4%	45.4%	5.3%	1.6%	3.1%
Calaveras County	64.4%	73.9%	48.9%	75.4%	n/a	57.2%	11.0%	33.0%	8.4%
El Dorado County	67.3%	44.7%	42.6%	77.9%	64.4%	48.5%	10.6%	19.7%	5.9%
Fresno County	48.7%	29.0%	37.9%	58.8%	34.5%	46.3%	10.2%	5.5%	8.3%
Los Angeles County	57.6%	34.6%	49.8%	66.5%	42.1%	55.2%	8.8%	7.5%	5.4%
Madera County	43.7%	65.3%	30.6%	56.5%	71.3%	43.2%	12.8%	5.9%	12.5%
Mariposa County	61.4%	65.1%	45.0%	70.1%	70.8%	47.7%	8.7%	5.7%	2.7%
Napa County	67.8%	37.2%	51.7%	76.8%	42.9%	55.7%	9.0%	5.7%	4.0%
Nevada County	70.2%	46.1%	39.8%	80.9%	58.1%	41.4%	10.7%	12.0%	1.6%
Orange County	61.6%	41.6%	48.2%	74.1%	54.4%	55.8%	12.5%	12.8%	7.6%
Sacramento County	56.9%	35.4%	46.1%	67.4%	44.8%	55.0%	10.5%	9.5%	8.9%
San Mateo County	66.9%	37.9%	54.3%	75.1%	48.5%	59.8%	8.1%	10.6%	5.5%
Santa Clara County	63.2%	46.6%	48.8%	72.4%	54.0%	54.3%	9.2%	7.4%	5.5%
Tuolumne County	57.7%	86.8%	32.5%	70.3%	120.3%	41.6%	12.6%	33.5%	9.2%
VCA Counties	58.9%	38.3%	48.4%	68.6%	47.2%	54.5%	9.7%	8.8%	6.1%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	60.1%	41.4%	45.9%	70.7%	51.3%	53.2%	10.6%	9.9%	7.3%
Non VCA Counties	57.3%	38.9%	44.3%	66.9%	45.9%	51.9%	9.5%	7.0%	7.6%
State Total	57.3%	38.5%	46.4%	67.4%	47.7%	53.0%	9.6%	9.2%	6.6%

Source: Statewide Database

*Eligible voter turnout defined as the percentage of adult citizens who voted.

Table 6 shows that Latinos and Asian Americans did not experience the same growth in turnout in the 2020 general election as the overall population and that notable disparities remain in both the registered and eligible turnout rates for these groups compared to the total population.²⁰ The 2020 eligible voter turnout rate for California Asian Americans was 47.7%, an increase of 9.2 percentage points from the 2016 general election. At 53.0%, Latino eligible turnout increased 6.6 percentage points in 2020 from 2016.

Table 7: Registered Voter Turnout by Race and Ethnicity: 2016-2020 General Elections*

Voter's Choice Act Counties									
Reg	2016			2020			Percent Change		
	All Voters	Asian American	Latino	All Voters	Asian American	Latino	All Voters	Asian American	Latino
Amador County	83.3%	84.3%	75.9%	87.0%	86.2%	81.1%	3.7%	1.9%	5.1%
Butte County	74.7%	68.0%	66.4%	80.5%	74.6%	71.0%	5.8%	6.6%	4.6%
Calaveras County	80.6%	75.2%	75.0%	85.8%	87.1%	81.4%	5.2%	11.9%	6.4%
El Dorado County	82.6%	77.8%	76.1%	85.9%	85.4%	79.2%	3.3%	7.6%	3.0%
Fresno County	65.4%	61.0%	58.3%	72.7%	72.2%	66.1%	7.3%	11.2%	7.8%
Los Angeles County	65.6%	60.3%	64.4%	73.1%	74.2%	70.0%	7.5%	13.9%	5.6%
Madera County	71.7%	64.7%	58.1%	78.9%	76.7%	69.6%	7.2%	12.0%	11.5%
Mariposa County	83.5%	78.9%	76.4%	84.8%	81.3%	77.4%	1.3%	2.4%	1.0%
Napa County	81.4%	74.9%	74.2%	85.4%	82.6%	78.2%	4.0%	7.7%	4.0%
Nevada County	81.0%	76.9%	73.7%	85.8%	84.6%	79.3%	4.9%	7.7%	5.6%
Orange County	78.6%	71.3%	73.0%	85.3%	83.2%	78.6%	6.8%	11.9%	5.6%
Sacramento County	73.6%	69.3%	69.9%	80.9%	79.2%	76.3%	7.2%	10.0%	6.4%
San Mateo County	80.2%	75.4%	74.8%	84.7%	83.8%	79.7%	4.6%	8.4%	4.9%
Santa Clara County	80.8%	77.9%	75.5%	83.1%	83.0%	76.8%	2.4%	5.1%	1.3%
Tuolumne County	82.6%	79.6%	76.9%	86.4%	85.9%	82.7%	3.7%	6.3%	5.8%
VCA Counties	71.0%	67.5%	66.3%	77.7%	78.8%	71.9%	6.7%	11.3%	5.6%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	77.1%	73.4%	70.2%	82.7%	82.3%	75.5%	5.6%	8.8%	5.3%
Non VCA Counties	76.1%	71.8%	68.6%	80.3%	80.7%	72.0%	4.2%	8.9%	3.4%
State Total	73.5%	69.1%	67.3%	79.0%	79.6%	72.0%	5.5%	10.4%	4.6%

Source: Statewide Database

*Registered voter turnout defined as the percentage of registered voters who voted.

When looking at registered voter turnout, we also see notable disparities. Table 7 shows that 72.0% of registered Latinos and 79.6% of registered Asian Americans voted in California during the 2020 general election (compared to 79.0% of all registered voters). The change in registered turnout from 2016 was a 10.4 percentage point increase for Asian Americans, while at the same time Latinos experienced a 4.6 percentage point increase in their registered turnout.

Voter Representation of Latinos and Asian Americans

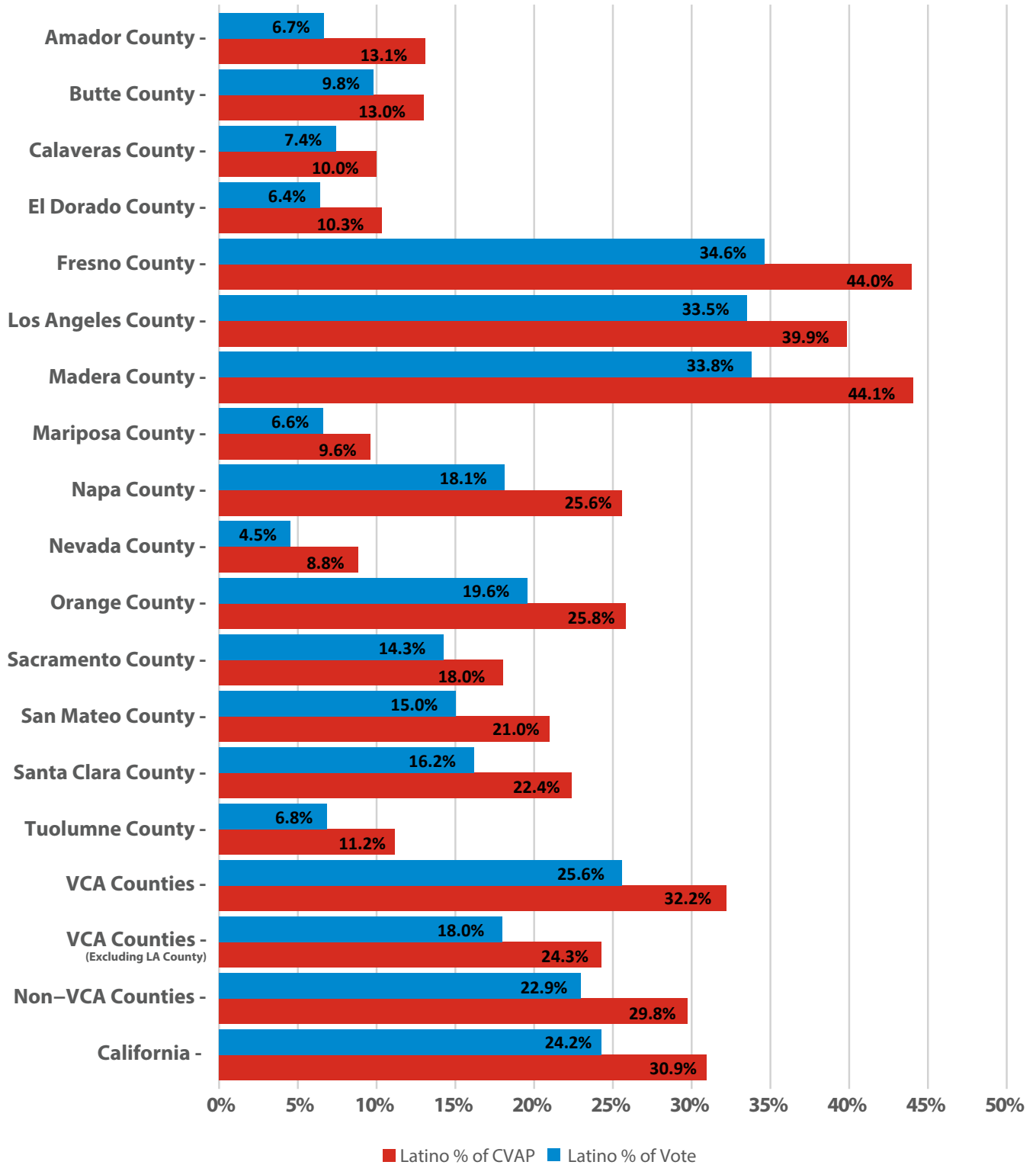
The degree of Latino representation in California's voting electorate decreased slightly in the 2020 general election. Latinos were 24.2% of voters in 2020, while they were 30.9% of state's eligible voter population (adult citizens), a representation gap of over six percentage points (see Figure 21).²¹ In the 2016 general election, Latinos were 22.8% of voters and 28.5% of the eligible voter population, a gap of just under 5 percentage points.

Asian Americans did not see a change in their representation in the California electorate in the 2020 general elections. The Asian-American share of all voters in the general was 10.6%, while their share of the eligible voter population was 14.6%, a difference of 4 percentage points (see Figure 22). In 2016, this representation gap was essentially the same at 4.2 percentage points. Asian Americans were 8.3% of voters and 12.5% of eligible voters.

Note: This analysis is not suggesting a direct causal connection between the VCA and the degree of voter representation (a group's share of election voters compared to its share of eligible adult citizen voters).

FIGURE 21

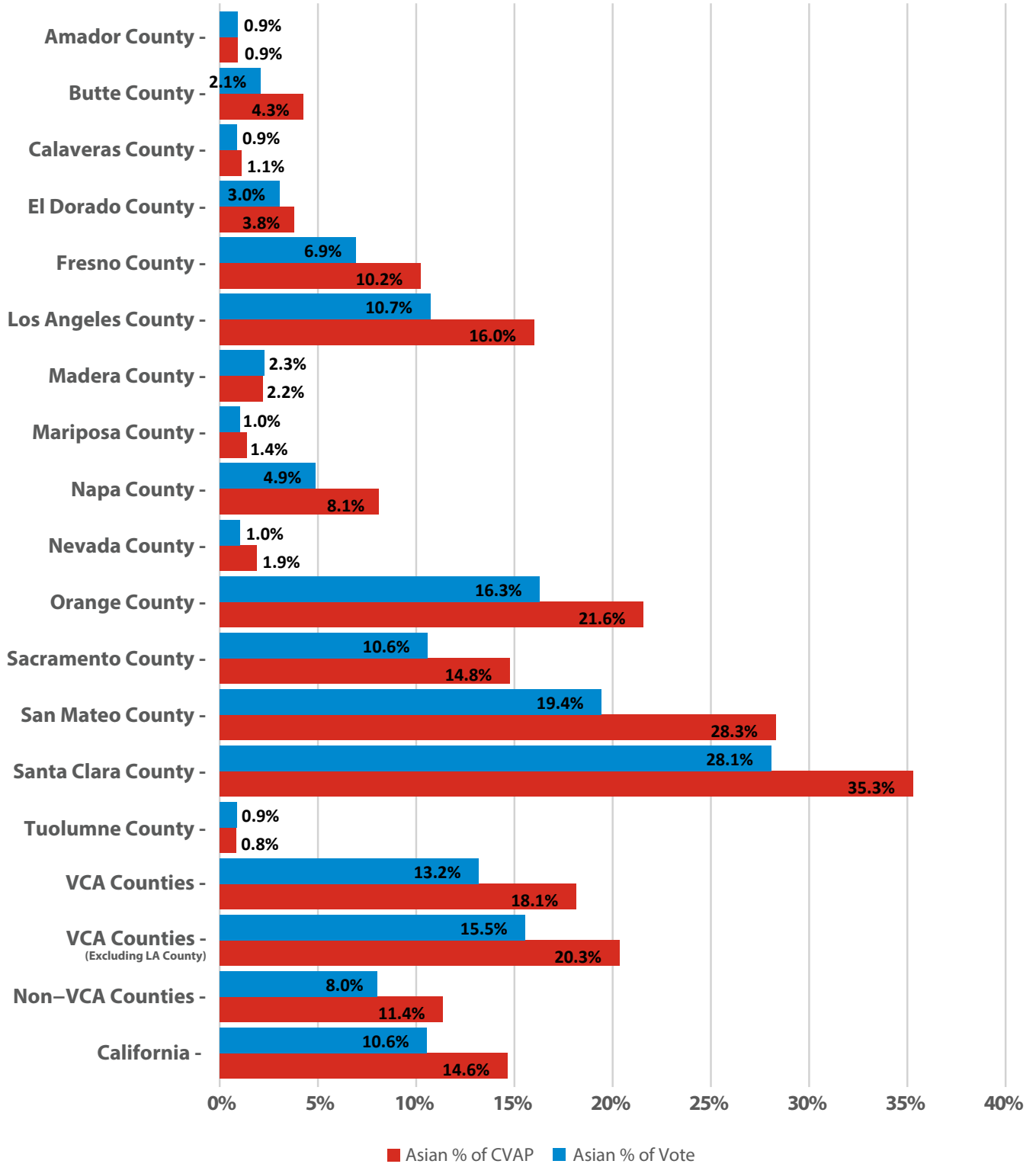
Latino Underrepresentation 2020 General Election – VCA Counties



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File, California Department of Finance

FIGURE 22

Asian–American Underrepresentation 2020 General Election – VCA Counties



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File, California Department of Finance

2016-2020 General Election Voter Turnout: Youth

Significant disparities in eligible voter turnout are consistently present by age in California. Table 8 shows that in the 2020 general election, the youth eligible voter turnout rate (citizens age 18-24 who voted) was 47.4%, compared to 73.4% for voters age 65 and older (eligible turnout for all voters was 67.4% calculated from the same Statewide Database source). However, youth saw a slightly higher increase in eligible turnout than the total population saw in the general election.

When looking at registered voter turnout by age, we also see significant disparities. Table 9 shows that 69.8% of registered youth (age 18-24) voted in the 2020 general election. Youth registered voter turnout increased markedly from the 2016 general election (56.8%) by 13 percentage points.

Table 8: Eligible Voter Turnout by Age Group: 2016-2020 General Elections*

Voter's Choice Act Counties																		
	2016						2020						Percent Change					
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Amador County	29.8%	50.0%	46.4%	50.3%	67.7%	80.3%	37.0%	43.1%	58.3%	64.3%	90.6%	89.6%	7.2%	-6.8%	11.9%	14.0%	22.9%	9.3%
Butte County	29.6%	46.0%	52.5%	56.0%	68.5%	75.4%	30.9%	61.6%	67.5%	68.3%	74.0%	70.2%	1.4%	15.6%	15.0%	12.2%	5.5%	-5.2%
Calaveras County	28.9%	64.7%	54.0%	57.5%	69.6%	79.0%	42.7%	51.5%	79.1%	84.3%	89.5%	81.9%	13.8%	-13.2%	25.2%	26.9%	19.9%	2.9%
El Dorado County	32.4%	51.0%	64.5%	69.6%	76.0%	85.1%	52.5%	51.0%	105.4%	91.8%	82.1%	83.4%	20.2%	0.0%	40.9%	22.1%	6.2%	-1.7%
Fresno County	28.5%	42.2%	46.3%	48.9%	59.6%	66.5%	38.9%	55.1%	62.3%	58.2%	65.0%	73.0%	10.5%	13.0%	16.0%	9.3%	5.4%	6.5%
Los Angeles County	39.8%	55.2%	58.9%	60.7%	63.9%	64.4%	48.4%	78.4%	69.5%	65.9%	68.5%	66.7%	8.6%	23.1%	10.6%	5.2%	4.6%	2.3%
Madera County	24.8%	28.4%	33.8%	39.6%	58.7%	69.7%	45.7%	39.9%	52.3%	54.6%	70.7%	71.5%	20.9%	11.5%	18.5%	15.0%	12.0%	1.8%
Mariposa County	29.2%	57.5%	48.5%	55.1%	66.8%	75.4%	38.5%	48.9%	74.9%	75.6%	83.3%	76.2%	9.3%	-8.6%	26.4%	20.5%	16.5%	0.8%
Napa County	41.1%	65.6%	67.1%	63.1%	73.6%	80.8%	60.0%	70.2%	84.6%	68.2%	83.6%	85.0%	18.9%	4.6%	17.5%	5.1%	10.0%	4.2%
Nevada County	32.6%	63.9%	62.7%	63.3%	76.1%	87.2%	46.5%	56.8%	102.8%	87.5%	86.0%	88.1%	13.8%	-7.1%	40.1%	24.2%	9.9%	0.9%
Orange County	43.9%	52.3%	59.3%	62.5%	69.3%	75.3%	59.7%	80.8%	77.0%	73.0%	76.4%	75.6%	15.8%	28.5%	17.7%	10.5%	7.1%	0.3%
Sacramento County	34.8%	47.4%	53.2%	59.8%	66.6%	73.4%	47.3%	69.1%	65.7%	67.5%	72.7%	76.4%	12.5%	21.7%	12.5%	7.7%	6.1%	2.9%
San Mateo County	43.8%	73.5%	64.6%	67.1%	70.0%	73.7%	78.6%	91.7%	79.5%	71.3%	71.1%	69.0%	34.7%	18.3%	14.9%	4.2%	1.1%	-4.6%
Santa Clara County	46.6%	61.5%	59.2%	63.9%	68.1%	73.1%	59.9%	84.7%	74.8%	72.1%	73.9%	70.2%	13.3%	23.1%	15.5%	8.3%	5.8%	-2.9%
Tuolumne County	26.7%	41.5%	47.6%	47.2%	65.7%	78.2%	41.7%	47.4%	63.0%	71.6%	84.5%	83.7%	15.1%	5.8%	15.3%	24.4%	18.8%	5.5%
VCA Counties	39.6%	54.1%	57.8%	60.9%	66.0%	69.5%	51.0%	76.1%	71.2%	68.2%	71.5%	70.7%	11.5%	22.0%	13.3%	7.3%	5.5%	1.2%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	39.3%	52.9%	56.8%	61.0%	68.0%	74.3%	53.9%	73.6%	73.0%	70.5%	74.3%	74.6%	14.6%	20.7%	16.2%	9.5%	6.3%	0.2%
Non VCA Counties	34.0%	50.1%	54.9%	59.5%	67.0%	73.2%	45.5%	61.3%	69.4%	70.5%	74.2%	76.0%	11.5%	11.2%	14.5%	11.0%	7.2%	2.8%
State Total	36.6%	52.0%	56.3%	60.2%	66.5%	71.4%	47.4%	68.1%	70.3%	69.3%	72.8%	73.4%	11.5%	16.1%	13.9%	9.2%	6.3%	2.0%

Source: Statewide Database

*Eligible voter turnout defined as the percentage of adult citizens who voted.

Table 9: Registered Voter Turnout by Age Group: 2016-2020 General Elections*
Voter's Choice Act Counties

Reg	2016						2020						Percent Change					
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Amador County	58.2%	64.6%	77.0%	83.1%	88.4%	90.8%	65.4%	71.6%	83.1%	87.1%	91.3%	94.1%	7.3%	7.0%	6.0%	4.0%	2.9%	3.2%
Butte County	56.4%	59.3%	71.2%	76.0%	83.6%	87.2%	63.6%	68.9%	79.0%	82.9%	87.2%	91.2%	7.3%	9.6%	7.8%	6.9%	3.7%	3.9%
Calaveras County	62.1%	61.7%	72.5%	79.5%	86.3%	88.8%	70.2%	70.1%	77.8%	85.2%	91.3%	93.4%	8.1%	8.3%	5.3%	5.7%	4.9%	4.7%
El Dorado County	62.3%	65.8%	79.2%	84.5%	88.5%	90.5%	74.5%	72.6%	82.9%	88.0%	90.5%	92.0%	12.2%	6.8%	3.7%	3.5%	2.0%	1.5%
Fresno County	49.3%	51.1%	61.6%	70.1%	77.7%	79.6%	61.9%	60.6%	68.8%	76.9%	82.4%	84.8%	12.6%	9.5%	7.2%	6.9%	4.7%	5.2%
Los Angeles County	54.9%	56.8%	64.1%	69.9%	73.7%	72.6%	69.8%	66.1%	70.2%	76.0%	78.8%	78.2%	14.9%	9.3%	6.1%	6.1%	5.1%	5.5%
Madera County	46.3%	54.7%	66.0%	73.4%	83.2%	86.6%	60.7%	65.2%	76.7%	83.3%	88.3%	90.5%	14.4%	10.5%	10.6%	9.9%	5.1%	3.9%
Mariposa County	59.8%	64.9%	77.2%	82.5%	89.3%	91.5%	65.8%	70.0%	81.3%	83.5%	89.9%	91.8%	6.0%	5.1%	4.1%	0.9%	0.6%	0.3%
Napa County	65.5%	70.1%	79.8%	82.5%	87.2%	88.4%	76.5%	75.2%	83.3%	87.9%	90.4%	90.6%	11.0%	5.1%	3.5%	5.3%	3.1%	2.2%
Nevada County	57.3%	63.1%	75.4%	81.2%	87.2%	89.8%	69.0%	72.1%	81.5%	86.8%	90.3%	92.7%	11.6%	9.0%	6.2%	5.6%	3.1%	2.9%
Orange County	61.0%	68.9%	77.7%	82.5%	86.0%	86.7%	75.4%	77.1%	84.5%	88.4%	90.7%	91.6%	14.4%	8.2%	6.8%	5.9%	4.7%	4.9%
Sacramento County	55.1%	60.3%	71.7%	77.1%	83.1%	85.7%	70.2%	70.5%	79.1%	84.1%	87.6%	89.5%	15.2%	10.1%	7.5%	7.0%	4.5%	3.8%
San Mateo County	63.7%	72.1%	81.1%	83.8%	85.9%	84.4%	77.3%	77.1%	84.7%	88.1%	89.3%	87.6%	13.6%	5.0%	3.6%	4.4%	3.4%	3.2%
Santa Clara County	62.7%	73.1%	81.6%	85.2%	87.2%	86.4%	75.2%	74.5%	82.5%	86.8%	88.2%	88.0%	12.5%	1.4%	0.9%	1.6%	1.1%	1.6%
Tuolumne County	59.6%	65.4%	76.5%	81.0%	87.9%	90.8%	69.3%	74.1%	81.8%	85.8%	89.7%	93.4%	9.7%	8.8%	5.3%	4.8%	1.8%	2.7%
VCA Counties	56.7%	60.5%	69.3%	75.2%	79.4%	79.4%	71.1%	69.1%	75.2%	80.9%	83.8%	84.0%	14.4%	8.6%	5.9%	5.7%	4.4%	4.6%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	59.0%	65.7%	75.8%	81.0%	85.1%	86.0%	72.5%	73.0%	81.1%	86.1%	88.8%	89.7%	13.5%	7.3%	5.3%	5.1%	3.7%	3.7%
Non VCA Counties	56.9%	64.9%	75.1%	80.1%	84.7%	86.0%	68.6%	69.1%	78.8%	84.0%	87.3%	89.1%	11.7%	4.2%	3.7%	4.0%	2.6%	3.1%
State Total	56.8%	62.6%	72.1%	77.6%	82.1%	82.8%	69.8%	69.1%	77.0%	82.5%	85.6%	86.6%	13.0%	6.5%	4.9%	4.9%	3.5%	3.8%

Source: Statewide Database

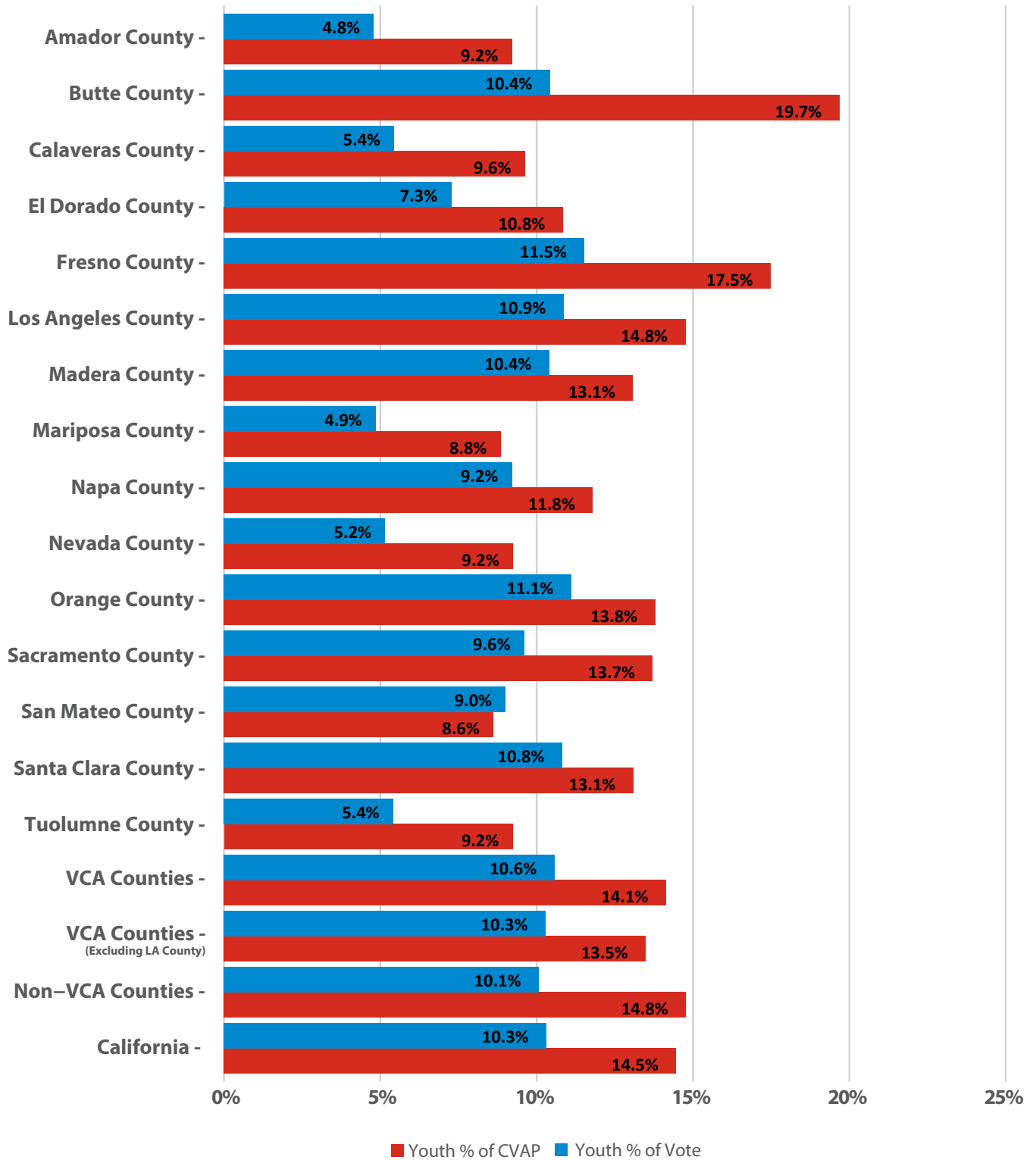
*Registered voter turnout defined as the percentage of registered voters who voted.

Voter Representation of Youth

Youth (age 18-24) representation in California's voting electorate decreased slightly in the 2020 general election. Youth were 10.3% of voters in 2020, while they were 14.5% of state's eligible voter population (adult citizens), a representation gap of over 4 percentage points (see Figure 23).²² In the 2016 general election, youth were 8.9% of voters and 14.2% of the eligible voter population, a gap of just over 5 percentage points.

FIGURE 23

Youth (Ages 18 to 24) Underrepresentation 2020 General Election – VCA Counties



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File, California Department of Finance

2020 Detailed Turnout Analysis

In the remainder of this section, we provide a detailed examination of California's 2020 general election voter turnout, both registered and eligible, for counties conducting elections under the VCA (see Figures 25 and 26 for maps of eligible and registered voter turnout for all California counties). In our turnout analysis, voted includes all ballots that were cast and counted and does not include rejected ballots in the voted totals. We note here that comparable data is not available to identify eligible turnout by gender, nativity, party affiliation, length of voting and voting method. Thus, we limit our analysis to registered voter turnout for these voter categories.

As mentioned earlier in this report, the dataset used for this section's analysis varies slightly from the official Statement of the Vote certified by the California Secretary of State's Office, resulting in some small differences in voter numbers compared with the certified results. Small differences in our analysis below are also present in comparison to data presented from the Statewide Database.

Key Takeaways:

- In California, 66.7% of eligible voters and 80.1% of registered voters voted in the 2020 general election.
- VCA counties had a higher eligible voter turnout (67.6%) than non-VCA counties (65.8%) and a lower registered voter turnout (79.3%) than non-VCA counties (81%). When excluding Los Angeles County, VCA counties' eligible voter turnout increased to 70% and registered voter turnout increased to 84.4%.
- Latino, Asian-American, and youth voters had lower eligible voter turnout rates than the general population. Latino and youth voters had lower registered voter turnout than the general population, while Asian-American voters had higher registered voter turnout than the general population.
- U.S.-born voters had higher registered voter turnout rates than foreign-born voters. Women registered to vote voted at higher rates than men registered to vote. Republican voters had higher registered voter turnout than Democratic and No Party Preference voters.

At 67.6%, eligible voter turnout was slightly higher in VCA counties than the state (66.7%). In VCA counties, 8,462,033 of the eligible 12,525,638 voters voted in the 2020 general election (Figure 24). 17,236,299 of the 25,851,350 eligible voters in California voted in the election. When excluding Los Angeles County, however, the eligible voter turnout increased to 70% (4,311,185 of the 6,161,109 eligible voters). Non-VCA counties had an eligible voter turnout of 65.8%, lower than both VCA and the statewide rate.

Among individual VCA counties, eligible voter turnout ranged from 55.5% (Madera) to 79.9% (Nevada). Eleven of the fifteen VCA counties had eligible voter turnout rates higher than the statewide average, ranging from 67% (Sacramento) to 79.9% (Nevada).

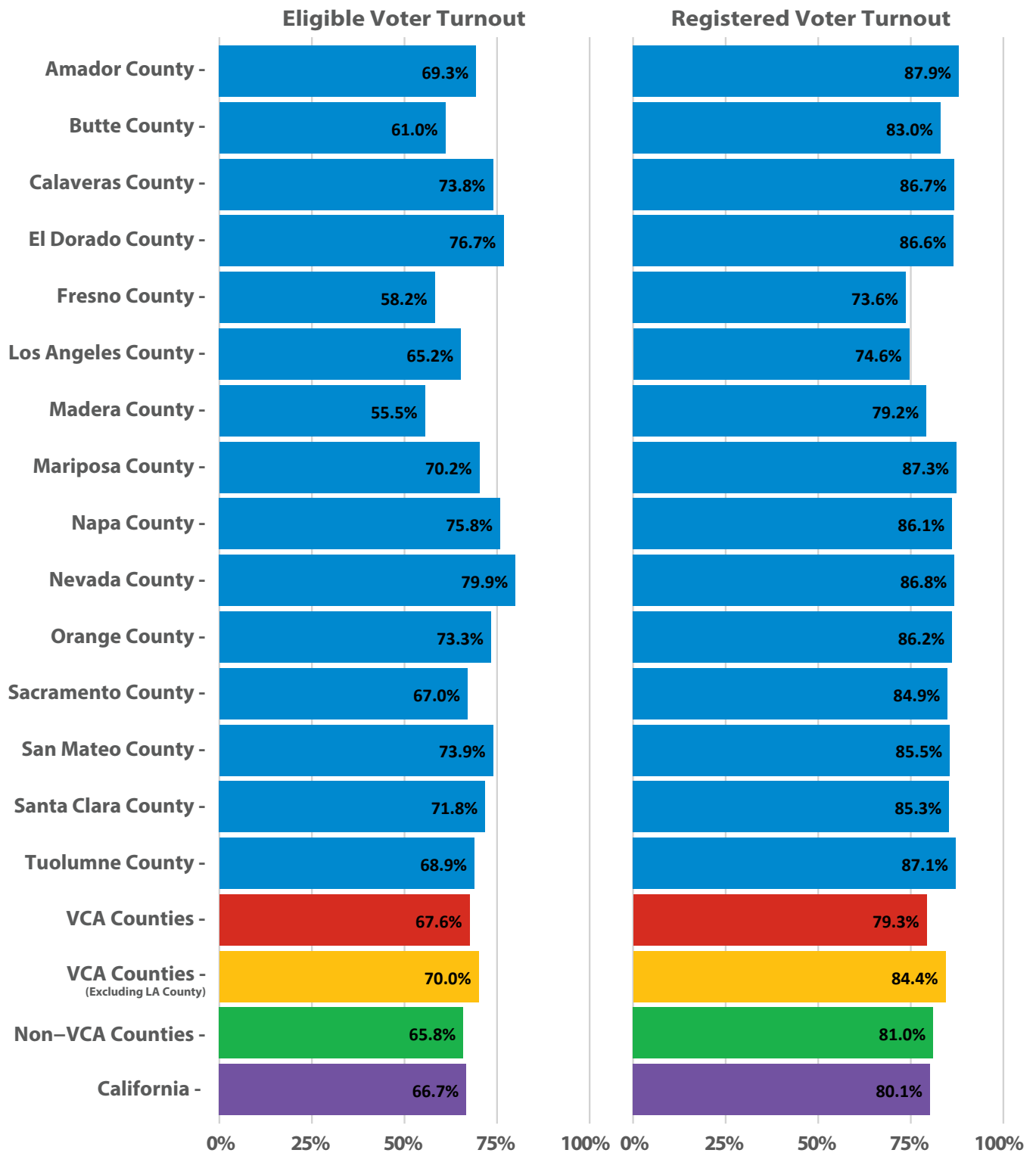
Figure 24 shows that registered voter turnout was slightly lower in VCA counties (79.3%) than statewide (80.1%). Of the 10,674,409 registered voters in VCA counties, 8,462,033 cast a vote in the 2020 general election. In California, 17,236,299 of the 21,505,320 registered voters cast a vote. When excluding Los Angeles County, however, the registered voter turnout rate for VCA counties increased to 84.4% (4,311,185 of the 5,108,752 registered), above the statewide rate. In non-VCA counties, 81% of registered voters voted (8,774,266 of the 10,830,911 registered).

Among individual VCA counties, registered voter turnout ranged from 73.6% (Fresno) to 87.9% (Amador). Twelve of the fifteen VCA counties had a registered voter turnout rate higher than the statewide rate, ranging from 83% (Butte) to 87.9% (Amador).

Note: Turnout analysis presented in this section does not include a small number of conditional voter registration ballots (664) from Nevada County due to inconsistencies in the VoteCal data.

FIGURE 24

Eligible and Registered Voter Turnout - All Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election

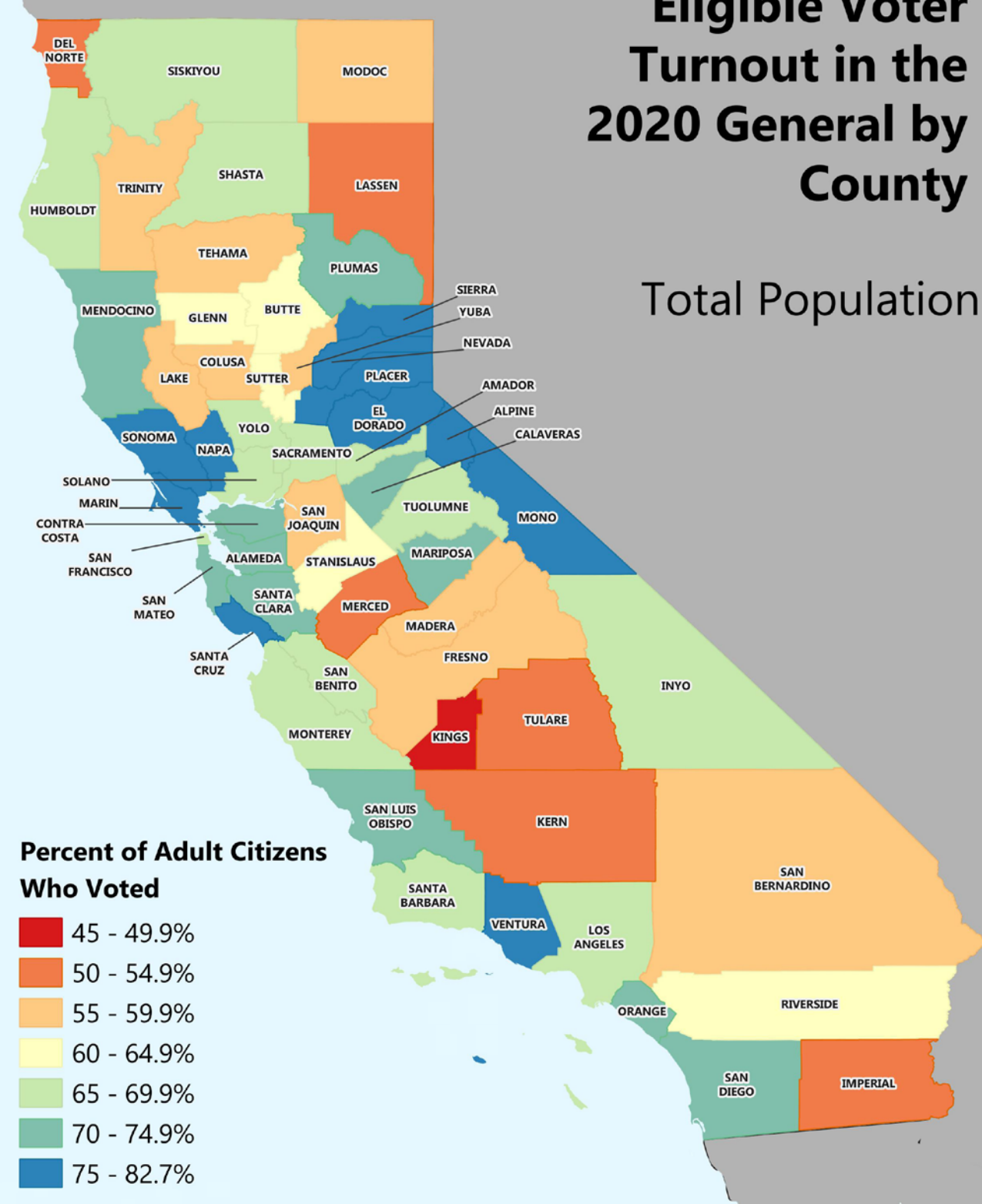


Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File, California Department of Finance

FIGURE 25

Eligible Voter Turnout in the 2020 General by County

Total Population

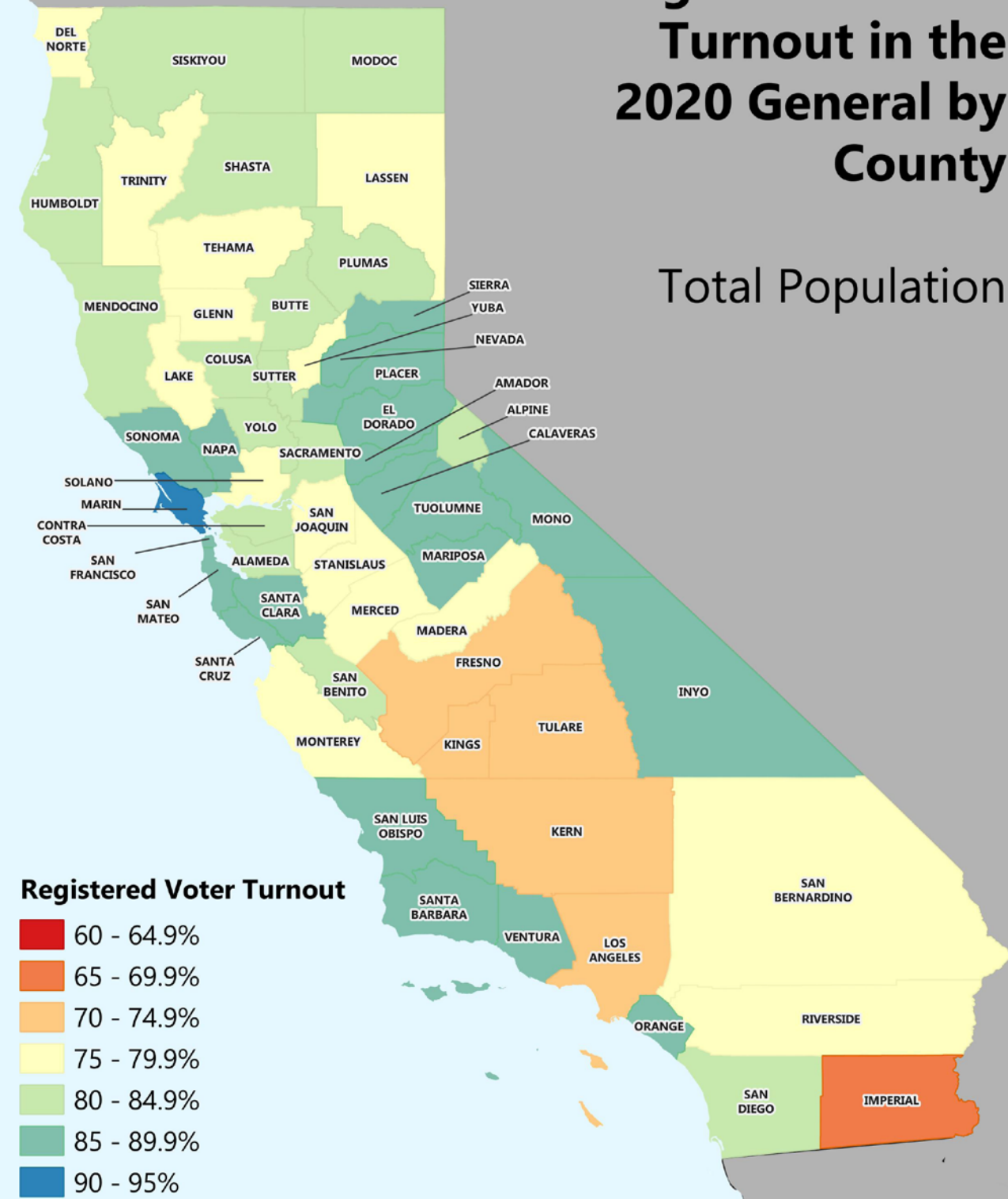


Sources: California Secretary of State Voter File; California Department of Finance

FIGURE 26

Registered Voter Turnout in the 2020 General by County

Total Population



Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

2020 General Election Voter Turnout: Latinos

Latino voters had lower eligible voter turnout rates than the total population (see Appendix C for detailed data chart). In California, 52.3% of eligible Latino voters voted, compared to 66.7% of all voters. In VCA counties, Latinos' eligible voter turnout increased to 53.7%, but was still below the total population rate of 67.6%. In non-VCA counties, 50.8% of eligible Latino voters voted. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, the Latino eligible voter turnout decreased to 51.8%.

Among individual VCA counties, the Latino eligible voter turnout rate ranged from 35.2% (Amador) to 55.6% (Orange). Smaller counties with fewer than 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) had lower eligible voter turnout rates for Latinos than larger counties with more than 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles). The eligible voter turnout for Latinos ranged from 35.2% (Amador) to 54.7% (Calaveras) in small counties and from 51.8% (Santa Clara) to 55.6% (Orange) in large counties.

Latino voters also had a lower registered voter turnout rate than the total population. In California, 72.8% of registered Latino voters voted, compared to 80.1% of all voters. In VCA counties, 73.1% of registered Latino voters voted, while more than 79% of all registered voters voted. In non-VCA counties, Latinos had a registered voter turnout rate of 72.5%, compared to 81% for the total population. When excluding Los Angeles County, the registered voter turnout rate for Latinos increased to 76.9% but is still below the 84.4% rate for all voters.

Among individual VCA counties, Latino registered voter turnout ranged from 66.9% (Fresno) to 83.3% (Tuolumne). Overall, smaller counties had higher registered voter turnout rates for Latino voters than larger counties. The registered voter turnout for Latinos ranged from 79.6% (Mariposa) to 83.3% (Tuolumne) for small counties and from 71.2% (Los Angeles) to 80.5% (Sacramento) in large counties.

2020 General Election Voter Turnout: Asian Americans

Asian-American voters had notably lower eligible voter turnout than the total population (see Appendix C for detailed data chart). In California, 48% of the eligible Asian-American population voted, compared to 66.7% of all eligible adults. In VCA counties, a little over 49% of eligible Asian-American voters voted, while 67.6% of all eligible voters voted. In non-VCA counties, only 46.4% of eligible Asian-American voters voted, compared to 65.8% of all eligible voters. When excluding Los Angeles County, the eligible voter turnout for Asian Americans increased to 53.5% but was still well below the 70% rate for the total population.

Among individual VCA counties, the Asian-American eligible voter turnout ranged from 29.6% (Butte) to 71.6% (Tuolumne). Nine of the fifteen VCA counties had an Asian-American eligible voter turnout rate above the statewide number, which ranged from 50.7% (San Mateo) to 71.6% (Tuolumne).

While the Asian-American eligible voter turnout rate was below the total population rate, their registered voter turnout rate was higher than the total population. In California, 81% of registered Asian Americans voted, compared to 80.1% of all voters. In VCA counties, 80.5% of registered Asian Americans voted, while 79.3% of all registered voters voted. In non-VCA counties, the Asian-American registered voter turnout rate was 82%, while the total population's rate was 81%. When excluding Los Angeles, however, the Asian-American registered voter turnout rate in VCA counties increased to 83.8% but is below the 84.4% registered voter turnout rate for all voters.

Among individual VCA counties, the Asian-American registered voter turnout ranged from 69% (Butte) to 88% (Calaveras). Eleven of the fifteen VCA counties had a registered voter turnout for Asian Americans higher than the statewide rate for Asian Americans, ranging from 82.9% (Sacramento) to 88% (Calaveras).

2020 General Election Voter Turnout: Youth Voters

Young voters, ages 18 to 24, had a notably lower eligible voter turnout rate than the total population (see Appendix C for detailed data chart). In California, 47.5% of eligible youth voters voted, while 66.7% of all eligible voters voted. In VCA counties, the youth eligible voter turnout increased to 50.5% but is still lower than the 67.6% rate for all voters. In

non-VCA counties, just under 45% of eligible youth voters voted. When excluding Los Angeles County, the youth eligible voter turnout in VCA counties increased to 53.4%, but still lower compared to 70% of all voters.

Among individual VCA counties, the youth eligible voter turnout rate ranged from 32.3% (Butte) to 77.3% (San Mateo). Smaller counties with fewer than 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) had lower eligible turnout rates for youths than larger counties with more than 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles). The youth eligible voter turnout rate ranged from 36% (Amador) to 41.8% (Calaveras) in small counties and from 46.9% (Sacramento) to 59.3% (Santa Clara) in large counties.

Young voters also had a lower registered voter turnout rate than the total population. In California, around 70.9% of young registered voters voted. Young voters in VCA counties had a higher registered voter turnout than young voters in non-VCA counties. Over 72% of young registered voters in VCA counties voted in the election, while 69.5% of young registered voters in non-VCA counties voted. When excluding Los Angeles County, the youth registered voter turnout increased to 74.2%.

Among individual VCA counties, the youth registered voter turnout ranged from 60.2% (Madera) to 78.2% (San Mateo). Seven VCA counties (Calaveras, El Dorado, Napa, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, and Santa Clara) had higher youth registered voter turnout rates for youth than the statewide rate for young voters.

2020 General Election Voter Turnout: Gender

Women had a higher registered voter turnout than men in the 2020 general election (see Appendix C for detailed data chart). In California, 82% of registered women voted, compared to 78.8% of registered men. In VCA counties, 81.1% of registered women voted, while 77.9% of registered men voted. In non-VCA counties, the turnout gap between men and women slightly narrowed, with 82.8% of registered women and 79.7% of registered men voting. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, the turnout gap narrowed, with 86% of registered women and 83.4% of registered men voting.

Women had higher registered voter turnout rates than men in all fifteen VCA counties. Among individual counties, registered voter turnout for men ranged from 72.6% (Fresno) to 87.2% (Amador) and registered voter turnout for women ranged from 75.9% (Fresno) to 88.7% (Amador). Amador County had the smallest registered voter turnout gap between men and women, with 87.2% for men and 88.7% for women. Los Angeles had the largest registered voter turnout gap between men and women, with 72.8% for men and 76.8% for women.

2020 General Election Voter Turnout: Nativity

U.S.-born voters had slightly higher registered voter turnout rates than foreign-born voters (see Appendix C for detailed data chart). In California, 81.9% of registered U.S.-born voters voted, compared to 80.9% of registered foreign-born voters. In VCA counties, the gap narrows to 80.8% for U.S.-born and 80.2% for foreign-born. In non-VCA counties, 82.9% of registered U.S.-born voters voted, while 81.9% of registered foreign-born voters voted. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles, the gap narrows even more to 85.8% of registered U.S.-born voters voting and 85.6% of registered foreign-born voters voting.

Among individual VCA counties, the registered voter turnout rates for foreign-born voters range from 74.3% (Fresno) to 92.4% (Calaveras). The registered voter turnout rates of U.S.-born voters range from 75.5% (Fresno) to 89.2% (Amador). Seven VCA counties (Amador, Calaveras, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Santa Clara, and Tuolumne) had higher registered voter turnout rates for foreign-born voters than U.S.-born voters. Eight VCA counties (Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, and San Mateo) had lower registered voter turnout rates for foreign-born voters than U.S.-born voters.

2020 General Election Voter Turnout: New Voters

Statewide, new voters had a slightly lower registered voter turnout than the total population (Figure 27). When looking at VCA counties, however, new voters had a higher registered voter turnout than the total population. In California,

79.6% of new registered voters voted, compared to 80.1% of all registered voters. In VCA counties, 80.9% of new registered voters voted, while 79.3% of all registered voters voted. In non-VCA counties, 78.4% of new registered voters voted, compared to 81% of all voters. When excluding Los Angeles County, however, new registered voters (80.6%) had a markedly lower registered turnout than the total population (84.4%).

Among the individual VCA counties, registered voter turnout for new voters ranged from 71.4% (Nevada) to 84.4% (Amador). Thirteen of the fifteen VCA counties had lower registered voter turnout for new voters when compared to all voters. Los Angeles and Fresno counties are the only two VCA counties with higher registered voter turnout for new voters than the total population, with 81.2% of new registered voters in Los Angeles County and 74.6% of new registered voters in Fresno County voting (compared to 74.6% of all registered voters in Los Angeles County and 73.6% of all registered voters in Fresno County).

2020 General Election Voter Turnout: Previous Voting Method

Previous VBM voters had higher registered voter turnout rates than previous polling place voters (Figure 28). In California, 90.8% of previous VBM voters voted and 83.5% of previous polling place voters voted. In VCA counties, 91.3% of previous VBM voters voted, compared to 82.5% of previous polling place voters. In non-VCA counties, the gap between previous voting method groups slightly narrowed with 90.4% of previous VBM voters voting and 84.7% of previous polling place voters. When excluding Los Angeles county, both turnouts increase to 92.4% for previous VBM voters and 84.8% for previous polling place voters.

Among individual VCA counties, registered voter turnout for previous polling place voters ranged from 73.3% (Butte) to 87.4% (Orange), while registered voter turnout for previous VBM voters ranged from 89.4% (Los Angeles) to 93.9% (Amador and Mariposa).

Larger counties with more than 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles) generally had higher registered voter turnout rates for previous polling place voters when compared to smaller counties with fewer than 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne). Registered voter turnout for previous polling place voters in large counties ranged from 81.5% (Los Angeles) to 87.4% (Orange), while registered voter turnout for previous polling place voters in small counties ranged from 74.9% (Calaveras) to 81.2% (Tuolumne).

2020 General Election Voter Turnout: Party Affiliation

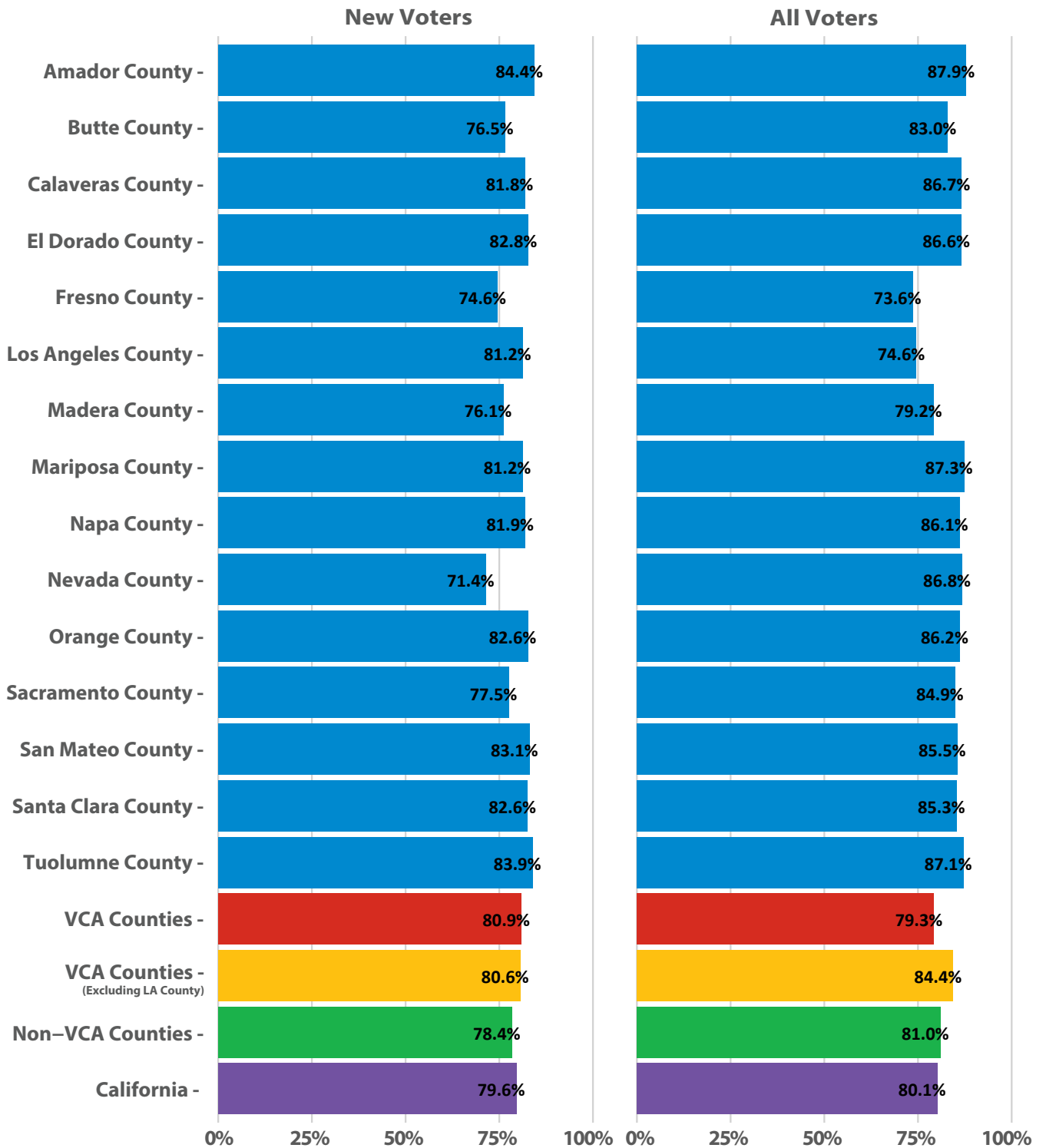
Registered Republicans had a higher registered voter turnout than both registered Democrats and No Party Preference voters (Figure 29). In California, 85.4% of registered Republicans voted, compared to 82.9% of registered Democrats and 71.6% of No Party Preference voters.

In VCA counties, almost 85% of registered Republicans voted, while 81.8% of registered Democrats and 71.4% of No Party Preference voters voted. In non-VCA counties, 84.1% of registered Democrats, 86% of registered Republicans, and 71.8% of No Party Preference voters voted. When excluding Los Angeles County, the turnout gap between Democrats and Republicans narrows, with 86.8% of registered Democrats, 88.7% of registered Republicans, and 77.2% of No Party Preference voters casting a vote.

Among individual VCA counties, registered voter turnout for Democrats ranged from 75.6% (Fresno) to 90.9% (Mariposa), registered voter turnout for Republicans ranged from 78.7% (Los Angeles) to 91.1% (Amador), and registered voter turnout for No Party Preference voters ranged from 60.2% (Fresno) to 80% (Santa Clara). The majority of VCA counties had a higher registered voter turnout for Republicans than Democratic voters. Madera County had the largest gap between the parties, with 80.2% of registered Democrats voting and 88.1% of registered Republicans voting. Mariposa, Nevada, San Mateo, and Santa Clara had higher registered voter turnouts for registered Democrats than registered Republicans, although the differences were smaller than the other eleven counties. Among the four counties in which Democrats had higher registered voter turnout rates than Republicans, San Mateo had the largest gap with 88.5% of Democrats voting and 86.9% of Republicans voting.

FIGURE 27

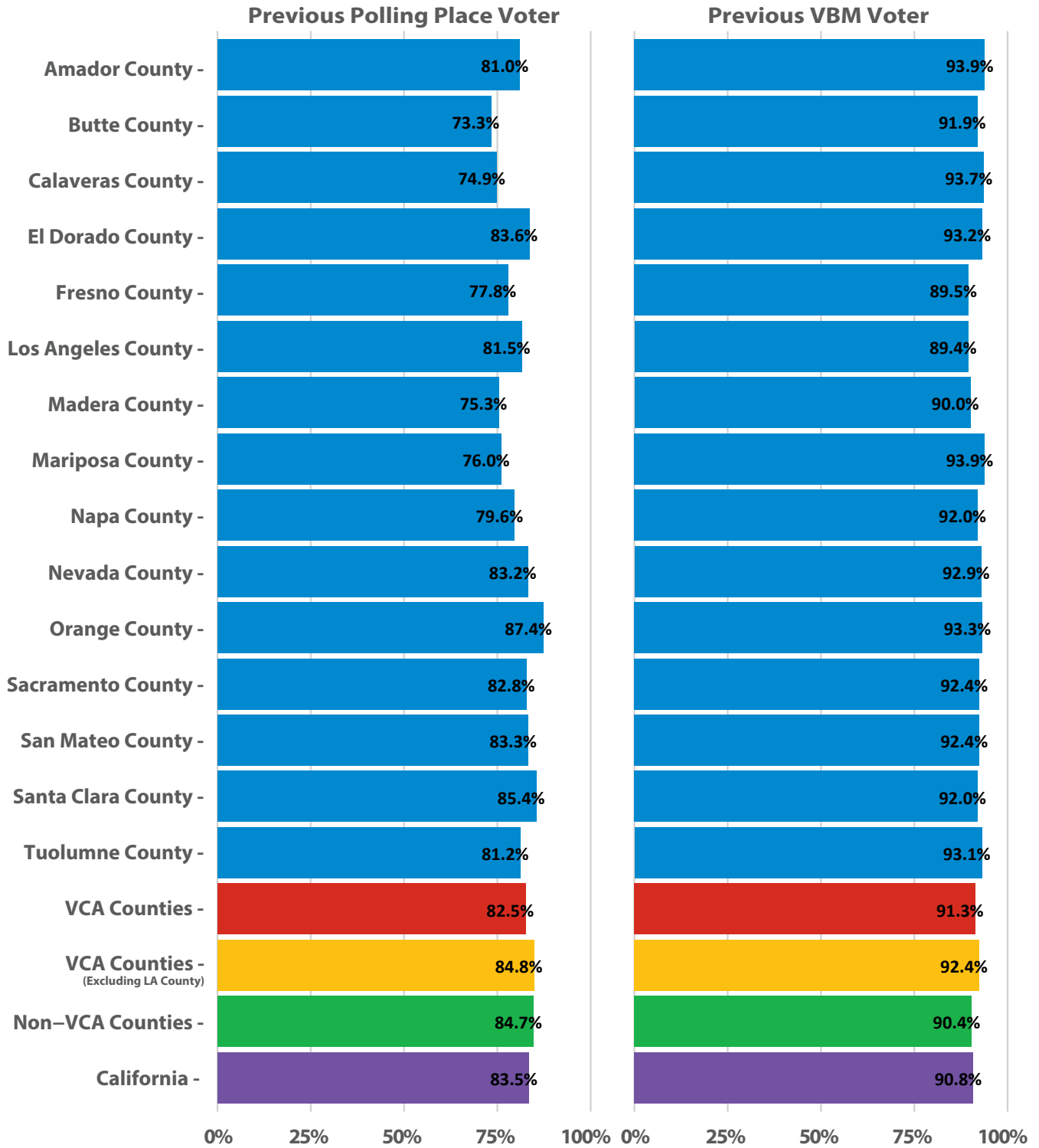
Registered Voter Turnout - New Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 28

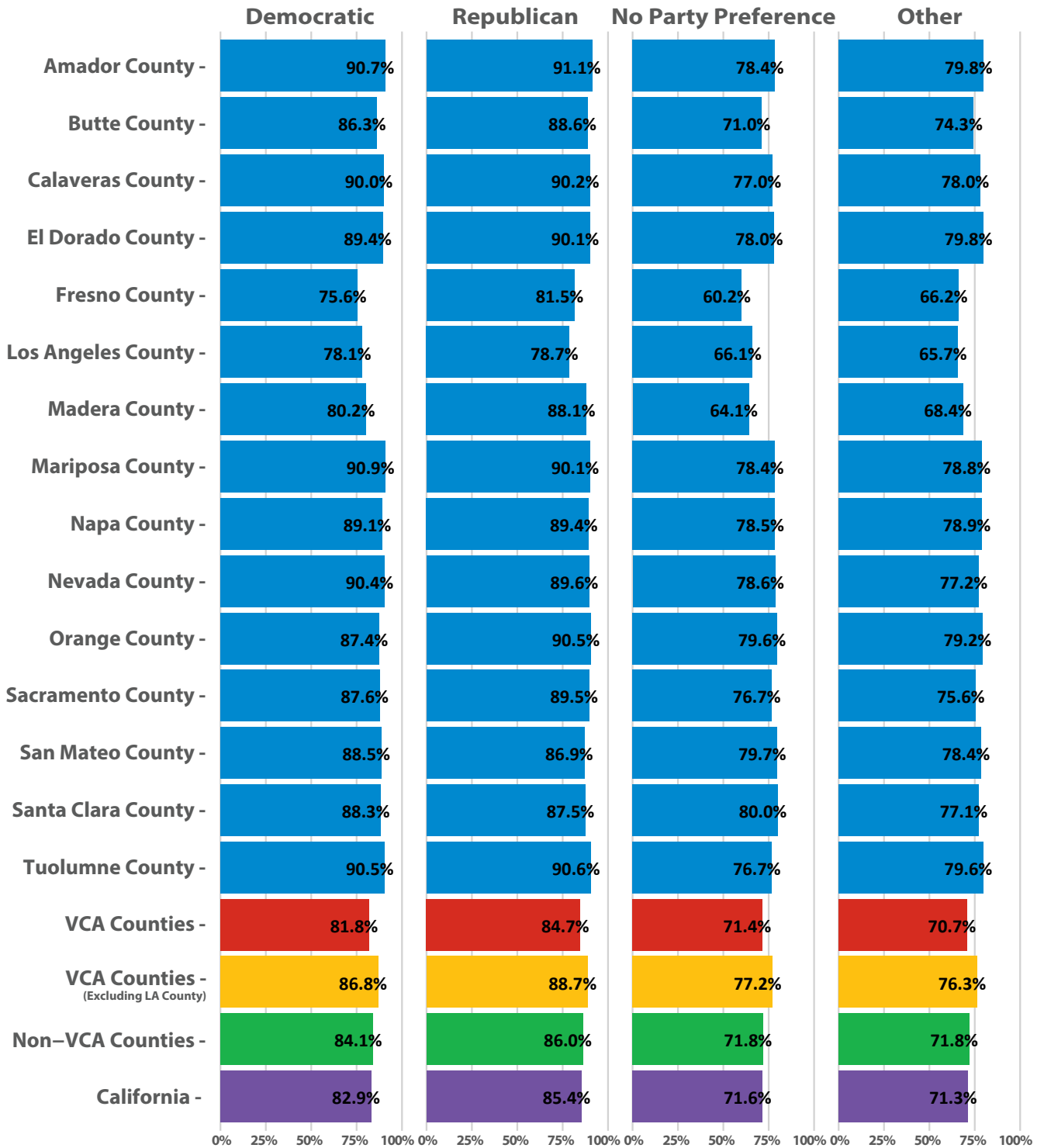
Registered Voter Turnout - Previous Voting Method Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 29

Registered Voter Turnout - Party Affiliation Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

6. Conditional Voter Registration

As part of a range of voter services specified under the VCA, adopting counties are required to provide the option to conditionally register to vote and cast a ballot while visiting a vote center (see Appendix D for a table of conditional voter registration rates for all California counties). Conditional voter registration allows voters to register to vote or change voter registration details up to and on Election Day. This option allows voters who missed the traditional registration deadline to participate in the current election.²³

Key Takeaways:

- In the 2020 general election, 1.0% of California voters used conditional voter registration (CVR).
- VCA counties had a higher rate of CVR use (1.2%) than non-VCA counties (0.9%). When excluding Los Angeles County, VCA counties' CVR use drops to 1.0%.
- 10.5% of new voters in California used CVR, compared to 1% of all voters.
- Latino (1.5%), youth voters (3%), and new voters (10.5%) used CVR at higher rates than the general population. Asian-American voters had a slightly higher rate of CVR use (1.1%) than the general population.
- Foreign-born voters (1.3%) used CVR had higher rates than U.S.-born voters (0.9%). Republican voters (1.0%) used CVR at higher rates than Democratic voters (0.7%), while No Party Preference voters (1.5%) had the highest CVR use rate of party affiliations.

In California, 1.0% of voters (176,854 ballots) used conditional voter registration (CVR). Figure 30 shows that conditional voter registration decreased throughout the state from the 2020 primary election, in which 1.5% of voters used CVR. In VCA counties, CVR use rates were higher at 1.2% (99,724). In non-VCA counties, 0.9% (77,130) of voters conditionally registered to vote. When excluding Los Angeles County, however, the CVR use rate for VCA counties matched the statewide rate of 1.0% (45,092).

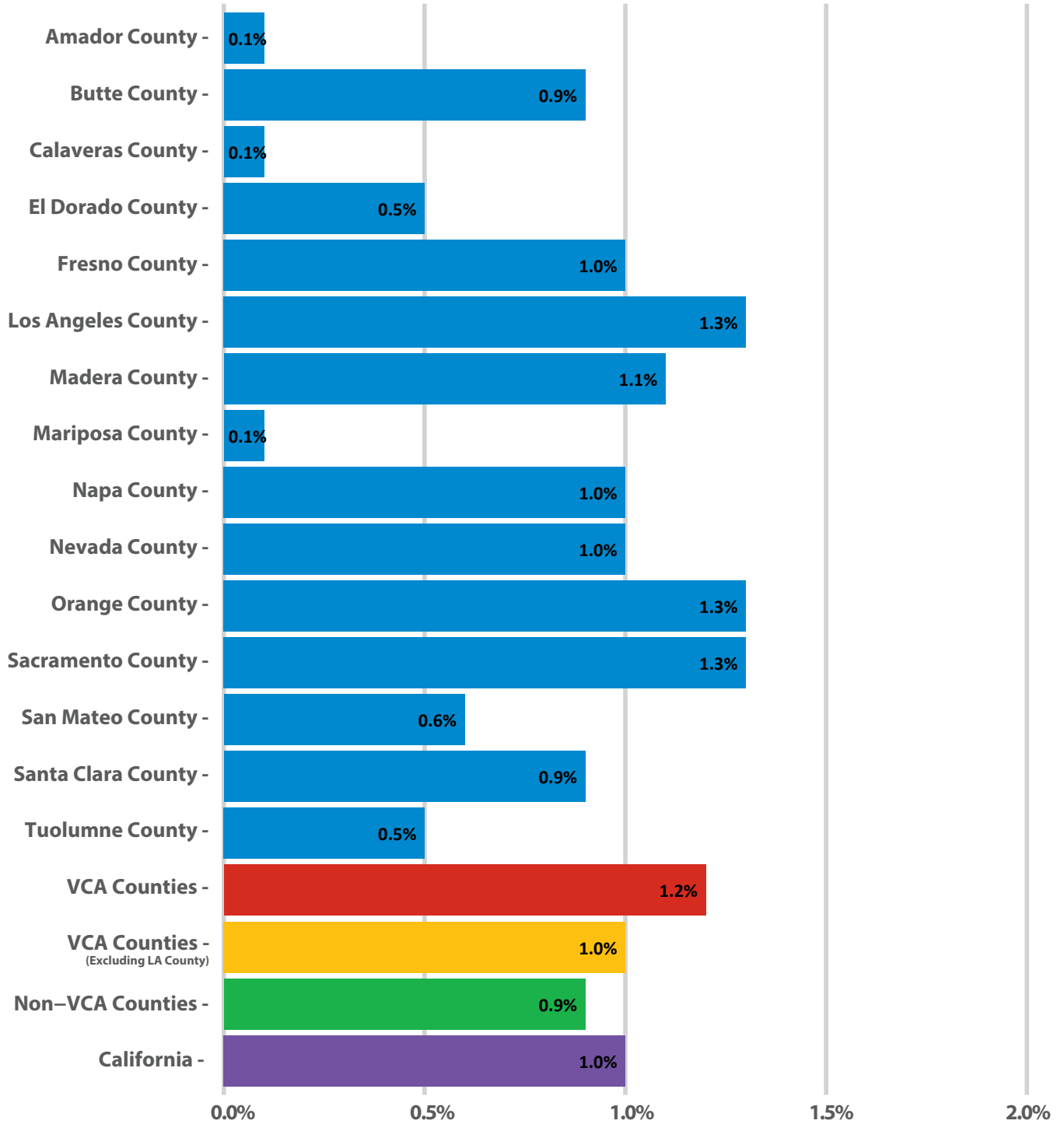
Among individual VCA counties, there was a large range of conditional voter registration use rates. The percent of voters conditionally registering to vote ranged from 0.1% (Amador, Calaveras, and Mariposa) to 1.3% (Los Angeles, Orange, and Sacramento). Four counties (Los Angeles, Orange, Madera, and Sacramento) had CVR use rates higher than the statewide rate.

Smaller counties with fewer than 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) had lower CVR use rates than larger counties with more than 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles). CVR use rates ranged from 0.1% (Amador, Calaveras, and Mariposa) to 0.5% (Tuolumne) in small counties and from 0.9% (Santa Clara) to 1.3% (Los Angeles, Orange, and Sacramento).

Note: In our CVR analysis, voted includes all ballots that were cast and counted and does not include rejected ballots in the voted totals.

FIGURE 30

Conditional Voter Registration Use Rates - All Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

CVR: Latinos

Latino voters used conditional voter registration at higher rates than the total population (see Appendix D for detailed data chart). In California, 1.5% of Latino voters used CVR, compared to 1.0% of all voters. In VCA counties, 1.6% of Latino voters conditionally registered, while 1.2% of all voters conditionally registered. In non-VCA counties, 1.5% of Latino voters used conditional voter registration, compared to 0.9% of the total population. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 1.7% of Latino voters and 1% of all voters used CVR.

Among individual VCA counties, CVR use rates for Latino voters ranged from 0.1% (Calaveras) to 2.5% (Nevada). Fourteen VCA counties had higher CVR use rates for Latino voters than the total population. Calaveras County had matching CVR use rates for Latino voters and the total population at 0.1%.

CVR: Asian Americans

Overall, Asian-American voters had slightly higher CVR use rates than the total population (see Appendix D for detailed data chart). In California, 1.1% of Asian-American voters conditionally registered to vote, compared to 1.0% of the total population. In VCA counties, Asian-American voters' CVR use rate matched the total population rate of 1.2%. In non-VCA counties, Asian-American voters had a slightly lower CVR use rate (0.8%) than the total population (0.9%). In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, Asian-American voters had a higher CVR use rate of 1.2%, compared to 1.0% of the total population.

Among individual VCA counties, Asian-American CVR use rates ranged from 0% (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) to 1.8% (Nevada). Smaller counties with fewer than 35,000 counties (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) had lower CVR rates for Asian-American voters than the total population. All four small counties had a 0% CVR use rate for Asian Americans. Apart from Los Angeles County, larger counties with over 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, and Orange) had higher CVR rate for Asian-American voters than the total population. CVR use rates for Asian-American voters in large counties ranged from 1.0% (Santa Clara) to 1.6% (Orange).

CVR: Youth Voters

Young voters, ages 18 to 24, used CVR at much higher rates than the total population (see Appendix D for detailed data chart). In California, 3% of young voters conditionally registered to vote, a rate three times higher than the total population's 1%. In VCA counties, 3.2% of young voters used CVR, while 1.2% of all voters used CVR. In non-VCA counties, 2.7% of young voters conditionally registered to vote, compared to 0.9% of the total population. When excluding Los Angeles County, 2.8% of young voters in VCA counties used CVR, while 1% of all voters used CVR.

Among individual VCA counties, CVR use among young voters ranged from 0.4% (Calavaras) to 4.1% (Madera). All VCA counties had higher CVR use rates for young voters than the total population in those counties.

CVR: Gender

In the 2020 general election, men conditionally registered to vote at higher rates than women (see Appendix D for detailed data chart). In California, 1.1% of men conditionally registered to vote, compared to 0.9% of women. In VCA counties, 1.2% of men used CVR, while 1% of women used CVR. In non-VCA counties, 0.9% of men used CVR, compared to 0.8% of women. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 1.1% of men and 0.9% of women conditionally registered to vote. Among individual VCA counties, CVR use rates ranged from 0.1% (Amador and Calaveras) to 1.4% (Sacramento) for men and from 0% (Calaveras) to 1.2% (Sacramento) for women.

CVR: Nativity

Foreign-born voters conditionally registered to vote at higher rates than U.S.-born voters (see Appendix D for detailed data chart). In California, 1.3% of foreign-born voters conditionally registered to vote, compared to 0.9% of U.S.-born voters. In VCA counties, 1.4% of foreign-born voters and 1.0% of U.S.-born voters used CVR. In non-VCA counties, 1.1% of foreign-born voters used CVR, while 0.8% of U.S.-born voters used CVR. When excluding Los Angeles County, 1.2% of foreign-born voters in VCA counties conditionally registered to vote, compared to 0.8% of U.S.-born voters.

Among individual VCA counties, CVR use rates ranged from 0% (Mariposa) to 2.1% (Sacramento) for foreign-born voters and from 0.1% (Amador, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) to 1.3% (Los Angeles) for U.S.-born voters. Thirteen VCA counties had higher CVR use rates for foreign-born voters than U.S.-born voters. Mariposa County had a lower CVR use rate for foreign-born voters (0%) than U.S.-born voters (0.1%). Tuolumne had matching CVR use rates for foreign-born and U.S.-born voters (0.1%).

CVR: New Voters

New voters used conditional voter registration at much higher rates than the total population (Figure 31). In California, 10.5% of new voters used conditional voter registration, compared to 1.0% of all voters. In VCA counties, 12.3% of new voters conditionally registered to vote, while 1.2% of all voters did the same. In non-VCA counties, 8.9% of new voters conditionally registered to vote, while 0.9% of all voters did the same. When excluding Los Angeles County, 10.4% of new voters used CVR compared to 1.0% of all voters.

Looking at individual VCA counties, new voters' CVR use rate varied greatly. The percent of new voters conditionally registering to vote ranged from 1.0% (Calaveras) to 14.2% (Los Angeles). Five counties (Los Angeles, Madera, Nevada, Orange, and Sacramento) had higher CVR use rate for new voters than the statewide rate.

Smaller counties with fewer than 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) had lower rates of CVR use by new voters when compared to larger counties with more than 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles). CVR use rates for new voters in small counties ranged from 1.0% (Calaveras) to 5.7% (Tuolumne). CVR use rates for new voters in large counties ranged from 9.6% (Santa Clara) to 14.2% (Los Angeles).

CVR: Previous Polling Place Voters

Previous polling place voters conditionally registered to vote at lower rates than the overall population (Figure 32). In California, 0.3% of previous polling place voters conditionally registered to vote, compared to 1.0% of the total population. In VCA counties, previous polling place voters' CVR use rate matched the statewide rate of 0.3%. In non-VCA counties, 0.2% of previous polling place voters conditionally registered to vote. When excluding Los Angeles County, however, previous polling place voters' CVR use rate increased to 0.5%.

Throughout the fifteen VCA counties, the CVR use rate for previous polling place voters ranged from 0% (Amador, Calaveras, and Napa) to 1.1% (Sacramento). Sacramento had by far the largest CVR use rate for previous polling place voters at 1.1%, with the second highest rate being Orange County at 0.5%.

CVR: Party Affiliation

Registered Republican voters used CVR at higher rates than registered Democrats, while No Party Preference voters had the highest CVR use rate out of the three party categories (Figure 33). In California, 1% of registered Republicans, 0.7% of registered Democrats, and 1.5% of No Party Preference voters conditionally registered to vote.

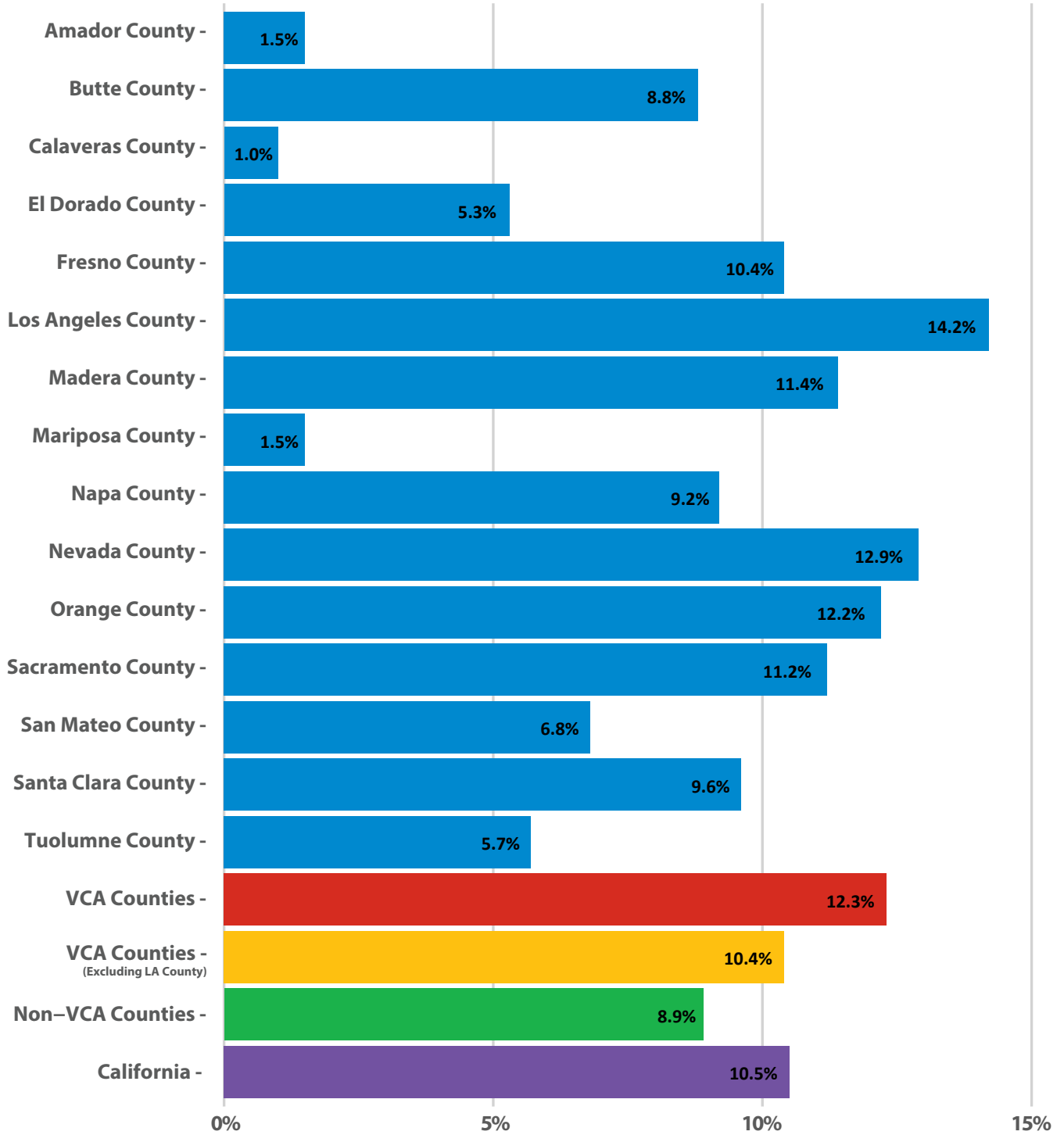
In VCA counties, CVR use rate increased for all party categories, with 1.1% of registered Republicans, 0.8% of registered Democrats, and 1.6% of No Party Preference voters using CVR. In non-VCA counties, CVR use rates were lower than VCA and statewide rates for all party categories, with 0.9% of registered Republicans, 0.6% of registered Democrats, and 1.3% of No Party Preference voters conditionally registering to vote. When excluding Los Angeles County, 1% of registered Republicans, 0.7% of registered Democrats, and 1.7% of No Party Preference voters in VCA counties conditionally registered to vote.

Among individual VCA counties, CVR use rates among Republicans ranged from 0.1% (Amador and Calaveras) to 1.5% (Sacramento). CVR use among Democrats ranged from 0% (Amador, Calaveras, and Mariposa) to 1.0% (Sacramento). CVR use rates for No Party Preference voters ranged from 0.1% (Calaveras and Mariposa) to 2.5% (Orange).

Note: Some groups within individual VCA counties, especially counties with under 35,000 registered voters, had small numbers of registered voters and conditional registration use, such as Asian-American, Latino, youth, foreign-born, and new voters. This should be considered when looking at individual VCA counties' conditional registration use rates.

FIGURE 31

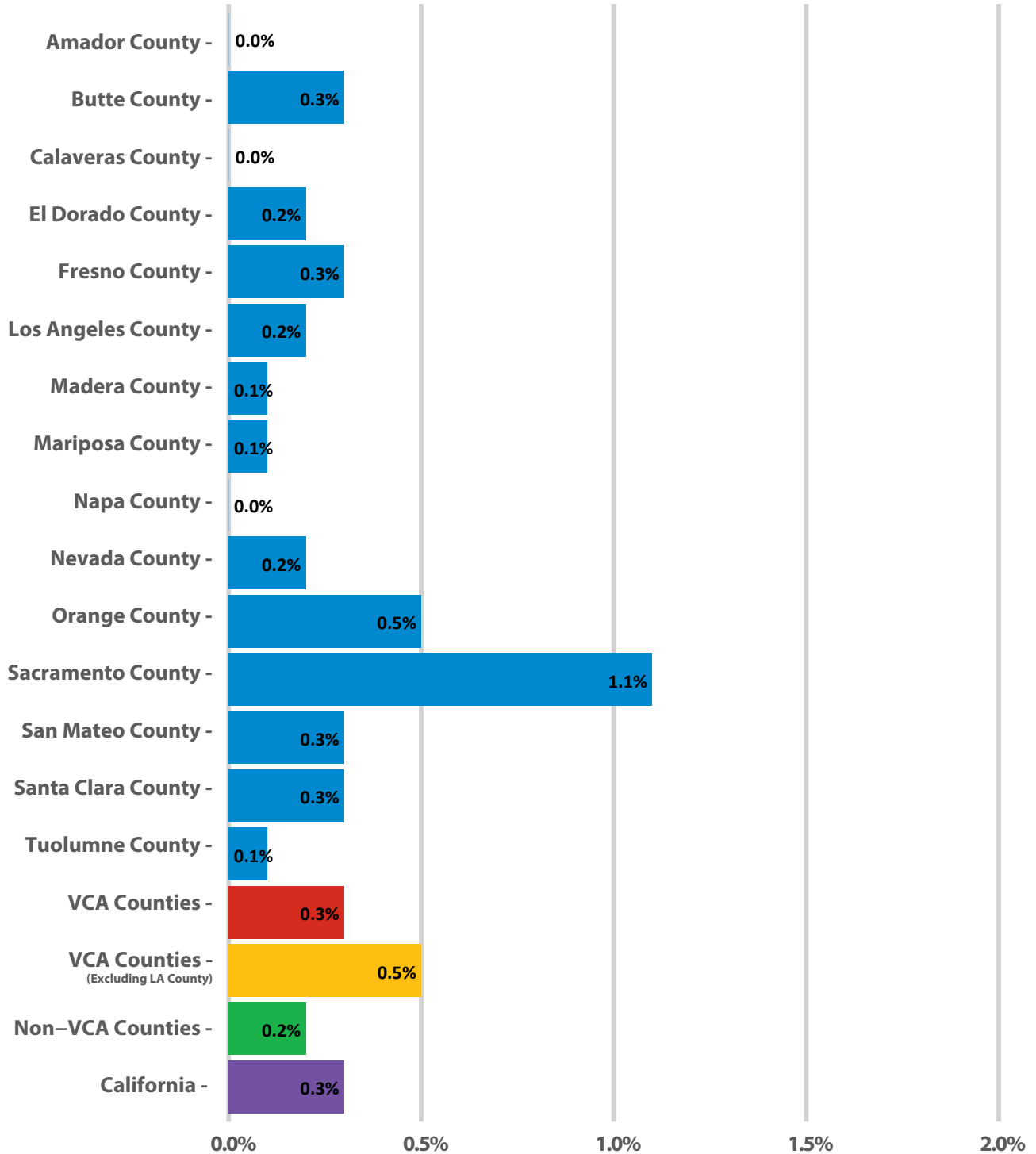
Conditional Voter Registration Use Rates - New Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 32

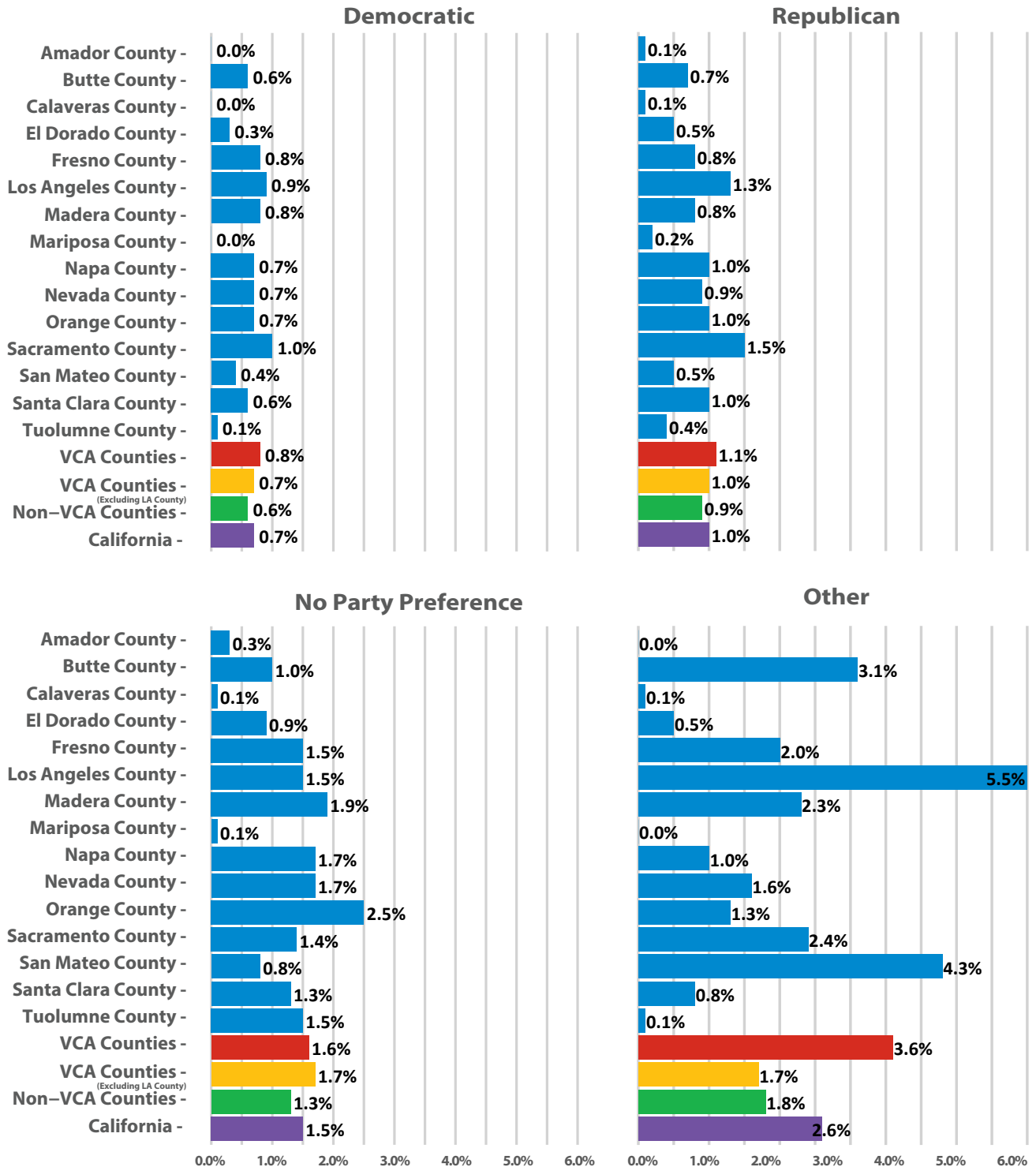
Conditional Voter Registration Use Rates - Previous Polling Place Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 33

Conditional Voter Registration Use Rates - Party Affiliation Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

7. Provisional Voting

Beginning in 1984, California election law provides that any voter claiming to be properly registered, but whose qualifications cannot be immediately established upon examination of the list of registered voters for the precinct or the records on file with the county election official, is entitled to cast a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot is a regular ballot that is placed in a special envelope prior to being put in the ballot box.²⁴

Provisional ballots are an important safety net protecting the voting rights of Californians. Provisional ballots are ballots cast by voters who:

- Believe they are registered to vote even though their names are not on the official voter registration list at the polling place or vote center,
- Want to vote at their polling place or a vote center, but did not receive their ballot or do not have their issued Vote-by-Mail ballot with them (and the election official is unable to verify that they have not returned their Vote-by-Mail ballot).

All provisional ballots are checked by county election officials to confirm that the person who voted provisionally is both registered and that they did not cast a ballot by mail or at another polling location on Election Day. Due to the additional human review and verification needed for provisional ballots, they are counted after Election Day. Table 10 presents the percentage of provisional ballots and conditional registration ballots cast that were rejected in VCA counties in the 2020 general election. In the following section, we examine the percentage of 2020 general election ballots cast and counted in California that were provisional ballots (not CVR ballots). We note here that a key goal of the VCA (and a result of allowing voters to use any vote center countywide) is to reduce the number of provisional ballots cast in a county. We note here that provisional ballot use can sometimes be avoided in counties where voters can be issued a replacement ballot by voiding their first ballot, when voters can obtain their ballot style at any location, and when voters use conditional voter registration.

Table 10: Conditional Voter Registration and Provisional Ballots Rejection Rates: VCA Counties 2020 General Election

	Provisional Conditional Voter Registration Cast	Provisional Conditional Voter Registration Counted	Provisional Conditional Voter Registration Rejected	% Provisional Conditional Voter Registration Rejected	Regular Provisional Ballots Cast	Regular Provisional Ballots Counted	Regular Provisional Ballots Rejected	% Regular Provisional Ballots Rejected
Amador County	40	38	2	5.0%	0	0	0	NA
Butte County	1,427	1397	30	2.1%	608	580	28	4.6%
Calaveras County	41	37	4	9.8%	5	3	2	40.0%
El Dorado County	1,070	1,035	35	3.3%	55	53	2	3.6%
Fresno County	4,932	4,905	27	0.5%	84	38	46	54.8%
Los Angeles County	80,122	78,659	1,463	1.8%	4,499	3,667	832	18.5%
Madera County	1,143	1,143	0	0.0%	10	5	5	50.0%
Mariposa County	27	27	0	0.0%	13	13	0	0.0%
Napa County	777	758	19	2.4%	12	8	4	33.3%
Nevada County	826	789	37	4.5%	18	0	18	100.0%
Orange County	25,805	25,723	82	0.3%	677	361	316	46.7%
Sacramento County	12,101	12,098	3	0.0%	8	4	4	50.0%
San Mateo County	3,519	3,452	67	1.9%	1	0	1	100.0%
Santa Clara County	9,080	9,008	72	0.8%	420	246	174	41.4%
Tuolumne County	351	349	2	0.6%	0	0	0	NA
VCA Counties	141,261	139,418	1,843	1.3%	6,410	4,978	1,432	22.3%
Non VCA Counties	118,622	116,883	1,739	1.5%	65,214	63,101	2,113	3.2%
California	259,883	256,301	3,582	1.4%	71,624	68,079	3,545	4.9%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Note: The numbers of provisional and conditional registration ballots in Table 10 were derived from the voter files from the Secretary of State VoteCal system. These numbers differ slightly from the merged data file used in the Conditional Voter Registration section of this report.

Provisional Ballots

Key Takeaways:

- In California, 0.3% of ballots cast and counted were provisional.
- VCA counties had notably lower rates of provisional ballots than non-VCA counties. Virtually 0% (3,727 ballots) of ballots in VCA counties were provisional, compared to 0.6% in non-VCA counties.
- Latino, youth voters, and previous polling place voters had higher provisional ballot use rates than the general population.

Figure 34 shows that 0.3% (54,687 ballots) of ballots cast and counted in the state were provisional. Provisional ballot use was noticeably lower in the 2020 general election than in the 2020 primary election, with the statewide rate decreasing from 3.2%. VCA counties had notably lower rates of provisional ballots cast than in California as a whole. In VCA counties, virtually 0% (3,727) of ballots cast and counted were provisional. This rate continues when excluding Los Angeles County from VCA counties (974 ballots). In non-VCA counties, 0.6% (50,960 ballots) of ballots cast and counted were provisional.

VCA counties had markedly lower rates of provisional ballots than non-VCA counties. Only 3,727 counted ballots in VCA counties were cast with provisional ballots, compared to 50,960 ballots in non-VCA counties. While VCA counties as a whole had a 0.0% provisional ballot rate (compared to non-VCA counties' 0.6% rate), some individual VCA counties had provisional ballot rates above zero percent, ranging from 0.1% (Los Angeles and Mariposa) to 0.4% (Butte). Additionally, Latino, youth, and previous polling place voters had higher provisional ballot use rates than the general population.

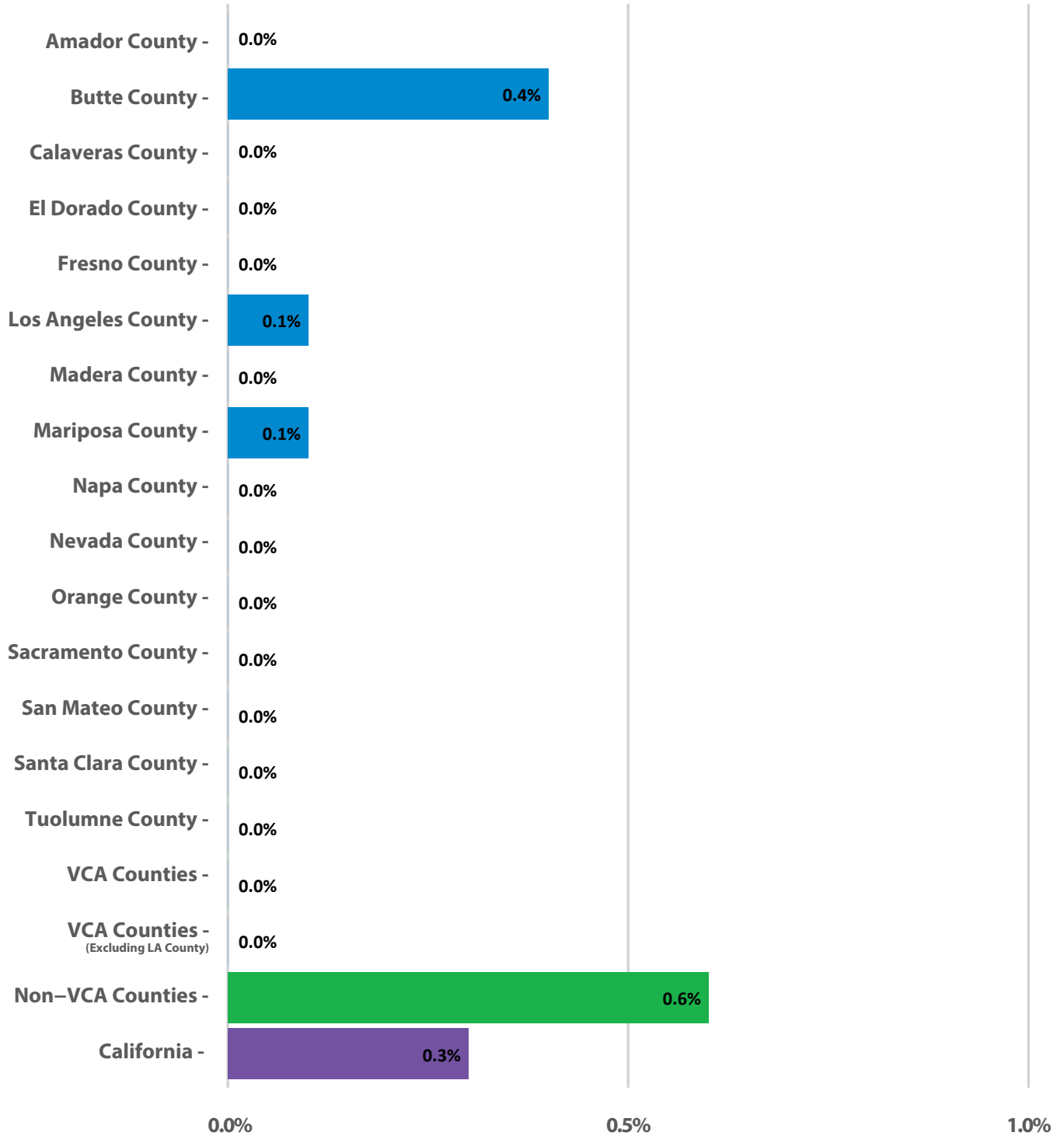
Note: In our provisional ballot analysis, voted includes all ballots that were cast and counted and does not include rejected ballots in the voted totals.

VCA counties had low numbers of provisional ballots in the 2020 general election. It is important to note that a 0.0% provisional ballot use rate does not mean the individual county had zero provisional ballots. Some counties had small numbers of provisional ballots, but not enough to calculate above a 0% use rate.

The following VCA counties had a zero percent provisional ballot use rate with a small number of counted provisional ballots: Calaveras (1 provisional ballot), El Dorado (24 provisional ballots), Fresno (32 provisional ballots), Madera (3 provisional ballots), Napa (7 provisional ballots), Orange (270 provisional ballots), Sacramento (3 provisional ballots), Santa Clara (202 provisional ballots).

FIGURE 34

Provisional Ballots - All Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Provisional Ballots: Latinos

Latino voters used provisional ballots at higher rates than the total population (see Appendix E for detailed data chart). In California, 0.5% of votes cast and counted by Latino voters were cast with provisional ballots, compared to 0.3% of all voters. In VCA counties, 0.1% of Latino voters used provisional ballots, up from the 0% of all voters. In non-VCA counties, 1% of ballots cast and counted by Latino voters were cast with provisional ballots, while 0.6% of ballots cast and counted by all voters were cast with provisional ballots. When excluding Los Angeles County, Latino voters' provisional ballot use in VCA counties drops to 0%, matching the total population rate.

The majority of VCA counties recorded 0% of counted provisional ballots from Latino voters. Butte (0.7%), Los Angeles (0.1%), and Mariposa (0.1%) were the only VCA counties to have provisional ballots from Latino voters. Butte County's Latino provisional ballot rate was higher than the total population's rate (0.4%). Los Angeles and Mariposa's Latino provisional ballot rate matched the total population's rate of 0.1% for both counties.

Provisional Ballots: Asian Americans

Asian-American voters had lower rates of provisional ballot use than the overall population (see Appendix E for detailed data chart). In California, 0.2% of Asian-American voters used provisional ballots, compared to 0.3% of all voters. In VCA counties, both including and excluding Los Angeles County, Asian-American provisional ballot use matched the total population's 0% rate. In non-VCA counties, 0.3% of ballots cast and counted by Asian-American voters were cast with provisional ballots, while 0.6% of all ballots and counted were provisional.

Among individual VCA counties, only two counties, Butte (0.6%) and Los Angeles (0.1%), recorded provisional ballot use by Asian-American voters. Butte County's Asian-American provisional ballot rate was higher than the total population's rate of 0.4%. Los Angeles County's provisional ballot use rate by Asian-American voters matched the total population's rate of 0.1%.

Provisional Ballots: Youth Voters

Young voters, ages 18 to 24, throughout the state used provisional ballots at higher rates than the total population (see Appendix E for detailed data chart). In California, 0.5% of ballots counted from young voters were cast with provisional ballots, compared to 0.3% of all voters. In VCA counties, 0.1% of ballots counted from young voters were cast with provisional ballots, while the total population had a 0% use rate. In non-VCA counties, 0.9% of ballots cast and counted from young voters were provisional ballots, compared to 0.6% of all voters. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, the youth provisional ballot use rate drops to 0%, matching the total population's rate.

Among individual VCA counties, four counties recorded provisional ballot use rates above 0% from young voters. Among those four counties, young voters' provisional ballot use ranged from 0.1% (El Dorado and Los Angeles) to 0.9% (Butte). Butte, El Dorado, and Mariposa County had higher youth voter provisional ballot use rates than the total population, while Los Angeles had matching provisional ballot use for youth and all voters.

Provisional Ballots: Gender

In the 2020 general election, men and women had very similar provisional ballot use rates (see Appendix E for detailed data chart). In California, 0.3% of both men and women used provisional ballots. In VCA counties, both including and excluding Los Angeles County, 0% of both men and women used provisional ballots. In non-VCA counties, 0.6% of ballots cast and counted by men and 0.5% of ballots cast and counted by women were cast with provisional ballots.

Among individual VCA counties, twelve counties had a 0% provisional ballot use rate of for both men and women. Butte County saw 0.5% of men and 0.3% of women casting a vote with provisional ballots. Los Angeles and Mariposa Counties both saw 0.1% provisional ballot use rates for both men and women.

Provisional Ballots: Nativity

Foreign-born and U.S.-born voters had very similar provisional ballot use rates in the 2020 general election (see Appendix E for detailed data chart). In California, 0.3% of both foreign-born and U.S.-born cast counted voted with provisional ballots. In VCA counties, both including and excluding Los Angeles County, 0% of foreign-born and U.S.-born counted voted were cast with provisional ballots. In non-VCA counties, foreign-born voters had a slightly higher rate of provisional ballot use (0.6%) compared to U.S.-born voters (0.5%).

The majority of VCA counties saw 0% provisional ballot use from both foreign-born and U.S.-born voters. Of the counties with provisional ballot use, foreign-born voters' rate ranged from 0.1% (El Dorado and Los Angeles) to 0.4% (Butte) and U.S.-born voters' rate ranged from 0.1% (Los Angeles and Mariposa) to 0.4% (Butte).

Provisional Ballots: New Voters

New voters used provisional ballots at higher rates than the total population (Figure 35). In California as a whole, 0.8% of new voters used provisional ballots, compared to 0.3% of all voters. In VCA counties, 0.2% of ballots cast and counted from new voters were provisional ballots, a noticeable increase from the 0% rate of all voters in VCA counties. In non-VCA counties, 1.3% of new voters used provisional ballots, while 0.6% of all voters did the same. When excluding Los Angeles County, new voters' provisional ballot use rate decreased to 0.1%, but was still higher than the 0% rate of all voters.

Seven VCA counties had a provisional ballot use rate for new voters above 0%. Of those counties, new voters' provisional ballot use ranged from 0.1% (Napa, Orange, and Santa Clara) to 0.7% (Mariposa). All seven of the VCA counties had a higher provisional ballot use rate for new voters than the general population.

Provisional Ballots: Previous Polling Place Voters

Previous polling place voters used provisional ballots at higher rates than the general population (Figure 36). In California, 0.5% of ballots cast and counted by previous polling place voters were provisional, compared to 0.3% of all voters. In non-VCA counties, 1.1% of ballots cast and counted by previous polling place voters were provisional. In VCA counties, provisional ballot use continued to be virtually zero when including and excluding Los Angeles County.

All but one VCA county had 0% of ballots cast and counted by previous polling place voters from provisional ballots. Butte county was the only county with provisional ballots from the group, with 0.8% of ballots cast and counted by previous polling place voters being provisional.

Provisional Ballots: Party Affiliation

Registered Republican voters used provisional ballots at higher rates than registered Democrats and at the same rate as No Party Preference voters (Figure 37). In California, 0.4% of Republican voters, 0.2% of Democratic voters, and 0.4% of No Party Preference voters used provisional ballots.

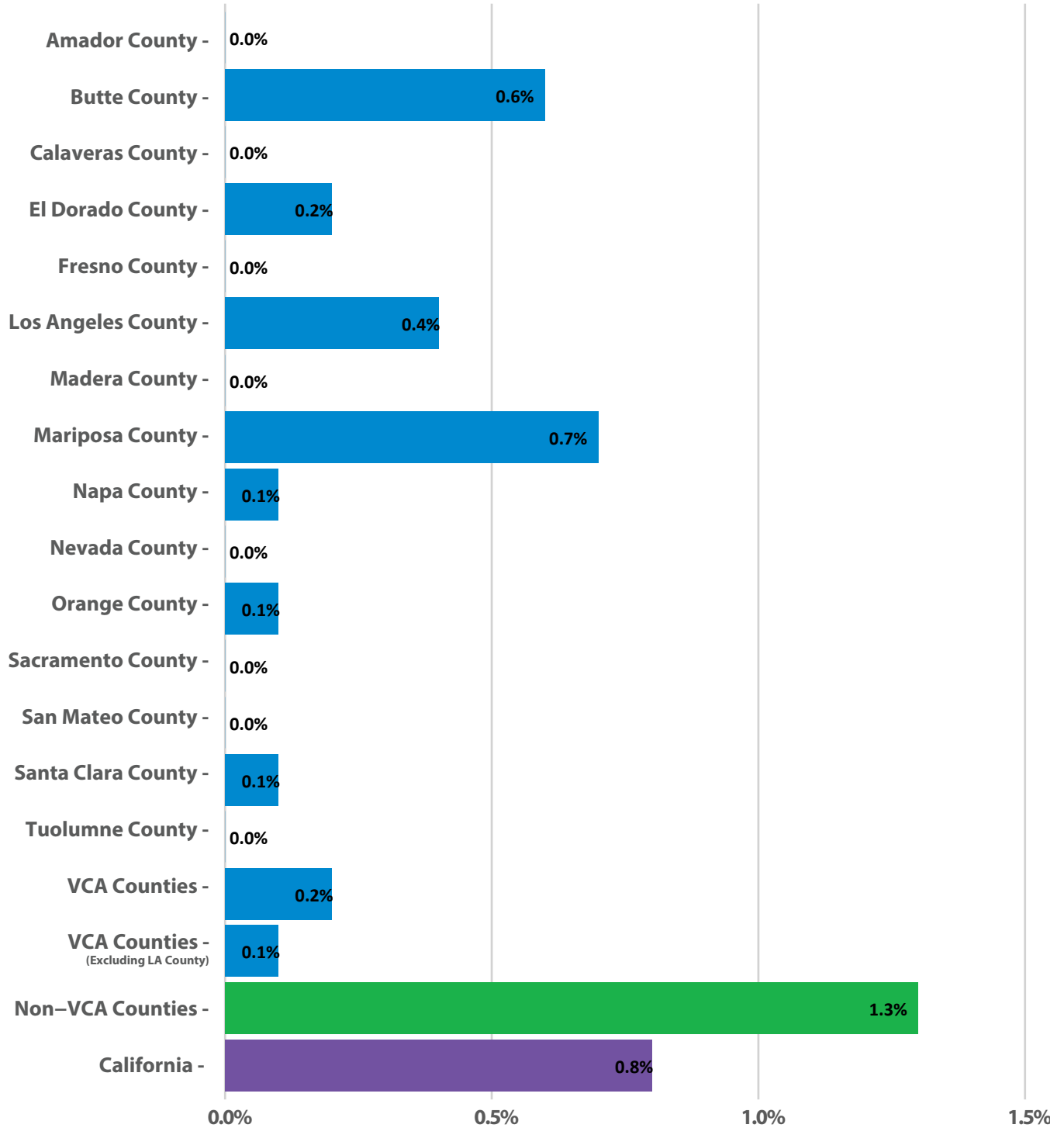
In VCA counties, 0% of both Republican and Democratic voters use provisional ballots, while 0.1% of No Party Preference voters used provisional ballots. When excluding Los Angeles County, 0% of all party affiliations used provisional ballots. In non-VCA counties, 0.7% of Republican voters, 0.4% of Democratic voters, and 0.7% of No Party Preference voters used provisional ballots.

Among individual VCA counties, provisional ballot use continued to be low, although both Republican and No Party Preference voters had higher rates of provisional ballot use in some counties than Democratic voters. Provisional ballot use ranged from 0% (Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Madera, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Tuolumne) to 0.2% (Butte) among Democrats, from 0% (Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Madera, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Tuolumne) to 0.4% (Butte) among Republicans, and from 0% (Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Madera, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Tuolumne) to 0.4% (Butte) for No Party Preference voters.

Note: Some groups within individual VCA counties, especially counties with under 35,000 registered voters, had small numbers of registered voters and provisional ballot use, such as Asian-American, Latino, youth, foreign-born, and new voters. This should be considered when looking at individual VCA counties' provisional ballot use rates.

FIGURE 35

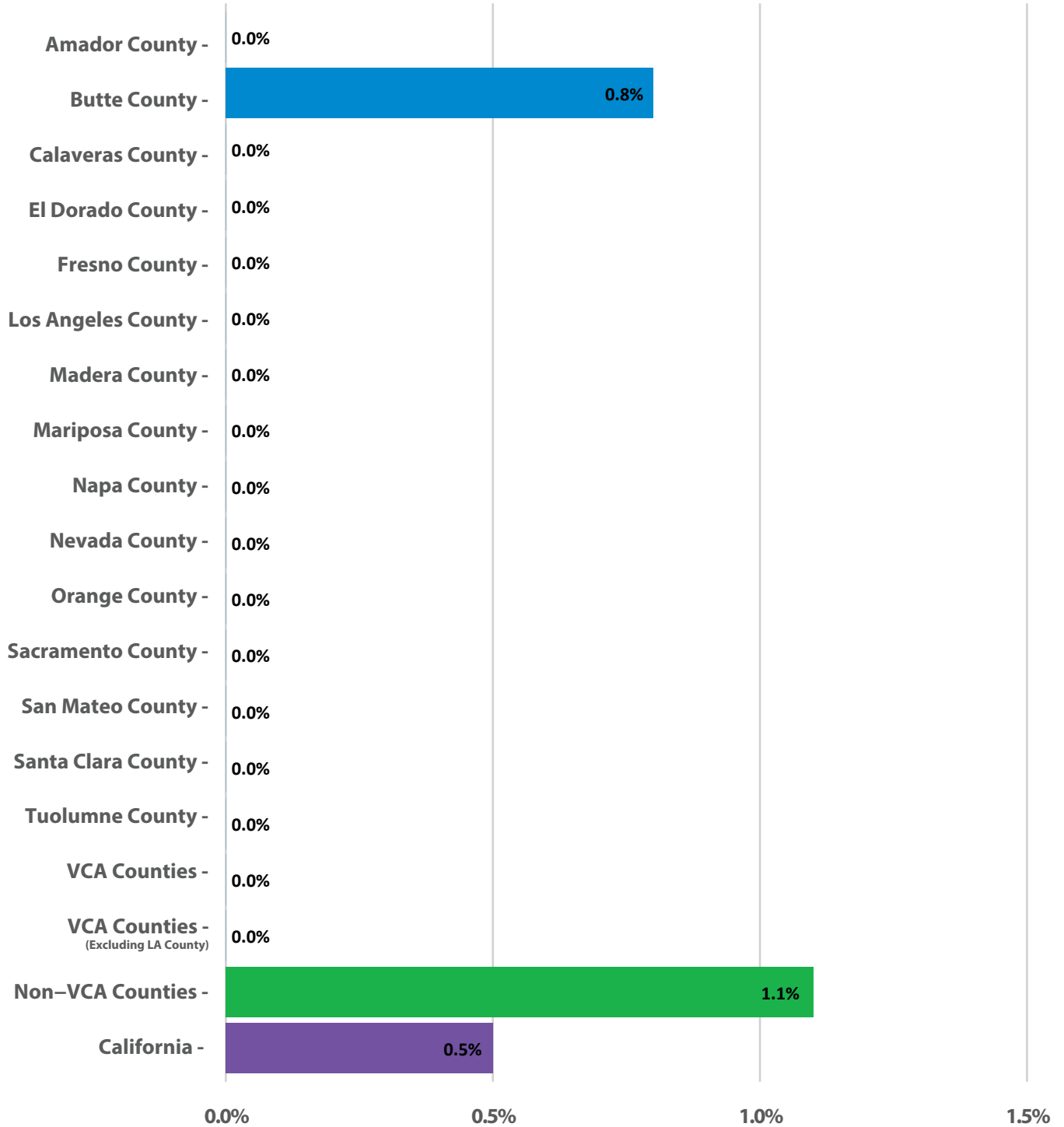
Provisional Ballots - New Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 36

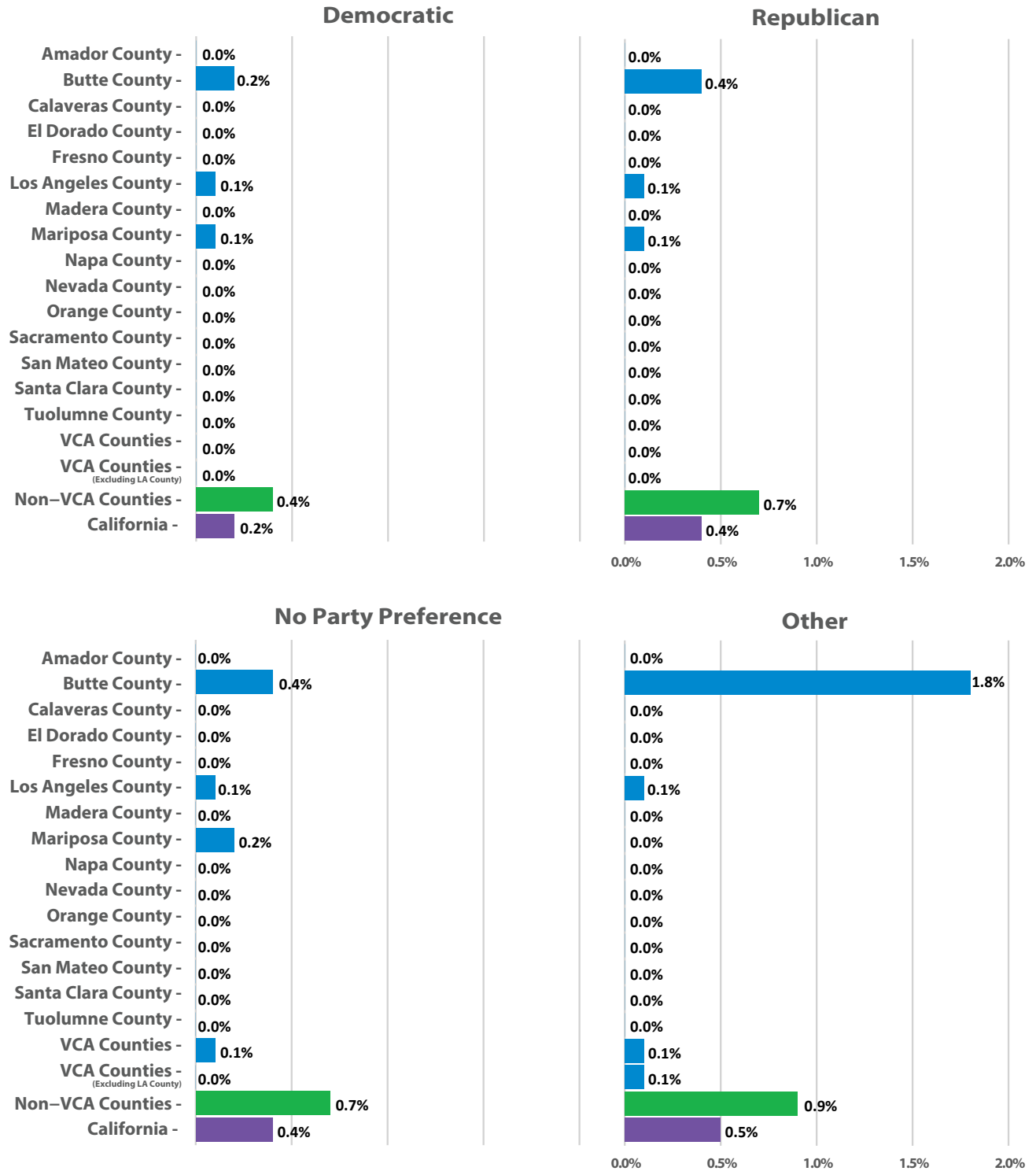
Provisional Ballots - Previous Polling Place Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 37

Provisional Ballots - Party Affiliation Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Conclusion

Our analysis reveals several notable differences in voting trends in VCA counties compared to the state as a whole and non-VCA counties. Voters in VCA counties cast their ballots via drop box and in person at higher rates and by mail at lower rates than both statewide and non-VCA voters. Due to its population size, Los Angeles County has a significant influence on overall VCA numbers. When excluding Los Angeles County, in-person voting was below the statewide and non-VCA rates for the other fourteen VCA counties. While a higher majority of voters in these fourteen VCA counties voted with VBM ballots, fewer voters sent their ballots through the mail than those in non-VCA counties and instead dropped off their VBM ballots at vote centers or drop boxes.

Among certain demographic groups, there were noticeable differences in voting methods. Latino, youth voters (age 18 to 24), new voters, and previous polling place voters voted in person at much higher rates than the general population. In contrast, Asian-American voters voted in person at lower rates than the general population.

VBM ballots in VCA counties were rejected at lower rates than those in non-VCA counties, although the VCA rejection rate matched the statewide rejection rate. When excluding Los Angeles County, the rejection rate for the other fourteen counties dropped below the statewide rate. Multiple demographic groups, including Latino, youth voters, new voters, and previous polling place voters, had higher VBM rejection rates than the general population. In some cases, the VBM rejection rates for these groups reached two to three times higher than the general population.

Our analysis discovered a significant shift in the reasons for rejecting VBM ballots from the 2020 primary election and previous California statewide elections. In the 2020 general election, the majority of rejected VBM ballots had signature issues. In contrast, the majority of rejected VBM ballots in the 2020 primary election were rejected for being received late. Throughout VCA counties and the state as a whole, the most common reason for VBM rejection was non-matching signatures, with groups including Latino, youth, and new voters seeing higher rates of non-matching signatures than the general population. It appears the 2020 general election's expanded window (by two weeks) for the acceptance of VBM ballots may have contributed to a reduction in late ballots for California voters.

While eligible and registered voter turnout was higher in VCA counties compared to non-VCA counties and the state as a whole, many groups had notably lower turnout rates than the general population. Latino, Asian-American, and youth voters had lower eligible voter turnout rates than the general population. Additionally, Latinos and Asian Americans did not experience the same growth in turnout seen among the general population.

There were several differences in voting trends between small and large VCA counties. Smaller counties with less than 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) had lower rates of in-person voting than larger counties with more than 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles). Our analysis also found that small counties had higher rates of rejected VBM ballots with non-matching signatures and lower rates of CVR use than larger counties.

There are significant concerns about equity in election administration. It is clear that county and state voter files, with their limited demographic information, are not up to the challenge of addressing these concerns. Going forward, we encourage election officials, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss legal and accurate ways to gather more complete demographic data in California during and after the voter registration process. Complete and inclusive data is important for a comprehensive analysis of the impact of the VCA on county communities, particularly for historically underrepresented groups often marginalized in evaluations of state election reforms.

Available Resources for VCA Implementation

- Disability Rights California: VAAC Toolkit for Elections Officials
<https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/publications/vaacs-how-county-elections-offices-can-start-a-voting-accessibility-advisory-committee>
- Future of California Election: Public Participation: A Guide for Election Officials Implementing the California Voter's Choice Act
<https://futureofcaelections.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/VCC-Public-Participation-Guide-for-Election-Officials.pdf>
- California Secretary of State: VCA Quick Start Guide <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/vca/2020/toolkit/sos/quick-start-guide-1.0.pdf>
- California Secretary of State: VCA Starter Kit <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/vca/2020/toolkit/sos/vca-starter-kit-1.0.pdf>
- League of Women Voters of California VCA Toolkit for Community Organizers Voter's Choice California - Voter's Choice Act Implementation: Building a VCA Coalition
- Voter's Choice California: Strategies for Voter Education and Outreach Under the Voter's Choice Act
<https://voterschoice.org/wp-content/uploads/VCA-Report-1.pdf>

Notes

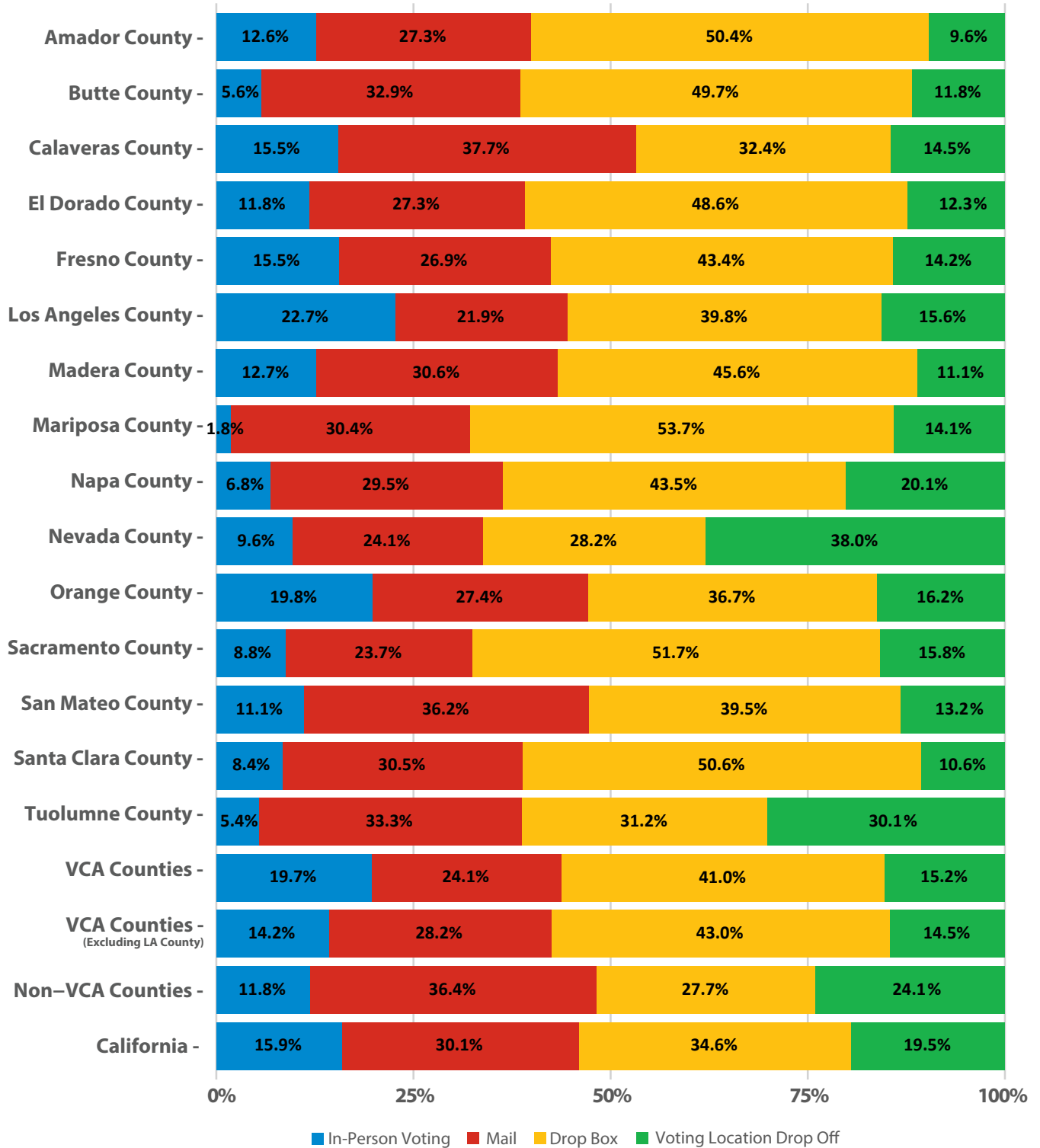
1. For more information on the California Voter's Choice Act, see: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB450
2. We are not able to reliably examine the preferred language of California voters for this study. Information on language is limited in the voter registration file to a registered voter's requested language for ballot materials. If a voter does not select a language with their elections office, then they are defaulted into receiving election materials in English. However, a voter may want language assistance even if they did not select a language preference for their ballot materials. A voter may not be aware the option to select a preferred language for their voting materials is available from their elections office.
3. For information on the VoteCal system, see <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/votecal-project>
4. Because California election code does not require registered voters to identify their race or ethnicity, the California voter file provides an incomplete flag for this information. While self-reported ethnicity data is generally reliable as an identifier, low self-reporting rates result in an incomplete VoteCal dataset. Further, the voting behavior and demographic characteristics of California registrants who answered this question are different than the ones who don't (self-selection bias), resulting in an unrepresentative sample of the total electorate.
5. Political Data, Inc. provided county voter registration file extracts for the 2020 Primary Election. These data are the actual registration records and not representative samples. Because of this, the level of confidence in the data is not susceptible to estimates as are survey or exit poll results. Latinos and Asians are distinguished in the registration data from the general population primarily by using Spanish and Asian surname lists which identify registrants with commonly occurring Spanish and Asian surnames. The Passel-Word Spanish surname list, published by the U.S. Census Bureau, was utilized to identify Latinos. For Asians, the U.S. Census Bureau's surname lists for six major Asian-American ethnic groups were utilized: Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Asian Indian, and Vietnamese. In addition, ballot language designation and birthplace also inform the identification race and ethnicity. Surname matching for research purposes is not reliable for white, non-Hispanic, and Black populations, and thus, registration data is not examined by this study for these groups. Whites and Blacks are 37.5% and 5.5% of the California population, respectively. Note: Some additional Latinos and Asians may be registered to vote and not flagged by the surname databases.
6. The most common method for identifying the race or ethnicity of registered voters in the California voter file (and for most other states that were not subject to VRA registration requirements) is by surname matching. This method entails matching surnames on voter registration cards to ethnic surname lists. Surname analysis infers race/ethnicity from surnames that research has found are distinctive to particular racial and ethnic groups. This method is more reliable for some races and ethnicities than others.
7. Kosuke Imai and Kabir Khanna present an alternative method to reduce aggregation bias by predicting individual-level ethnicity from voter registration records. Building on the existing methodological literature, they use Bayes's rule to combine the U.S. Census' surname list with information from geocoded voter registration records. See academic paper for full explanation: <https://imai.fas.harvard.edu/research/files/race.pdf>
8. For information on Assembly Bill 860 and Senate Bill 423, see: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>
9. For information on Assembly Bill 89 and Assembly Bill 100, see: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>
10. California Assembly Bill 1520 (2001) gave Californians the ability to register as a permanent Vote-by-Mail voters. Registered voters with this status receive a VBM ballot in every election without needing an excuse or having to request such a ballot. See the California Secretary of State's 2016 general election voter participation report: <http://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/sov/2016-general/sov/03-voter-participation-stats-by-county.pdf>
11. For historical vote-by-mail usage in California, see the California Secretary of State's website at: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail#hist>
12. Total population and citizen voting-age population data from the American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates, 2015- 2019.
13. Disability population calculation: The percent of residents with disabilities out of the total population, ACS 2015-2019 5-year estimates. Percent limited English proficient population calculation: The percent of the population that has limited English proficiency, ACS 2015-2019 5-year Limited English proficiency is defined as people who speak English "less than very well".
14. For information on this requirement, see Assembly Bill 860 at: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>
15. For more information on the California Voter's Choice Act, see: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB450
16. For historical vote-by-mail rejection rates in California, see the California Secretary of State's website at: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail#hist>
17. See the Help American Voter Act's ID requirement at: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/hava-id-standards>
18. See the California Secretary of State's Report of Registration as of October 19, 2020: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/report-registration/15day-gen-202016>
19. For information on the Statewide Database's methodology and data limitations for the identification of race and ethnicity, please see their technical documentation at: <https://statewidedatabase.org/d10/Creating%20CA%20Official%20Redistricting%20Database.pdf>
20. See the California Secretary of State's Voter Participation Statistics by County: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/report-registration/15day-presprim-20>
21. Citizen voting age population data provided to CID by the California Department of Finance
22. Citizen voting age population data provided to CID by the California Department of Finance
23. For more information on the California Voter's Choice Act, see: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB450
24. For more information about provisional voting in California visit the California Secretary of State's website at: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/nvra/laws-standards/nvra-manual/chap-5>

Appendix

Appendix A: Method of Voting

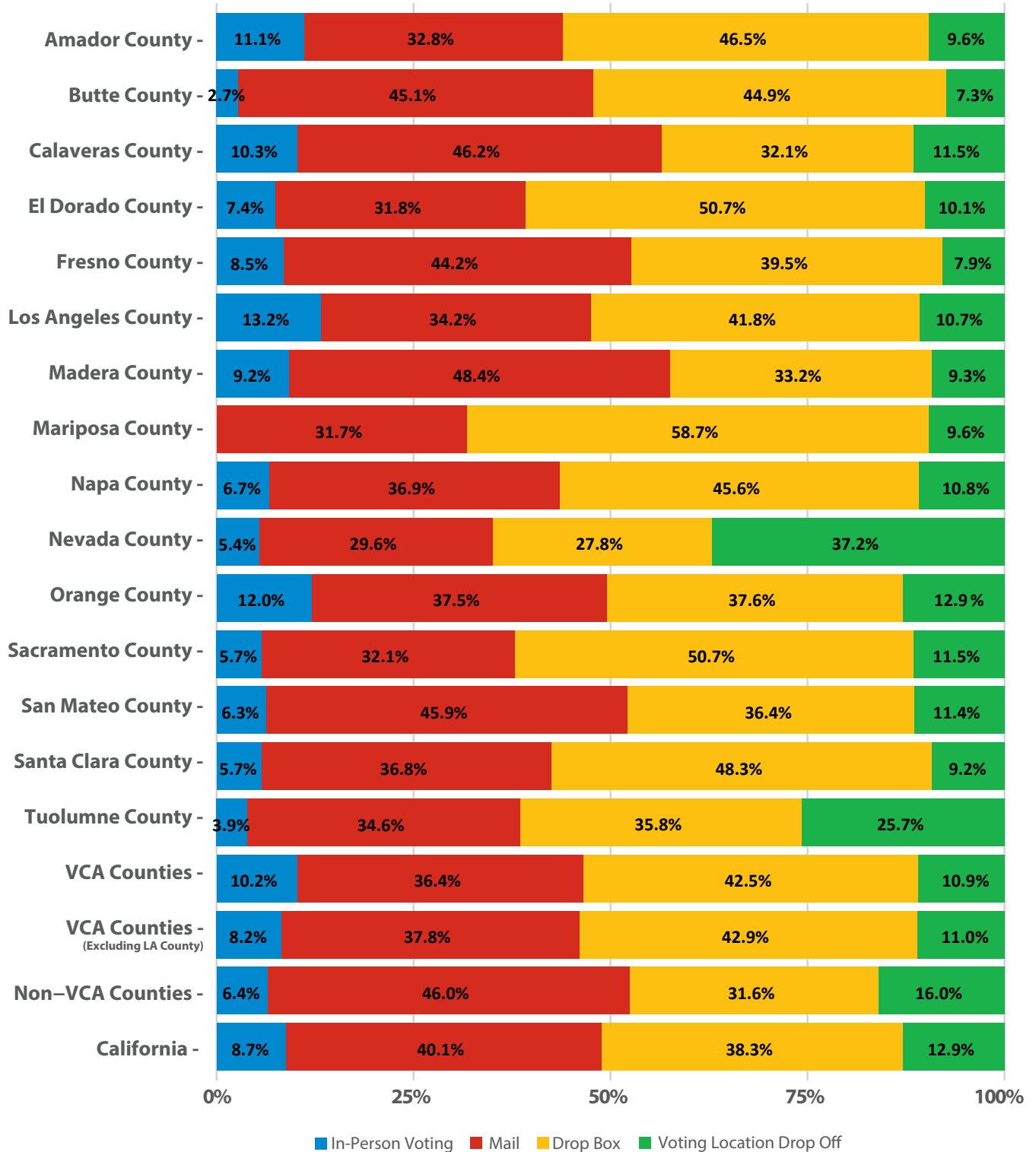
General Election: November 2020 Coronavirus Funding		
County	General COVID-19 Funding	Outreach and Communication Funding
Alameda	\$ 2,918,880.00	\$ 534,456.00
Alpine	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 458.00
Amador	\$ 56,305.00	\$ 13,775.00
Butte	\$ 275,822.00	\$ 67,481.00
Calaveras	\$ 70,958.00	\$ 17,360.00
Colusa	\$ 28,844.00	\$ 5,281.00
Contra Costa	\$ 2,084,931.00	\$ 381,757.00
Del Norte	\$ 48,159.00	\$ 8,818.00
El Dorado	\$ 296,706.00	\$ 72,590.00
Fresno	\$ 1,119,088.00	\$ 273,789.00
Glenn	\$ 42,677.00	\$ 7,814.00
Humboldt	\$ 251,223.00	\$ 46,000.00
Imperial	\$ 244,603.00	\$ 44,788.00
Inyo	\$ 31,812.00	\$ 5,825.00
Kern	\$ 1,266,154.00	\$ 231,836.00
Kings	\$ 176,806.00	\$ 32,374.00
Lake	\$ 107,549.00	\$ 19,693.00
Lassen	\$ 44,498.00	\$ 8,148.00
Los Angeles	\$ 13,168,334.00	\$ 3,221,681.00
Madera	\$ 146,837.00	\$ 35,924.00
Marin	\$ 527,393.00	\$ 96,567.00
Mariposa	\$ 25,915.00	\$ 6,340.00
Mendocino	\$ 166,859.00	\$ 30,552.00
Merced	\$ 332,137.00	\$ 60,815.00
Modoc	\$ 15,810.00	\$ 2,895.00
Mono	\$ 22,506.00	\$ 4,121.00
Monterey	\$ 619,335.00	\$ 113,402.00
Napa	\$ 191,507.00	\$ 46,853.00
Nevada	\$ 161,794.00	\$ 39,583.00
Orange	\$ 3,880,161.00	\$ 949,295.00
Placer	\$ 786,463.00	\$ 144,004.00
Plumas	\$ 40,247.00	\$ 7,369.00
Riverside	\$ 3,541,061.00	\$ 648,379.00
Sacramento	\$ 1,943,529.00	\$ 475,491.00
San Benito	\$ 102,944.00	\$ 18,849.00
San Bernardino	\$ 3,223,449.00	\$ 590,223.00
San Diego	\$ 5,792,680.00	\$ 1,060,657.00
San Francisco	\$ 1,602,688.00	\$ 293,457.00
San Joaquin	\$ 1,035,593.00	\$ 189,620.00
San Luis Obispo	\$ 559,377.00	\$ 102,423.00
San Mateo	\$ 990,688.00	\$ 242,375.00
Santa Barbara	\$ 719,821.00	\$ 131,801.00
Santa Clara	\$ 2,258,413.00	\$ 552,529.00
Santa Cruz	\$ 518,967.00	\$ 95,024.00
Shasta	\$ 329,526.00	\$ 60,337.00
Sierra	\$ 6,734.00	\$ 1,233.00
Siskiyou	\$ 87,747.00	\$ 16,067.00
Solano	\$ 758,977.00	\$ 138,971.00
Sonoma	\$ 886,086.00	\$ 162,245.00
Stanislaus	\$ 828,950.00	\$ 151,783.00
Sutter	\$ 153,603.00	\$ 28,125.00
Tehama	\$ 111,299.00	\$ 20,379.00
Trinity	\$ 25,050.00	\$ 4,587.00
Tulare	\$ 580,765.00	\$ 106,340.00
Tuolumne	\$ 77,304.00	\$ 18,913.00
Ventura	\$ 1,469,400.00	\$ 269,051.00
Yolo	\$ 372,334.00	\$ 68,175.00
Yuba	\$ 116,438.00	\$ 21,320.00
California	\$ 57,246,236.00	\$ 11,999,998.00

Methods of Voting - Latino Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Methods of Voting - Asian American Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Method of Voting by Race and Ethnicity: 2020 General Election Voter's Choice Act Counties - Black Voters				
County	Mail	Drop Box	VC Drop Off	Vote Center
Amador County	29.7%	57.4%	5.4%	7.4%
Butte County	31.9%	53.6%	12.0%	2.6%
Calaveras County	43.3%	35.6%	15.4%	5.8%
El Dorado County	25.9%	53.7%	12.1%	8.2%
Fresno County	31.2%	42.1%	15.3%	11.4%
Los Angeles County	26.6%	36.3%	17.3%	19.7%
Madera County	36.6%	42.3%	12.1%	8.9%
Mariposa County	14.8%	67.2%	18.0%	0.0%
Napa County	32.2%	45.6%	18.9%	3.3%
Nevada County	28.4%	33.3%	33.6%	4.6%
Orange County	30.0%	38.2%	13.2%	18.5%
Sacramento County	25.8%	50.8%	17.1%	6.3%
San Mateo County	38.1%	38.7%	13.5%	9.7%
Santa Clara County	35.4%	50.9%	8.2%	5.5%
Tuolumne County	36.4%	35.0%	26.2%	2.3%
VCA Counties	27.4%	38.1%	16.7%	17.9%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	31.0%	46.8%	13.5%	8.7%
Non-VCA Counties	36.9%	33.7%	21.0%	8.4%
California	31.0%	36.4%	18.3%	14.3%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Note: These data identifying white and Black voters in the California voter file are not reliable for research purposes. Exercise strong caution when reviewing this data table.

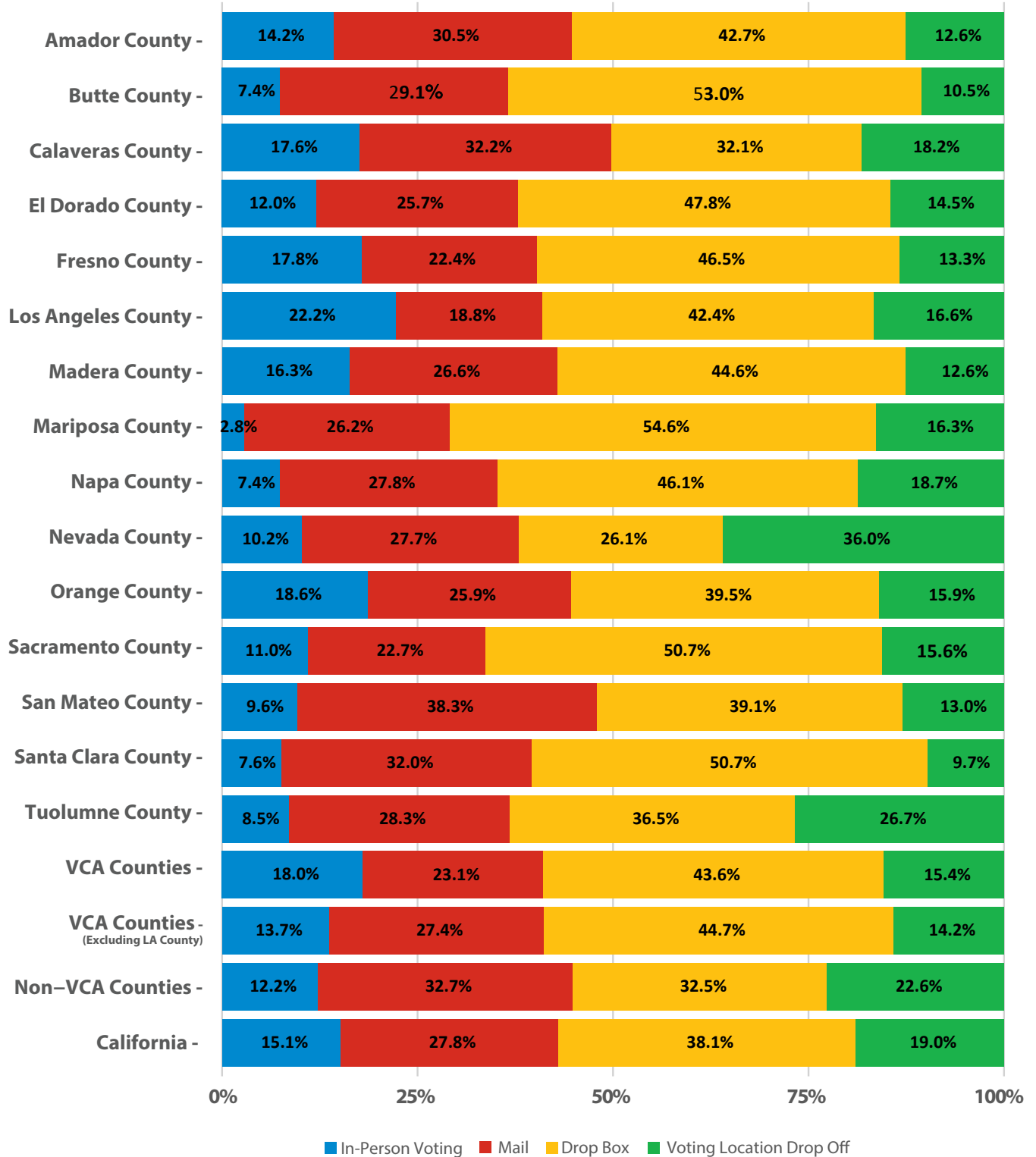
Method of Voting by Race and Ethnicity: 2020 General Election Voter's Choice Act Counties - White and No Ethnicity Identified Voters*				
County	Mail	Drop Box	VC Drop Off	Vote Center
Amador County	29.0%	54.1%	8.6%	8.3%
Butte County	35.6%	50.9%	10.3%	3.2%
Calaveras County	39.5%	33.2%	14.2%	13.1%
El Dorado County	27.3%	52.8%	10.9%	9.0%
Fresno County	30.1%	46.5%	11.0%	12.4%
Los Angeles County	25.2%	42.9%	11.6%	20.2%
Madera County	36.8%	38.5%	15.2%	9.5%
Mariposa County	27.0%	60.1%	12.0%	0.9%
Napa County	34.2%	43.1%	18.8%	3.9%
Nevada County	25.9%	31.8%	35.9%	6.4%
Orange County	30.7%	38.0%	12.7%	18.6%
Sacramento County	25.1%	54.0%	13.3%	7.7%
San Mateo County	38.1%	40.8%	12.6%	8.6%
Santa Clara County	35.1%	51.0%	8.1%	5.8%
Tuolumne County	32.9%	33.4%	28.6%	5.2%
VCA Counties	28.7%	44.2%	12.2%	14.9%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	31.0%	45.0%	12.6%	11.4%
Non-VCA Counties	37.8%	33.8%	18.9%	9.4%
California	33.8%	38.4%	16.0%	11.8%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

*PDI combines voters identified as white (non-Latino) and voters with no identified ethnicity in the same category.

Note: These data identifying white and Black voters in the California voter file are not reliable for research purposes. Exercise strong caution when reviewing this data table.

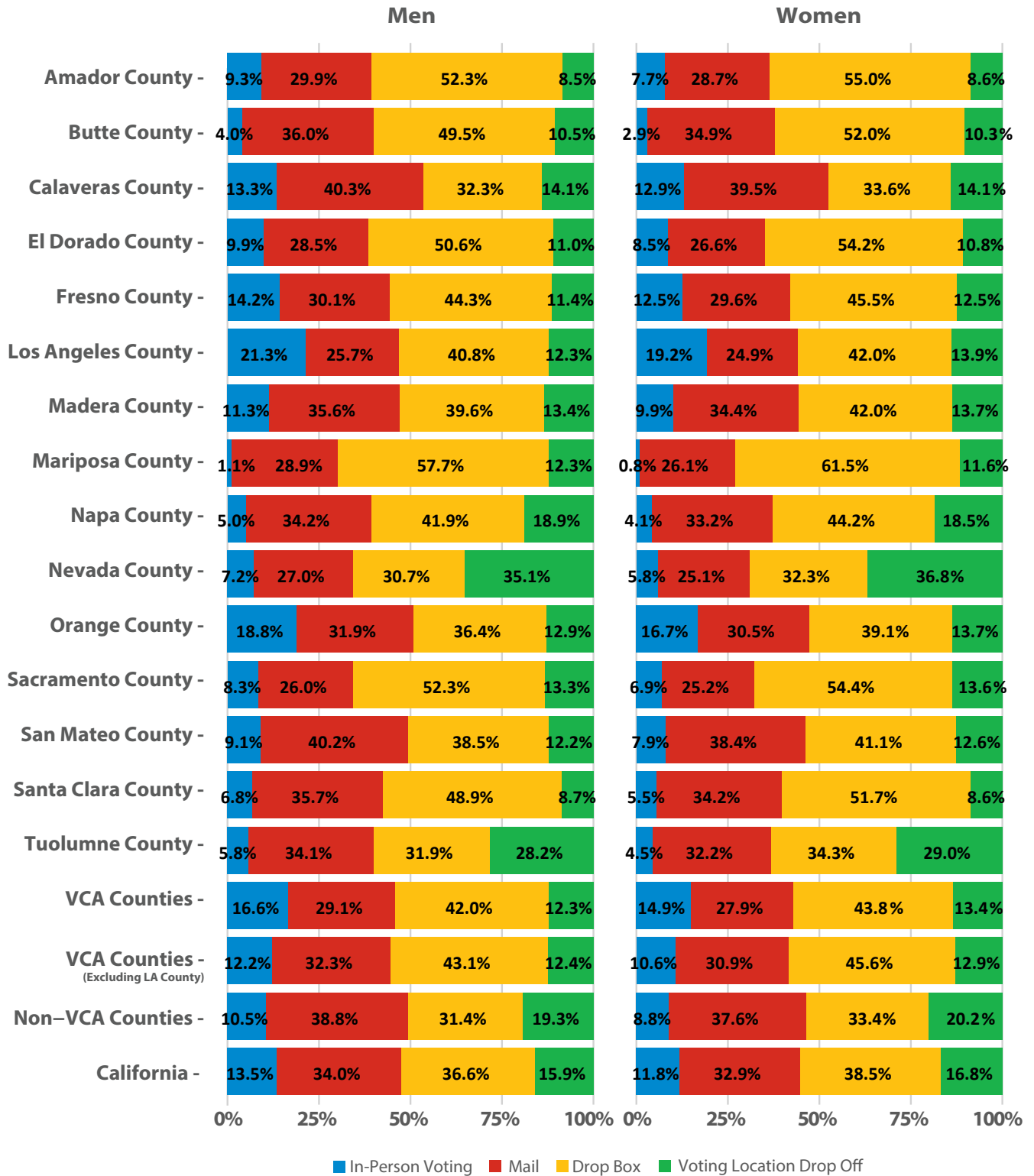
Methods of Voting - Youth (age 18 to 24) Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Methods of Voting - Gender

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election

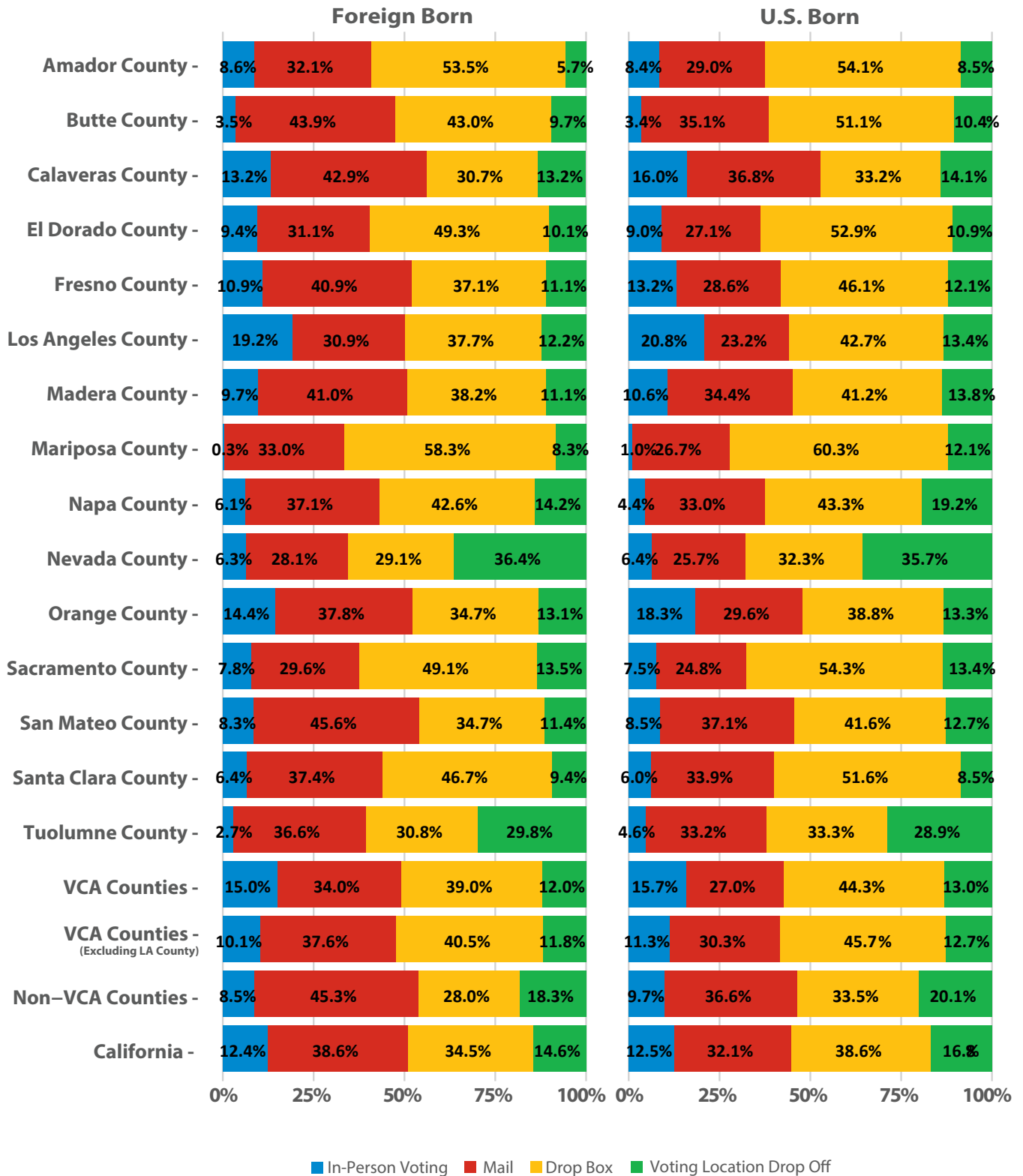


Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

*Men and women identified using first name databases commonly use by researchers to identify gender. Data sources that provide non-binary and other gender identities are not available.

Methods of Voting - Nativity

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Appendix B: Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rates and Reasons for Rejection

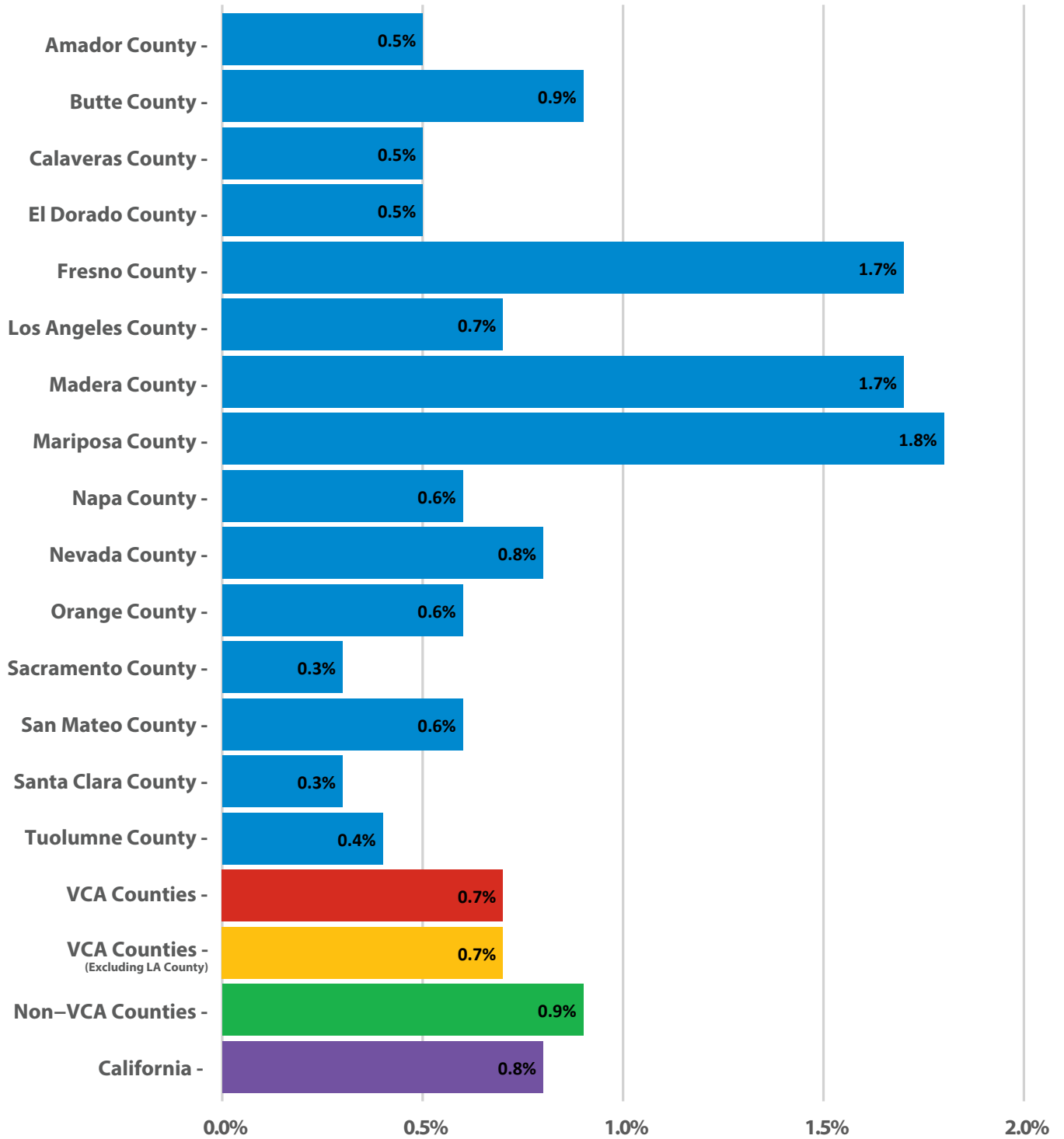
California Rejected Vote-by-Mail Ballots by County* 2010-2020 General Elections												
	2010 # of Rejected VBM Ballots	2010 % of VBM Rejected	2012 # of Rejected VBM Ballots	2012 % of VBM Rejected	2014 # of Rejected VBM Ballots	2014 % of VBM Rejected	2016 # of Rejected VBM Ballots	2016 % of VBM Rejected	2018 # of Rejected VBM Ballots	2018 % of VBM Rejected	2020 # of Rejected VBM Ballots	2020 % of VBM Rejected
Alameda	no report	no report	333908	0.1%	229454	0.8%	446971	0.4%	431607	0.8%	732081	0.5%
Alpine	576	1.7%	656	0.0%	469	0.2%	626	0.8%	631	0.8%	751	0.3%
Amador	9753	0.5%	11066	1.1%	8596	0.6%	12432	0.2%	12798	0.0%	20721	0.4%
Butte	49085	0.8%	58543	3.0%	46435	1.2%	69756	0.9%	67418	1.1%	99995	0.5%
Calaveras	13424	0.2%	14960	1.0%	11459	0.8%	16892	0.3%	16601	1.0%	23989	0.7%
Colusa	no report	no report	3431	0.9%	2682	0.8%	4230	0.5%	3265	0.9%	6358	1.4%
Contra Costa	202733	1.5%	248609	1.1%	167371	1.0%	310580	0.4%	292178	0.6%	541423	0.4%
Del Norte	4801	5.0%	5540	5.1%	4623	5.9%	6258	1.9%	5559	0.3%	9889	1.7%
El Dorado	56265	1.5%	64755	1.2%	49187	1.0%	no report	no report	72414	1.0%	106836	0.4%
Fresno	118767	1.9%	142913	0.6%	99765	1.2%	161941	1.1%	164188	0.5%	323900	1.4%
Glenn	6087	0.5%	6936	0.3%	4897	0.4%	7651	0.4%	7836	10.9%	10937	1.5%
Humboldt	25024	0.9%	30402	0.7%	22470	1.9%	35290	0.4%	35696	0.4%	63246	0.8%
Imperial	22587	55.6%	20265	2.5%	no report	no report	27524	2.0%	21272	1.3%	35757	1.0%
Inyo	4738	0.7%	5283	2.0%	3981	1.0%	5143	0.4%	5338	0.7%	8495	0.9%
Kern	98558	1.3%	112971	1.1%	89030	1.2%	140097	0.8%	136753	1.7%	269201	0.9%
Kings	19352	3.3%	24918	2.5%	18173	1.3%	27234	0.2%	24844	1.7%	39365	0.4%
Lake	13502	6.0%	13668	1.4%	12264	1.8%	17071	0.9%	15668	1.6%	25665	1.0%
Lassen	3593	1.5%	3960	0.6%	5366	0.5%	6622	0.2%	4125	0.8%	12157	0.3%
Los Angeles	751014	9.6%	984253	0.9%	618542	6.7%	1297567	1.1%	1366404	1.2%	3445726	0.6%
Madera	23388	6.1%	24951	1.1%	19545	5.9%	29118	0.5%	35110	1.6%	48516	1.1%
Marin	70654	1.2%	88714	0.7%	64845	2.0%	101490	1.0%	97948	0.5%	146293	0.4%
Mariposa	5829	13.1%	5360	1.4%	5046	6.8%	6581	0.7%	6213	0.8%	10475	0.6%
Mendocino	25408	0.4%	29160	0.4%	20925	1.4%	no report	no report	30041	1.8%	43897	0.2%
Merced	23191	1.4%	33334	0.8%	23069	2.1%	38598	0.8%	34191	3.0%	93398	1.0%
Modoc	2604	1.4%	2881	1.6%	2187	3.4%	2816	1.2%	2738	0.6%	3975	1.0%
Mono	2725	2.6%	3253	3.9%	2199	6.9%	3369	0.7%	3304	1.2%	5729	0.8%
Monterey	72720	1.3%	88445	0.7%	57824	0.8%	103304	0.7%	90425	1.2%	155238	0.4%
Napa	41185	0.9%	50866	1.0%	36803	1.2%	59146	0.7%	57519	0.7%	70702	0.3%
Nevada	36834	1.0%	38459	0.2%	30580	1.1%	44282	0.1%	52256	0.6%	59835	0.5%
Orange	476640	0.8%	579002	0.5%	390550	0.7%	725435	0.4%	718421	0.7%	1291046	0.4%
Placer	86187	0.6%	116299	0.6%	84646	0.8%	132798	0.5%	131679	0.6%	224547	0.4%
Plumas	6115	0.7%	7287	1.1%	5589	1.2%	10045	0.0%	9390	0.0%	11449	0.2%
Riverside	265628	1.4%	374604	0.8%	235512	1.1%	511082	1.3%	466584	2.3%	913554	0.6%
Sacramento	237656	1.3%	309140	1.0%	221210	0.9%	374554	0.5%	496265	0.8%	672813	0.3%
San Benito	10341	0.8%	12662	1.6%	9588	1.1%	16090	0.6%	17783	1.4%	27092	2.2%
San Bernardino	207182	0.5%	287307	1.4%	179152	1.7%	387462	0.5%	341149	1.3%	711278	1.0%
San Diego	515179	1.0%	678051	0.4%	452540	0.6%	860692	0.4%	806474	0.3%	1445266	0.5%
San Francisco	145870	1.4%	196453	1.7%	138739	1.8%	265266	0.8%	248970	1.6%	412373	0.2%
San Joaquin	109998	5.6%	139182	4.5%	88544	1.7%	153857	0.7%	141065	0.9%	265655	0.4%
San Luis Obispo	67685	0.9%	81327	1.3%	63168	1.4%	99868	1.2%	98142	1.1%	153668	0.6%
San Mateo	117557	1.2%	170091	2.5%	111844	1.3%	219214	0.4%	258989	1.1%	348494	0.4%
Santa Barbara	81861	1.2%	100676	3.5%	78027	0.9%	121488	0.7%	113683	0.9%	184751	0.6%
Santa Clara	392283	1.2%	462996	1.1%	312051	1.3%	537982	0.7%	490957	0.8%	805547	0.2%
Santa Cruz	50941	1.5%	64527	0.2%	44046	0.7%	83340	0.4%	83569	0.8%	134255	0.4%
Shasta	38255	0.7%	48996	0.9%	40237	0.6%	57199	0.4%	48952	0.8%	76053	0.3%
Sierra	1889	0.4%	1902	4.2%	1676	2.9%	1909	0.4%	1728	1.7%	1972	0.4%
Siskiyou	12349	3.0%	13921	1.6%	10268	1.4%	15480	0.4%	13912	1.7%	21260	0.7%
Solano	71631	0.3%	88385	0.3%	61586	0.3%	113185	0.3%	103340	0.8%	179438	0.5%
Sonoma	132053	0.9%	156118	0.5%	112623	0.8%	181602	0.5%	172731	0.9%	257505	0.5%
Stanislaus	79594	0.8%	98383	0.8%	67882	1.7%	126208	0.9%	123587	1.2%	219189	0.8%
Sutter	18086	1.4%	21445	0.7%	16119	1.3%	25571	1.0%	24148	1.4%	43414	0.3%
Tehama	13541	0.9%	15360	0.9%	11366	0.9%	17142	0.5%	15749	1.2%	24035	0.7%
Trinity	4912	25.7%	4116	1.5%	3052	2.5%	4415	0.6%	4175	0.6%	6454	1.0%
Tulare	37558	1.7%	61250	1.4%	43888	1.5%	75803	0.9%	72455	1.2%	127915	1.4%
Tuolumne	16115	0.7%	19363	0.8%	no report	no report	20741	1.1%	21430	5.7%	29095	0.2%
Ventura	132049	1.7%	167234	1.4%	120731	1.3%	219760	0.5%	200424	0.9%	386246	0.5%
Yolo	30252	0.5%	41617	0.1%	29113	0.5%	48982	0.2%	53143	0.9%	94511	1.8%
Yuba	10246	7.1%	11944	1.9%	8989	7.2%	15644	2.8%	14079	2.4%	26265	1.0%
California	5077007	2.8%	6782098	1.0%	4600523	1.9%	8511992	0.7%	8387313	1.0%	15509690	0.6%

Data Source: California Secretary of State

*Percent of cast VBM ballots that were rejected and uncounted.

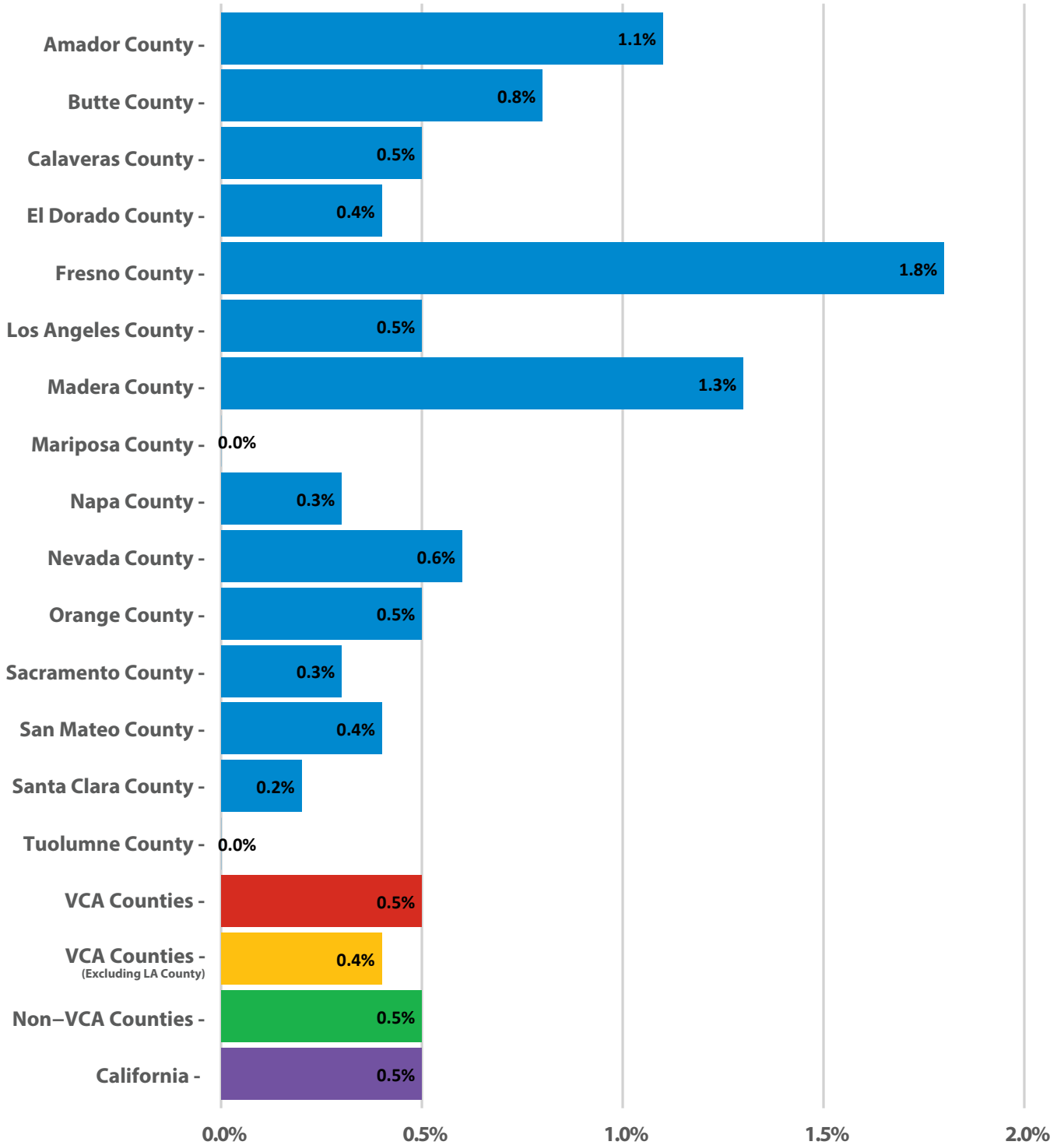
**The California Secretary of State's office notes that these numbers were provided by the individual county elections offices. Because not all counties provided information, no complete statewide data is available.

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rate - Latino Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rate - Asian American Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

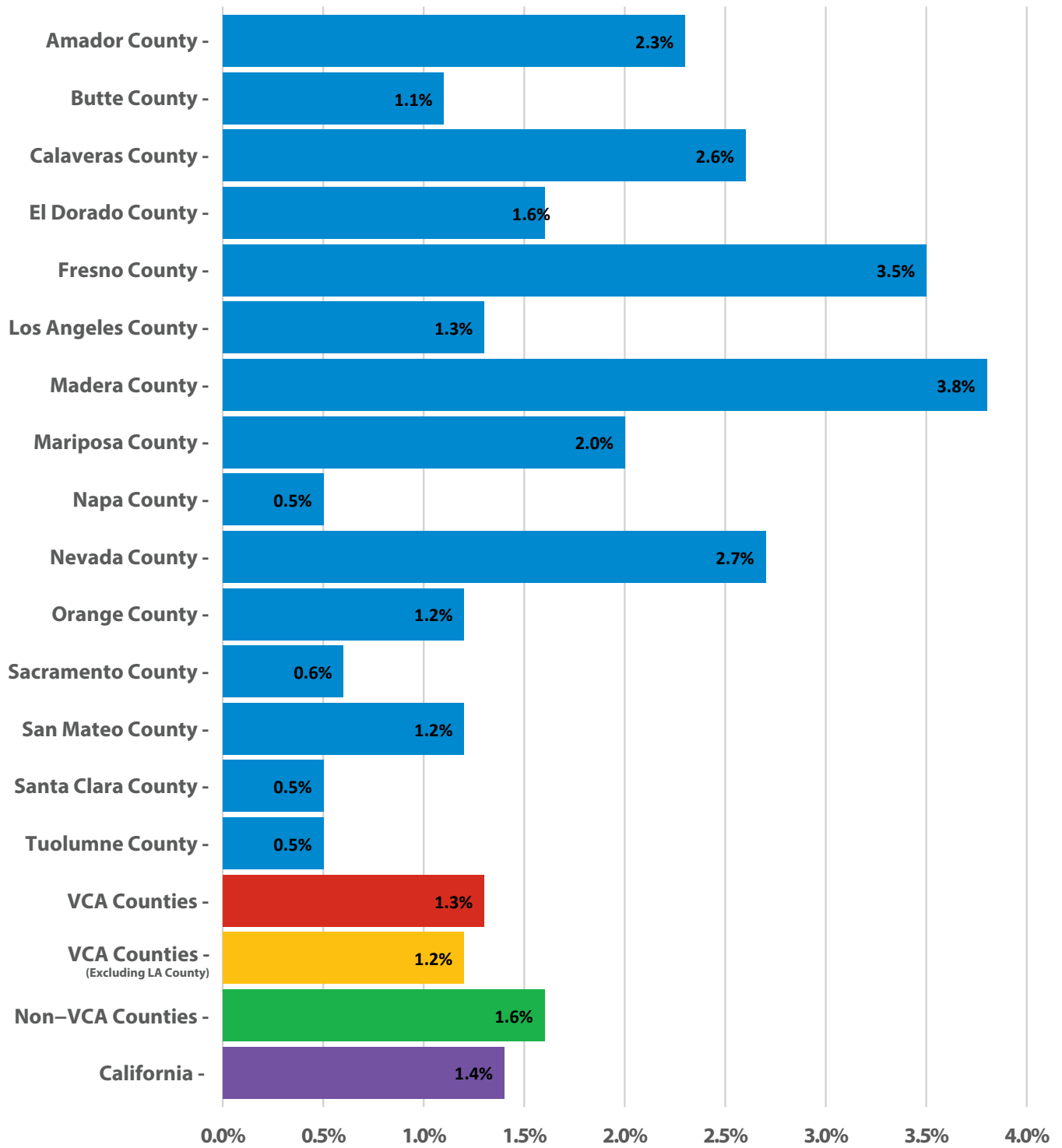
Vote-By-Mail Rejection Rates by Race and Ethnicity: 2020 General Election Voter's Choice Act Counties					
County	All	Black	Asian American	Latino	White and No Ethnicity Identified*
Amador County	0.4%	0.0%	1.1%	0.5%	0.4%
Butte County	0.5%	0.4%	0.8%	0.9%	0.4%
Calaveras County	0.7%	3.1%	0.5%	0.5%	0.7%
El Dorado County	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%
Fresno County	1.4%	1.9%	1.8%	1.7%	1.1%
Los Angeles County	0.6%	0.7%	0.5%	0.7%	0.5%
Madera County	1.1%	0.3%	1.3%	1.7%	0.7%
Mariposa County	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.5%
Napa County	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.6%	0.2%
Nevada County	0.4%	0.9%	0.6%	0.8%	0.4%
Orange County	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%	0.6%	0.3%
Sacramento County	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
San Mateo County	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.6%	0.3%
Santa Clara County	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
Tuolumne County	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.2%
VCA Counties	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%	0.4%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.7%	0.4%
Non-VCA Counties	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.9%	0.4%
California	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.8%	0.4%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

*PDI combines voters identified as white (non-Latino) and voters with no identified ethnicity in the same category.

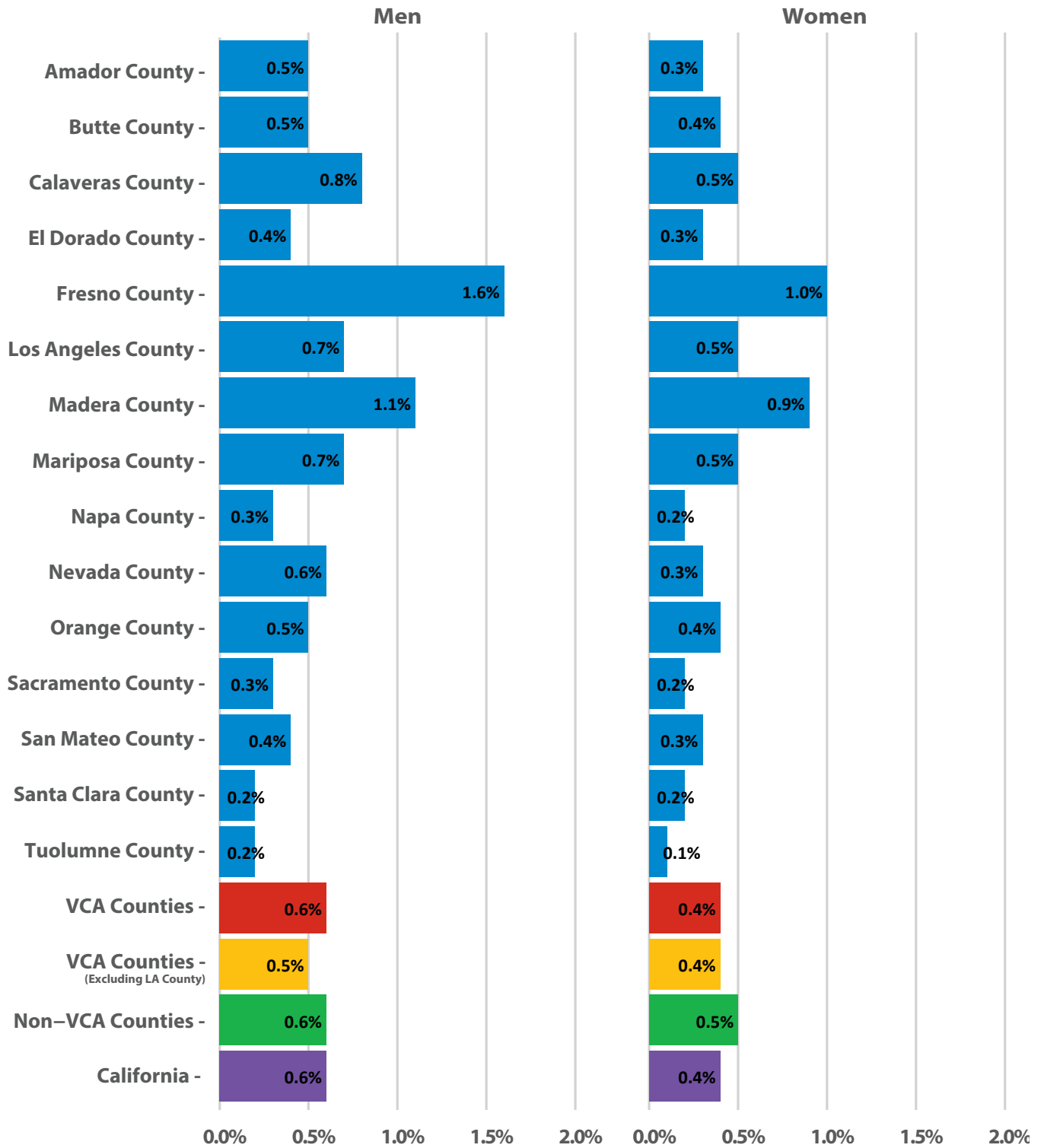
Note: These data identifying white and Black voters in the California voter file are not reliable for research purposes. Exercise strong caution when reviewing this data table.

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rate - Youth (age 18 to 24) Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

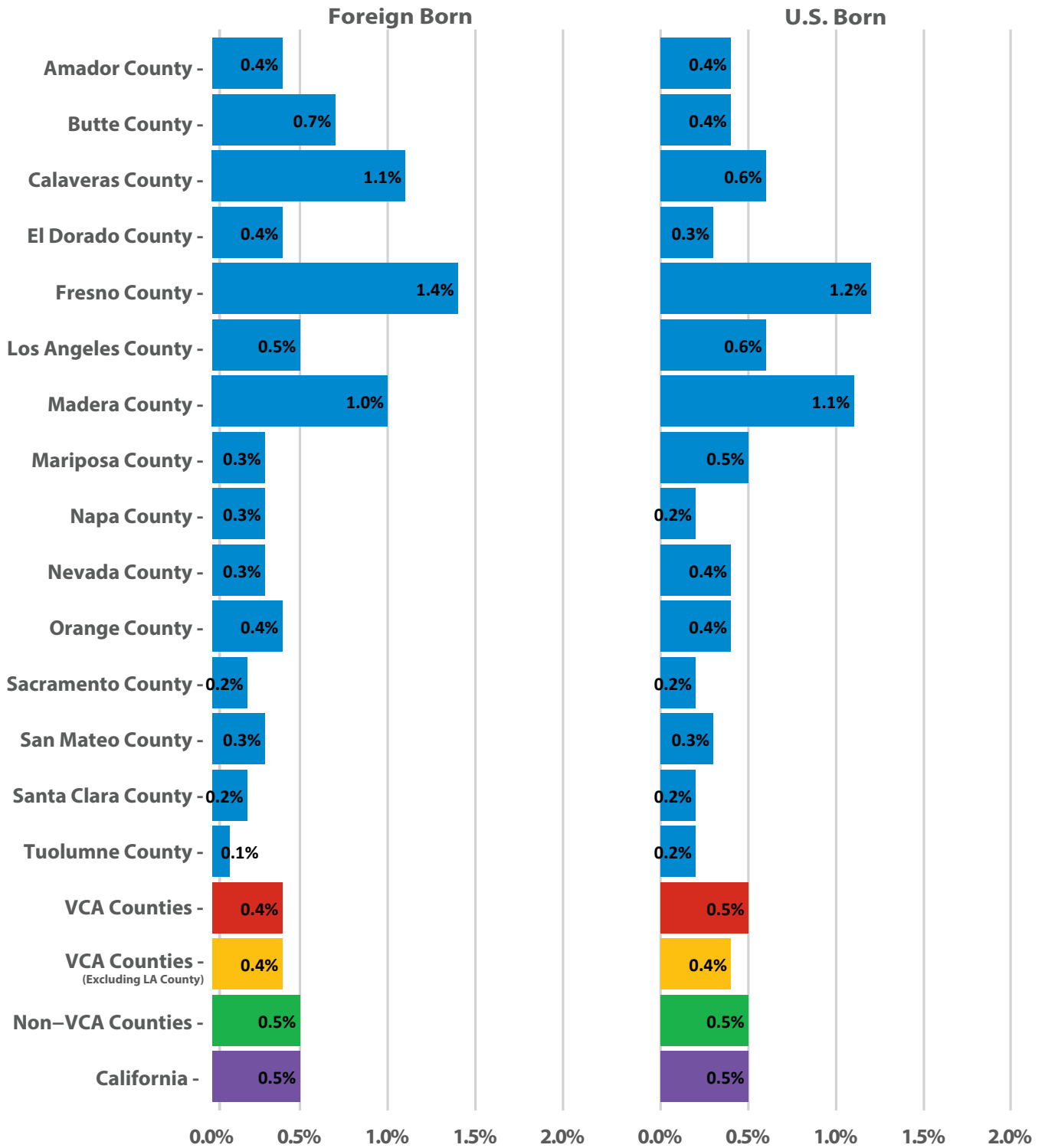
Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rate - Gender Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

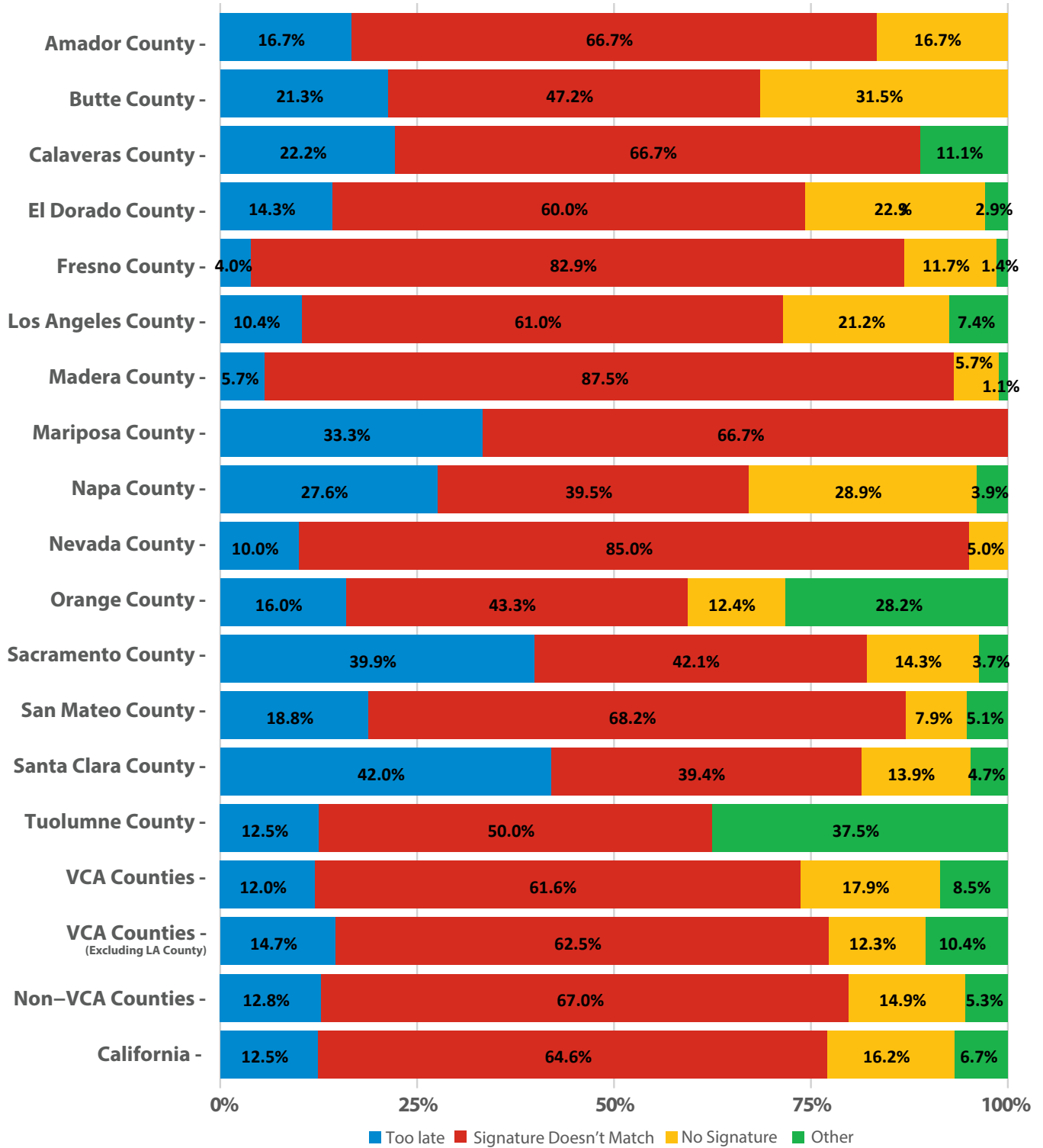
*Men and women identified using first name databases commonly use by researchers to identify gender. Data sources that provide non-binary and other gender identities are not available.

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rate - Nativity Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



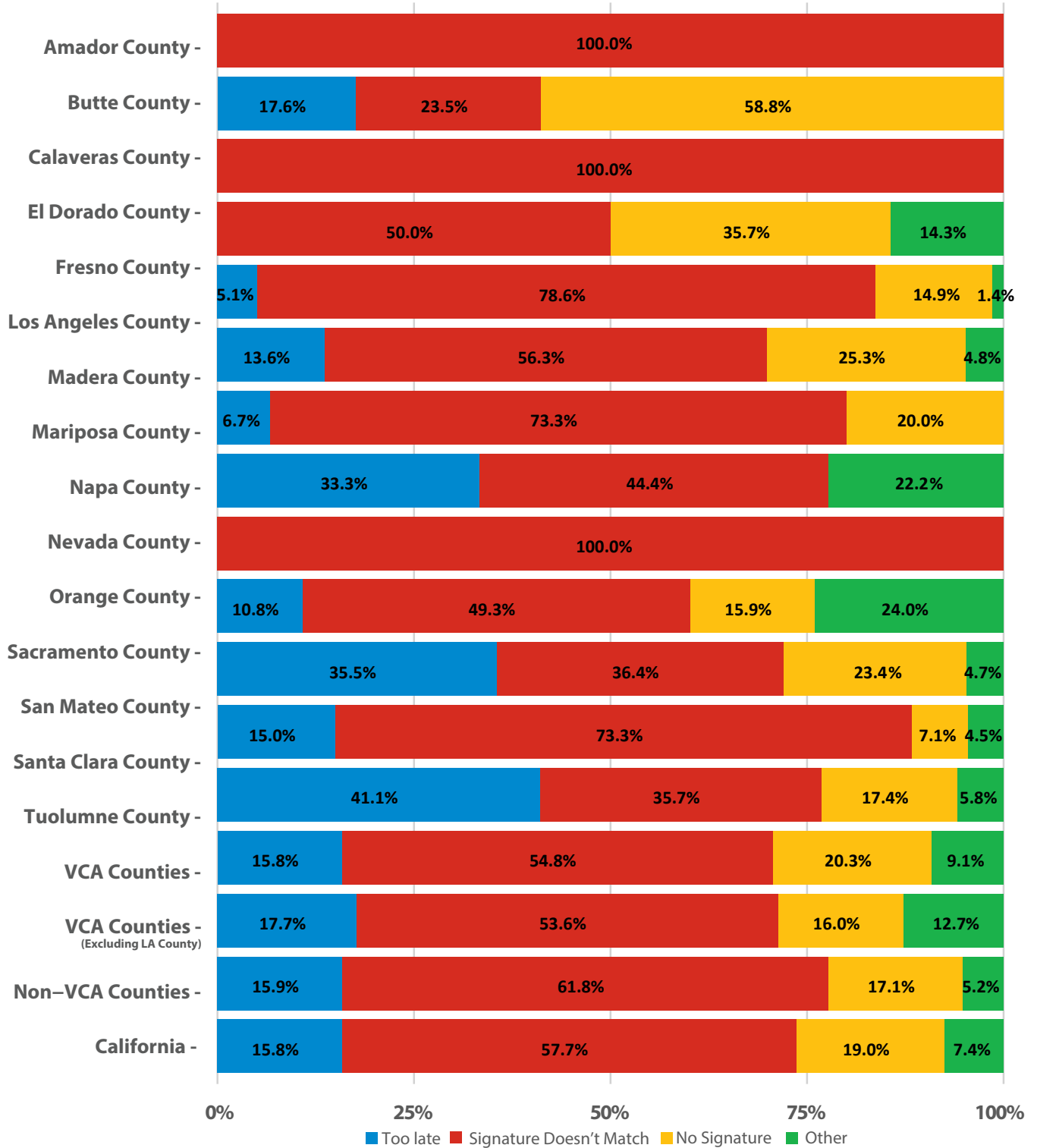
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Reasons - Latino Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Reasons - Asian American Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

* Amador County had 2 Asian-American voters with rejected VBM ballots

** Nevada County had 4 Asian-American voters with rejected VBM ballots

Vote-By-Mail Rejection Reasons by Race and Ethnicity: 2020 General Election					
Voter's Choice Act Counties: Black Voters					
County	No Signature	Signature Doesn't Match	Too Late	Other	White and No Ethnicity Identified*
Amador County	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1%
Butte County	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%	0.0%	0.7%
Calaveras County	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
El Dorado County	0.0%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	0.4%
Fresno County	14.7%	70.5%	12.6%	2.1%	0.6%
Los Angeles County	28.2%	50.8%	14.6%	6.3%	1.3%
Madera County	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Mariposa County	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1%
Napa County	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Nevada County	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Orange County	20.0%	40.0%	5.0%	35.0%	0.9%
Sacramento County	19.2%	34.6%	42.3%	3.8%	1.2%
San Mateo County	16.7%	58.3%	25.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Santa Clara County	21.1%	15.8%	57.9%	5.3%	0.6%
Tuolumne County	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.5%
VCA Counties	26.8%	51.0%	15.9%	6.3%	1.0%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	16.5%	52.4%	25.0%	6.1%	0.8%
Non-VCA Counties	20.3%	50.3%	24.6%	4.8%	0.7%
California	24.5%	50.7%	19.0%	5.8%	0.8%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Note: These data Identifying white and Black voters in the California voter file are not reliable for research purposes. Exercise strong caution when reviewing this data table.

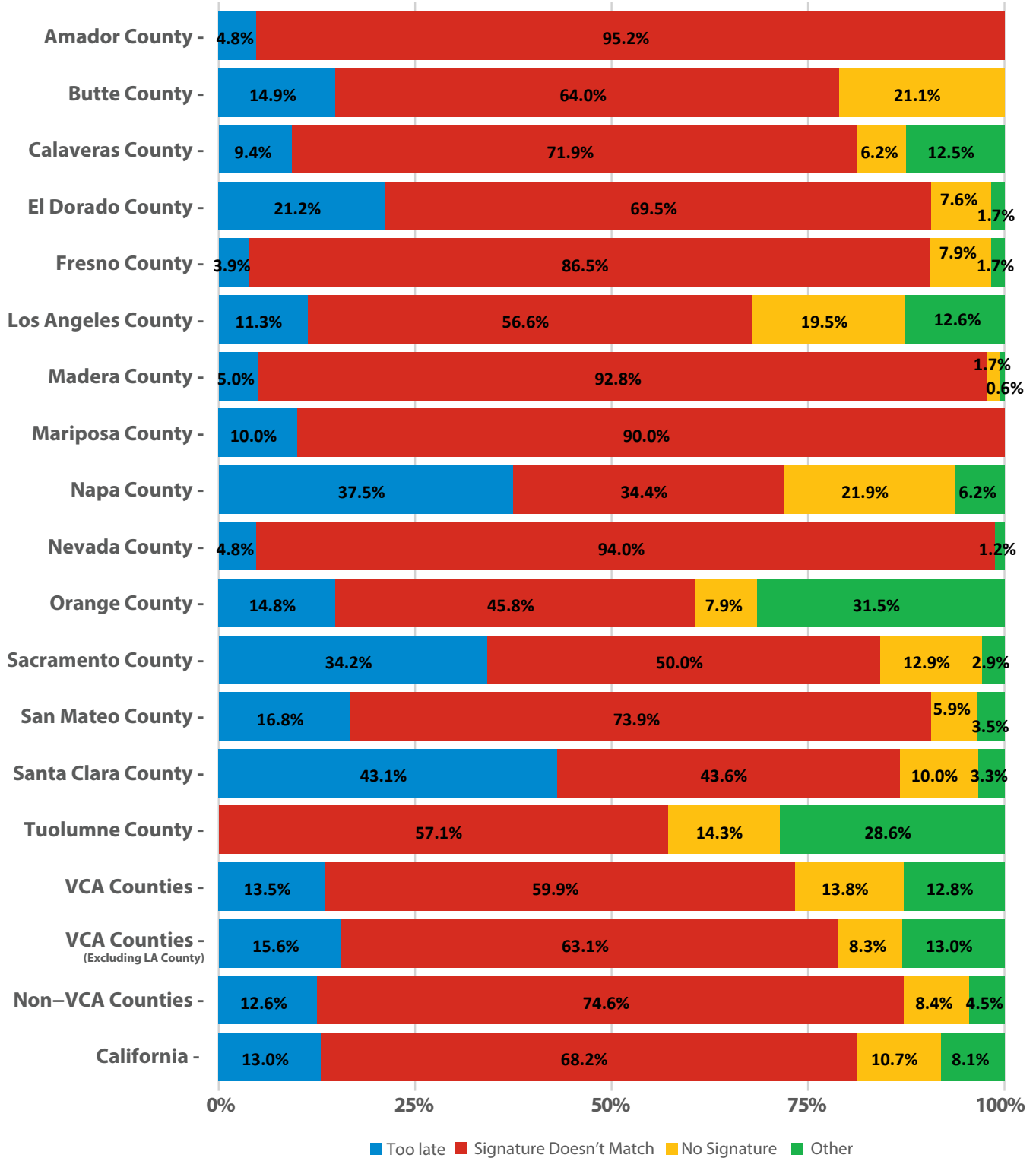
Vote-By-Mail Rejection Reasons by Race and Ethnicity: 2020 General Election				
Voter's Choice Act Counties: White and Ethnicity Not Identified Voters				
County	No Signature	Signature Doesn't Match	Too Late	Other
Amador County	17.2%	60.9%	20.3%	1.6%
Butte County	36.7%	43.0%	19.4%	0.9%
Calaveras County	7.5%	61.2%	9.0%	22.4%
El Dorado County	25.1%	45.3%	26.5%	3.1%
Fresno County	14.0%	77.1%	7.2%	1.8%
Los Angeles County	21.7%	55.5%	16.9%	5.9%
Madera County	9.2%	81.6%	9.2%	0.0%
Mariposa County	10.9%	69.6%	17.4%	2.2%
Napa County	18.2%	33.3%	41.4%	7.1%
Nevada County	5.0%	84.9%	5.9%	4.1%
Orange County	12.6%	41.0%	22.2%	24.1%
Sacramento County	17.7%	37.6%	37.8%	6.9%
San Mateo County	10.6%	62.2%	22.5%	4.7%
Santa Clara County	13.4%	25.1%	52.5%	9.1%
Tuolumne County	43.6%	41.0%	2.6%	12.8%
VCA Counties	17.9%	53.6%	19.9%	8.5%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	14.8%	52.1%	22.4%	10.7%
Non-VCA Counties	17.0%	57.9%	18.3%	6.7%
California	17.4%	56.2%	19.0%	7.4%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

*PDI combines voters identified as white (non-Latino) and voters with no identified ethnicity in the same category.

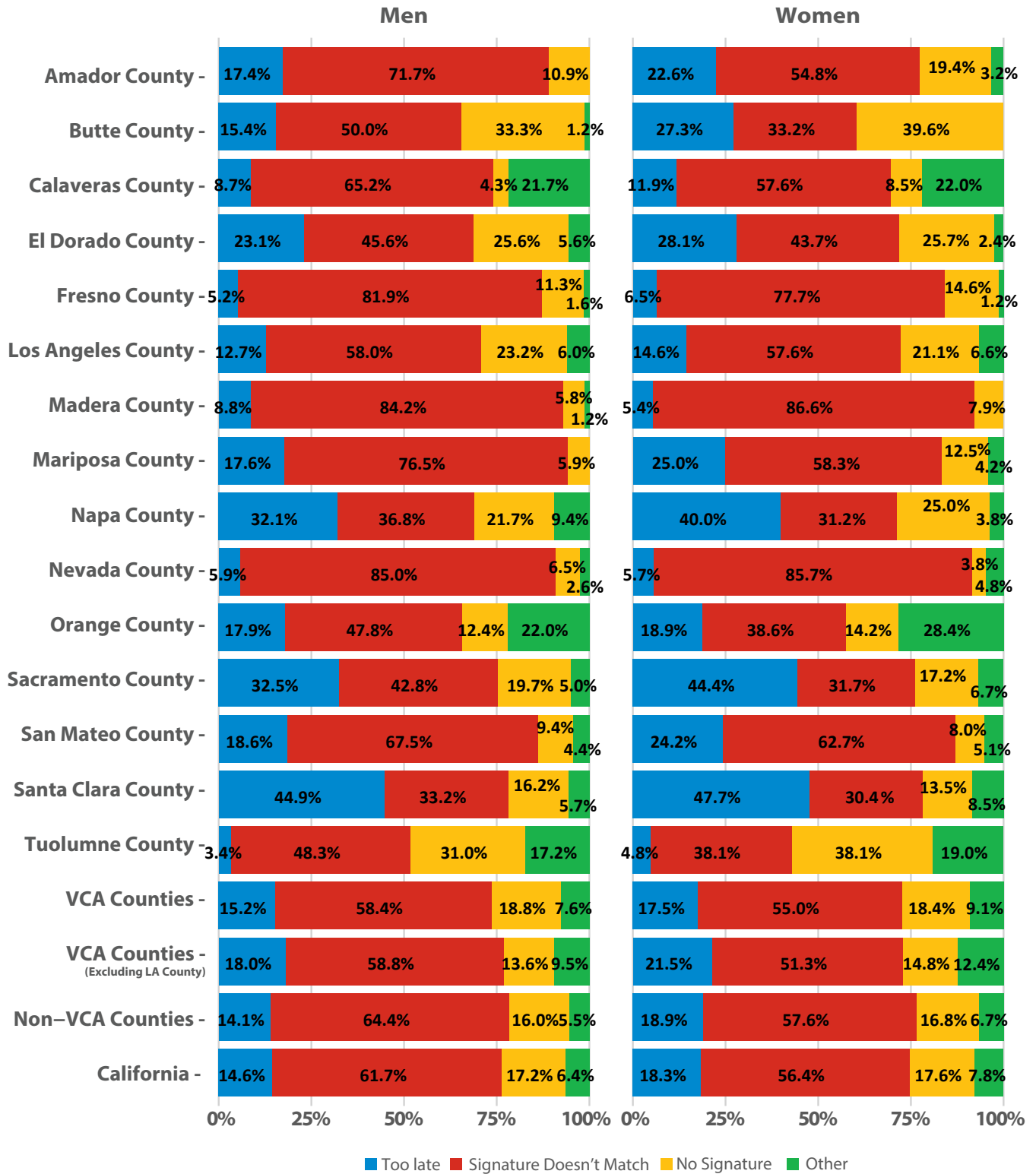
Note: These data Identifying white and Black voters in the California voter file are not reliable for research purposes. Exercise strong caution when reviewing this data table.

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Reasons - Youth (age 18 to 24) Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

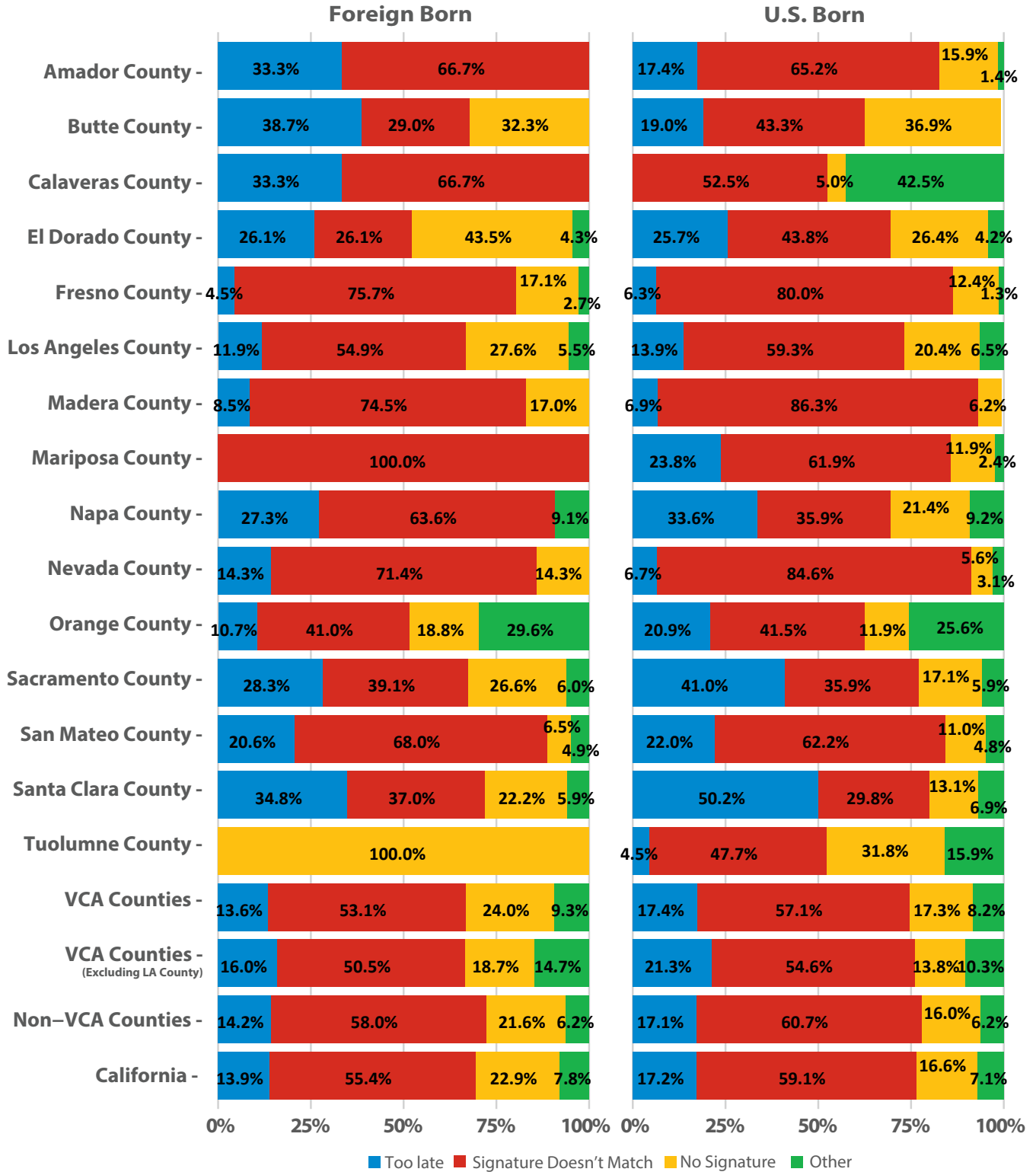
Vote-by-Mail Rejection Reasons - Gender Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



*Men and women identified using first name databases commonly use by researchers to identify gender. Data sources that provide non-binary and other gender identities are not available.

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Reasons - Nativity Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election

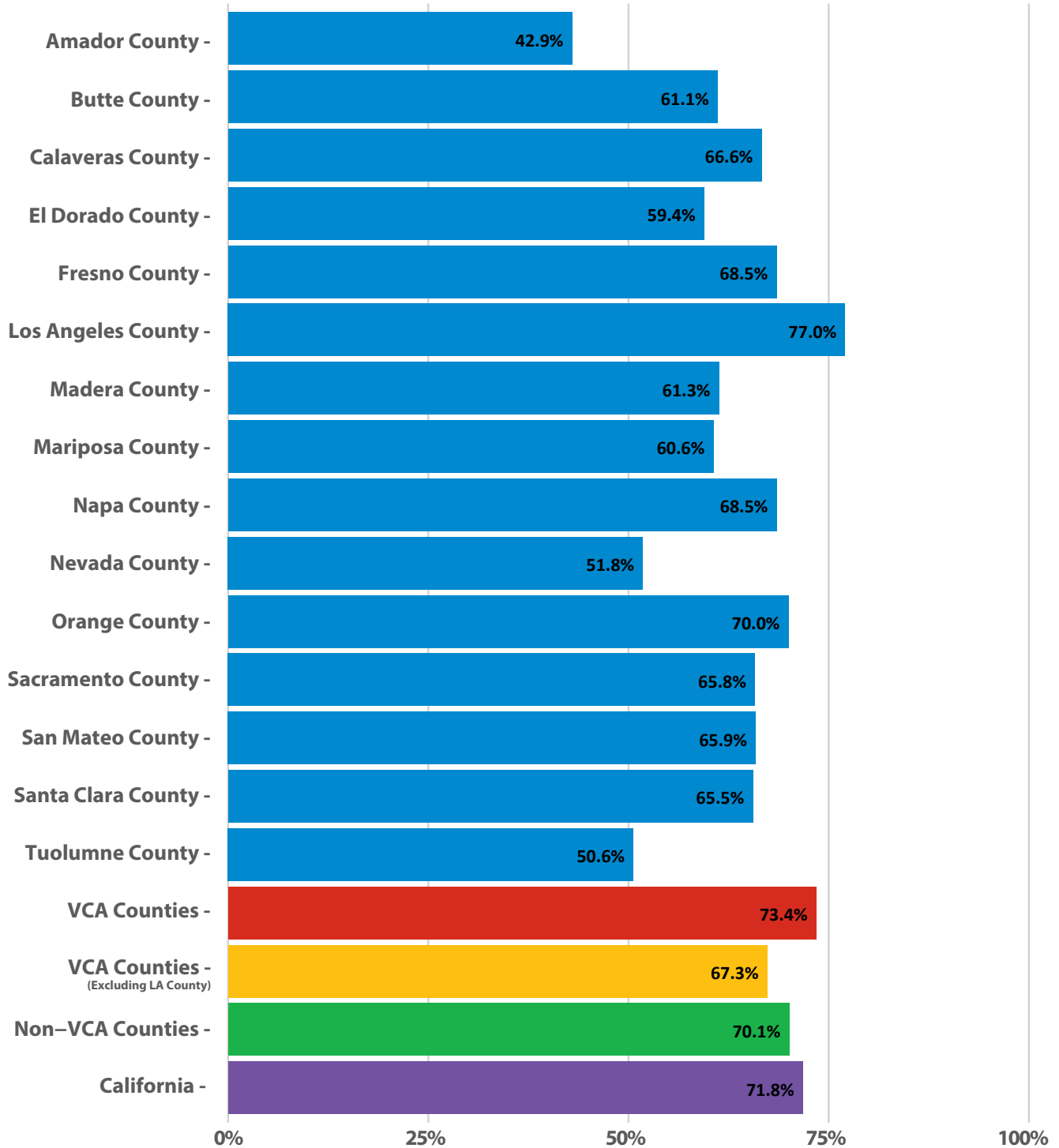


Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File
 *Mariposa and Tuolumne Counties had 1 rejected VBM ballot from a foreign born voter

Appendix C: Voter Registration and Turnout

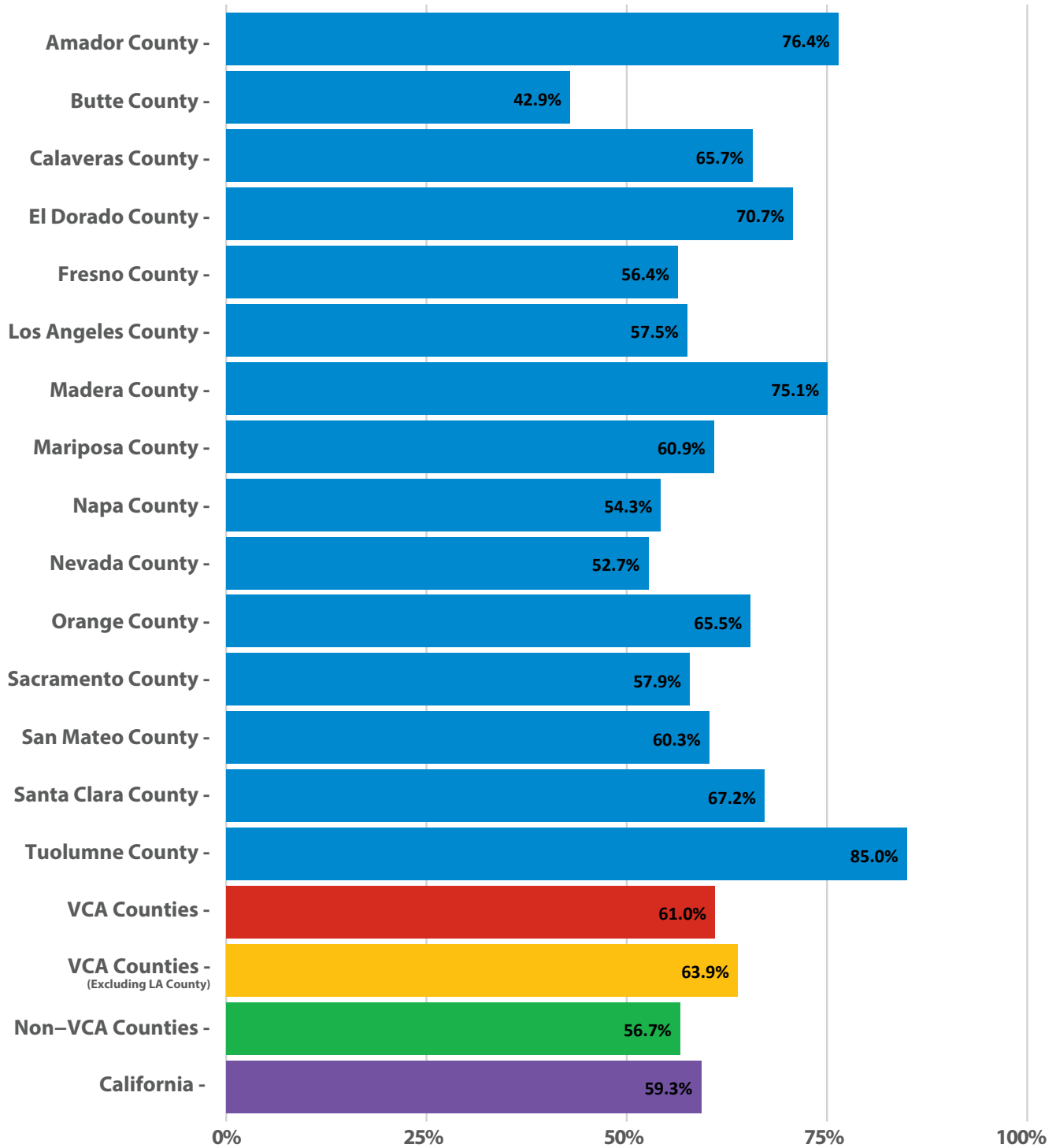
Registration Rates: 2004-2020 General Elections California Counties									
	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
Alameda	77.7%	70.6%	81.3%	76.1%	80.7%	78.5%	83.1%	80.9%	88.5%
Alpine	85.7%	83.3%	90.6%	82.1%	89.0%	87.0%	75.9%	80.7%	94.0%
Amador	81.1%	77.2%	82.9%	81.8%	78.5%	78.2%	81.4%	82.3%	94.1%
Butte	79.9%	73.5%	76.9%	72.2%	73.5%	70.0%	76.5%	71.5%	82.5%
Calaveras	81.9%	76.9%	80.4%	82.4%	81.3%	76.3%	81.9%	82.0%	87.2%
Colusa	73.3%	69.2%	66.0%	65.2%	62.8%	61.8%	69.1%	70.0%	79.2%
Contra Costa	75.8%	71.3%	75.4%	75.0%	79.1%	73.4%	81.7%	81.8%	92.7%
Del Norte	76.0%	69.0%	71.2%	68.6%	68.6%	69.9%	79.6%	78.4%	86.6%
El Dorado	88.1%	80.2%	87.0%	83.5%	82.4%	78.8%	84.9%	85.8%	93.2%
Fresno	70.8%	64.1%	71.5%	71.4%	73.3%	72.8%	75.0%	76.5%	82.0%
Glenn	71.4%	68.8%	70.7%	69.5%	69.5%	65.9%	69.5%	68.7%	74.2%
Humboldt	87.0%	78.6%	79.6%	77.8%	76.6%	72.6%	78.8%	74.4%	82.5%
Imperial	69.6%	62.6%	65.0%	58.5%	65.7%	62.2%	72.2%	68.9%	84.9%
Inyo	80.3%	81.1%	78.8%	72.3%	73.3%	69.5%	73.8%	73.3%	80.4%
Kern	69.9%	63.8%	65.8%	64.3%	68.5%	66.7%	73.4%	72.5%	79.7%
Kings	72.6%	62.1%	63.4%	60.6%	61.1%	62.3%	64.8%	65.4%	72.7%
Lake	71.9%	67.4%	75.2%	69.9%	74.1%	68.3%	71.6%	66.0%	77.1%
Lassen	90.5%	86.9%	81.2%	79.2%	75.7%	75.1%	87.6%	86.5%	90.6%
Los Angeles	70.2%	68.6%	74.4%	76.4%	79.6%	80.3%	84.4%	84.8%	94.8%
Madera	67.0%	62.9%	65.3%	64.7%	61.9%	61.1%	66.6%	63.9%	75.3%
Marin	87.6%	82.8%	85.9%	82.8%	87.8%	84.2%	88.7%	88.5%	97.3%
Mariposa	81.7%	79.3%	81.5%	80.7%	74.7%	68.7%	73.4%	72.7%	80.0%
Mendocino	82.2%	76.9%	81.4%	78.1%	79.1%	73.8%	80.1%	76.7%	85.2%
Merced	77.4%	68.9%	69.2%	67.8%	67.2%	63.1%	64.0%	60.6%	72.4%
Modoc	79.9%	79.4%	79.8%	78.2%	73.4%	74.9%	70.0%	69.2%	73.2%
Mono	73.7%	67.6%	70.0%	66.1%	60.3%	60.3%	68.7%	69.1%	84.8%
Monterey	68.2%	63.6%	67.8%	67.2%	71.6%	70.3%	76.6%	76.5%	84.6%
Napa	78.5%	73.4%	77.9%	75.2%	79.7%	77.0%	82.0%	84.6%	93.5%
Nevada	89.9%	83.7%	85.5%	82.8%	82.5%	80.4%	88.9%	87.7%	95.7%
Orange	82.7%	81.8%	86.4%	85.8%	87.4%	72.5%	76.4%	76.9%	88.6%
Placer	86.8%	77.9%	83.1%	81.7%	83.1%	77.2%	85.7%	84.9%	94.2%
Plumas	88.2%	78.3%	86.4%	84.5%	83.7%	77.3%	74.7%	78.3%	92.6%
Riverside	70.2%	62.6%	65.2%	65.7%	69.4%	63.9%	70.9%	69.9%	83.2%
Sacramento	74.2%	68.9%	73.5%	72.1%	74.0%	71.1%	78.1%	75.6%	86.0%
San Benito	77.6%	72.0%	73.9%	73.1%	79.3%	70.1%	83.0%	87.8%	93.8%
San Bernardino	64.0%	62.8%	67.5%	65.3%	67.6%	66.9%	67.9%	70.5%	82.8%
San Diego	77.0%	69.4%	72.5%	68.7%	74.6%	72.4%	75.4%	78.3%	88.1%
San Francisco	85.2%	72.4%	79.6%	74.4%	82.9%	69.4%	79.3%	75.7%	78.0%
San Joaquin	72.5%	67.0%	65.1%	64.9%	69.8%	69.4%	75.5%	75.2%	78.5%
San Luis Obispo	87.6%	82.4%	83.2%	79.7%	78.8%	74.1%	80.9%	82.5%	89.1%
San Mateo	80.3%	75.0%	81.3%	70.9%	75.4%	72.5%	78.6%	78.7%	87.8%
Santa Barbara	79.5%	67.6%	73.8%	70.8%	73.8%	70.1%	76.9%	73.9%	80.6%
Santa Clara	82.9%	69.9%	70.6%	68.4%	72.9%	69.6%	73.3%	73.3%	84.5%
Santa Cruz	84.1%	81.1%	83.0%	81.2%	86.6%	75.8%	82.6%	84.0%	92.3%
Shasta	74.2%	68.1%	73.6%	72.5%	74.9%	72.4%	76.1%	75.9%	83.2%
Sierra	91.4%	84.6%	92.3%	92.7%	91.3%	89.1%	86.3%	83.5%	86.7%
Siskiyou	82.4%	73.5%	78.5%	76.5%	75.1%	70.6%	79.8%	79.9%	85.1%
Solano	73.2%	60.5%	69.6%	71.4%	76.4%	70.4%	77.8%	78.7%	88.0%
Sonoma	76.9%	71.5%	74.6%	73.1%	76.7%	71.5%	78.0%	78.6%	88.4%
Stanislaus	71.8%	65.4%	71.3%	70.6%	72.1%	65.6%	71.6%	71.7%	80.7%
Sutter	79.0%	67.9%	69.1%	64.2%	71.2%	69.6%	75.2%	76.0%	84.6%
Tehama	74.9%	69.4%	72.8%	71.9%	72.0%	69.0%	74.4%	75.9%	82.7%
Trinity	78.0%	73.3%	78.7%	71.8%	70.9%	65.0%	71.4%	67.7%	73.4%
Tulare	64.2%	57.6%	60.5%	60.2%	57.6%	53.7%	59.0%	63.6%	74.5%
Tuolumne	86.9%	81.3%	87.7%	82.9%	80.9%	73.8%	76.2%	77.9%	82.2%
Ventura	78.7%	76.1%	81.4%	79.7%	79.9%	79.9%	80.4%	81.4%	93.2%
Yolo	78.2%	72.9%	81.4%	77.3%	74.2%	71.7%	75.6%	75.0%	79.0%
Yuba	68.3%	59.5%	65.6%	62.3%	64.0%	56.2%	69.8%	69.8%	76.5%
California	68.9%	69.9%	74.6%	73.4%	76.7%	73.3%	78.0%	78.2%	87.9%

Registration Rate - Latino Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



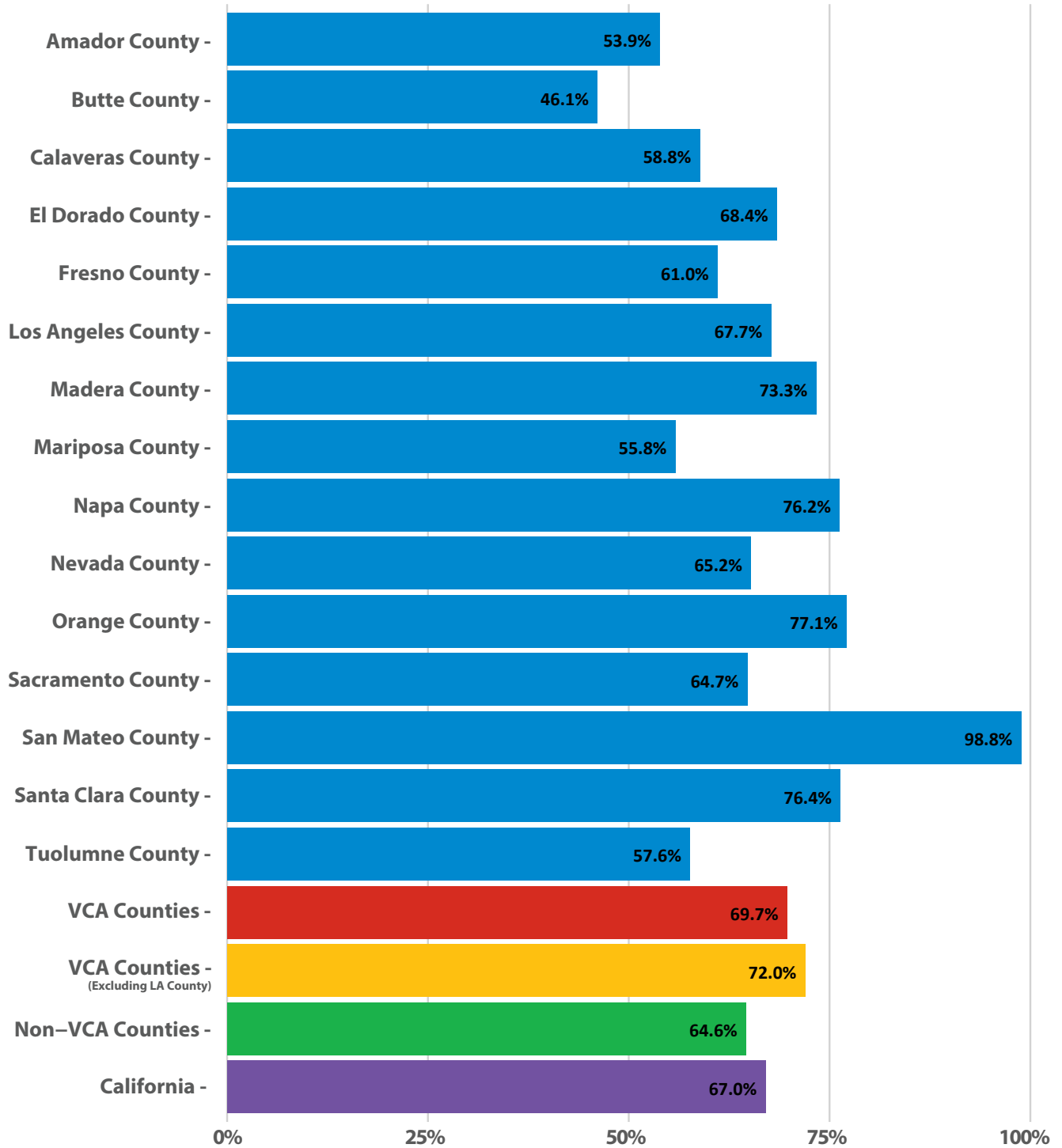
*Registration rates defined as the percent of adult citizens who are registered to vote
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File, California Department of Finance

Registration Rate - Asian American Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



*Registration rates defined as the percent of adult citizens who are registered to vote
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File, California Department of Finance

Registration Rate - Youth (age 18 to 24) Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election

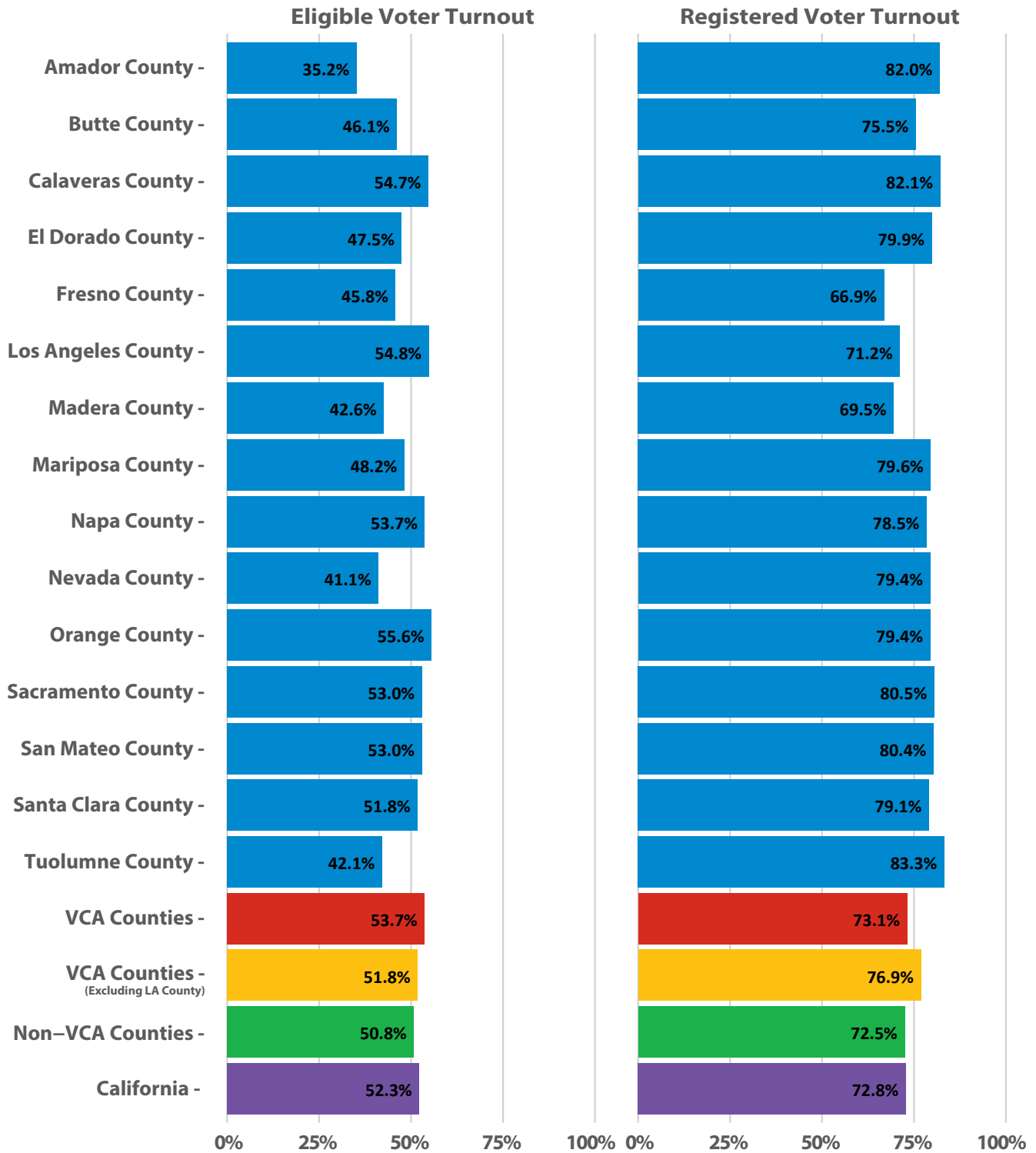


*Registration rates defined as the percent of adult citizens who are registered to vote
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File, California Department of Finance

Voter Turnout: 2016 and 2020 General Elections							
VCA Counties	2016 Registered Turnout	2020 Registered Turnout	2016 Eligible Turnout	2020 Eligible Turnout	2020 Registered Voters	2020 Eligible Voters	2020 Actual Voters
Amador	81.59%	88.34%	66.38%	83.13%	25,605	27,210	22,620
Butte	76.49%	83.05%	58.49%	68.52%	124,793	151,237	103,635
Calaveras	81.12%	87.76%	66.42%	76.56%	31,364	35,949	27,524
El Dorado	83.31%	87.15%	70.77%	81.21%	135,554	145,474	118,133
Fresno	66.73%	74.54%	50.05%	61.14%	496,482	605,256	370,068
Los Angeles	67.46%	74.63%	56.96%	70.78%	5,813,167	6,129,494	4,338,191
Madera	76.07%	80.10%	50.64%	60.31%	67,909	90,184	54,392
Mariposa	84.22%	87.35%	61.81%	69.90%	11,918	14,893	10,410
Napa	82.33%	86.36%	67.52%	80.76%	84,845	90,729	73,269
Nevada	82.52%	88.56%	73.34%	84.76%	74,299	77,628	65,800
Orange	80.71%	87.24%	61.69%	77.30%	1,772,700	2,000,842	1,546,570
Sacramento	74.49%	82.51%	58.21%	70.92%	884,247	1,028,719	729,569
San Mateo	81.66%	85.82%	64.17%	75.38%	442,988	504,398	380,193
Santa Clara	82.79%	84.76%	60.73%	71.64%	1,019,309	1,205,945	863,964
Tuolumne	84.08%	87.98%	64.05%	72.33%	35,042	42,620	30,829
VCA Counties	72.72%	79.26%	58.57%	71.89%	11,020,222	12,150,578	8,735,167
VCA Counties w/o LA	78.78%	84.44%	60.25%	73.03%	5,207,055	6,021,084	4,396,976
Non-VCA Counties	77.87%	79.50%	58.89%	70.21%	16,840,393	19,069,433	13,388,175
California	75.27%	80.67%	58.74%	70.88%	22,047,448	25,090,517	17,785,151

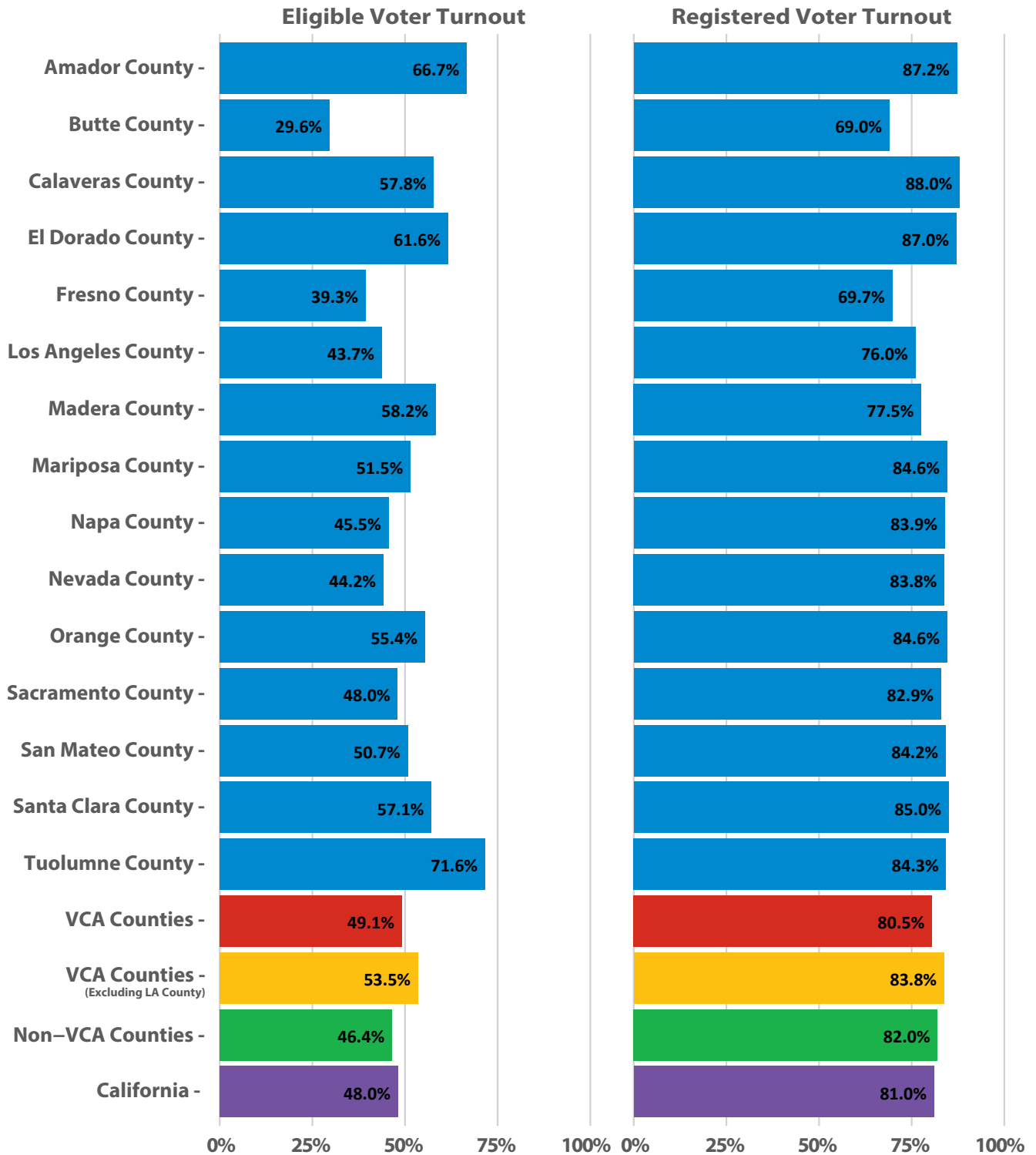
Data Source: California Secretary of State Statement of the Vote

Eligible and Registered Voter Turnout - Latino Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File, California Department of Finance

Eligible and Registered Voter Turnout - Asian American Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File, California Department of Finance

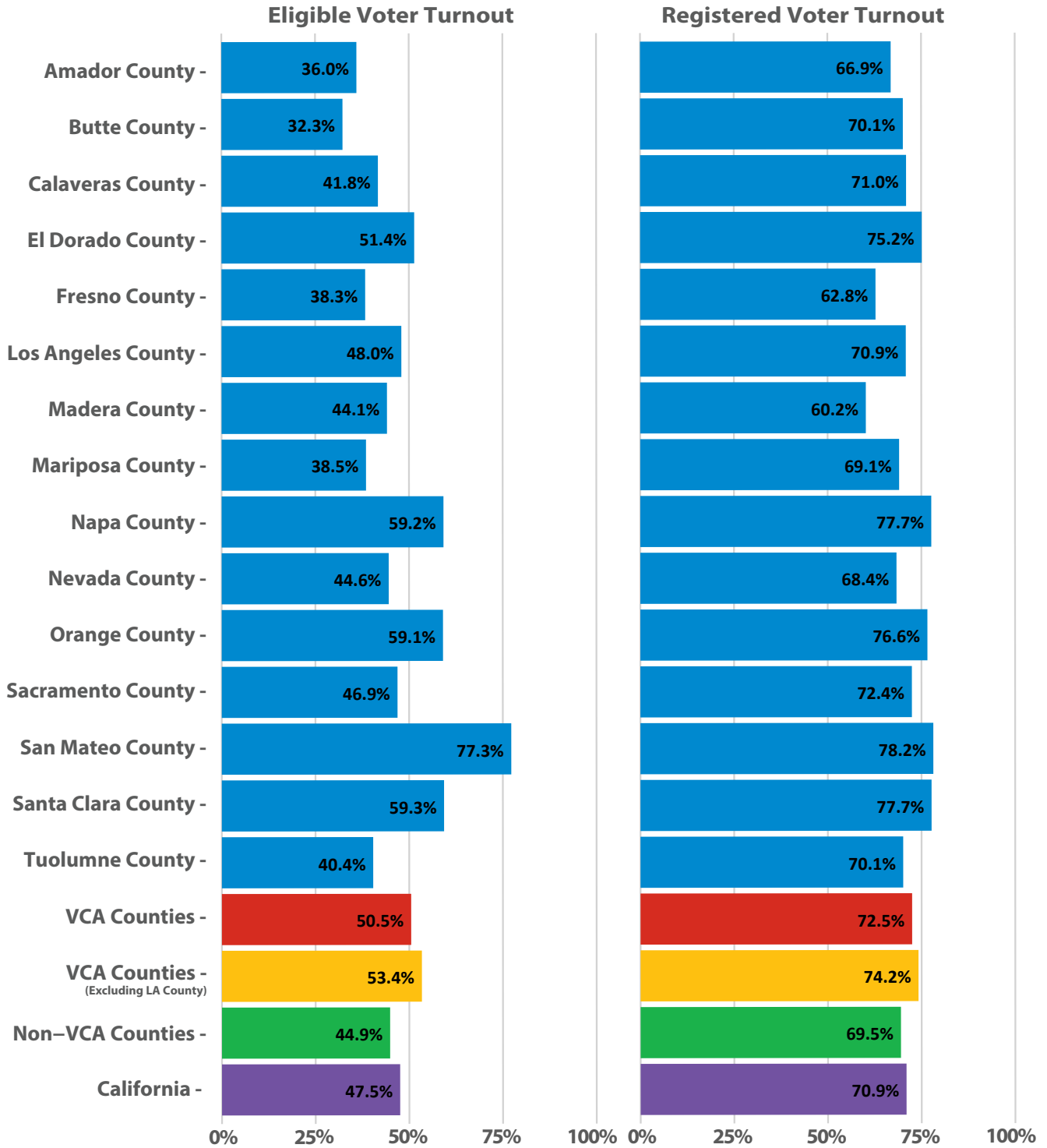
Registered Voter Turnout by Race and Ethnicity: 2020 General Election Voter's Choice Act Counties					
County	All	Black	Asian American	Latino	White and No Ethnicity Identified*
Amador County	87.9%	88.6%	87.2%	82.0%	88.3%
Butte County	83.0%	81.8%	69.0%	75.5%	84.3%
Calaveras County	86.7%	90.4%	88.0%	82.1%	87.0%
El Dorado County	86.6%	86.8%	87.0%	79.9%	87.0%
Fresno County	73.6%	66.0%	69.7%	66.9%	79.4%
Los Angeles County	74.6%	66.2%	76.0%	71.2%	78.4%
Madera County	79.2%	84.2%	77.5%	69.5%	85.5%
Mariposa County	87.3%	88.4%	84.6%	79.6%	88.1%
Napa County	86.1%	88.7%	83.9%	78.5%	88.2%
Nevada County	86.8%	86.3%	83.8%	79.4%	87.2%
Orange County	86.2%	89.5%	84.6%	79.4%	89.1%
Sacramento County	84.9%	83.3%	82.9%	80.5%	86.2%
San Mateo County	85.5%	81.5%	84.2%	80.4%	87.3%
Santa Clara County	85.3%	90.2%	85.0%	79.1%	87.4%
Tuolumne County	87.1%	88.8%	84.3%	83.3%	87.5%
VCA Counties	79.3%	68.6%	80.5%	73.1%	83.3%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	84.4%	83.8%	83.8%	76.9%	86.9%
Non-VCA Counties	81.0%	76.6%	82.0%	72.5%	84.3%
California	80.1%	71.4%	81.0%	72.8%	83.9%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

*PDI combines voters identified as white (non-Latino) and voters with no identified ethnicity in the same category.

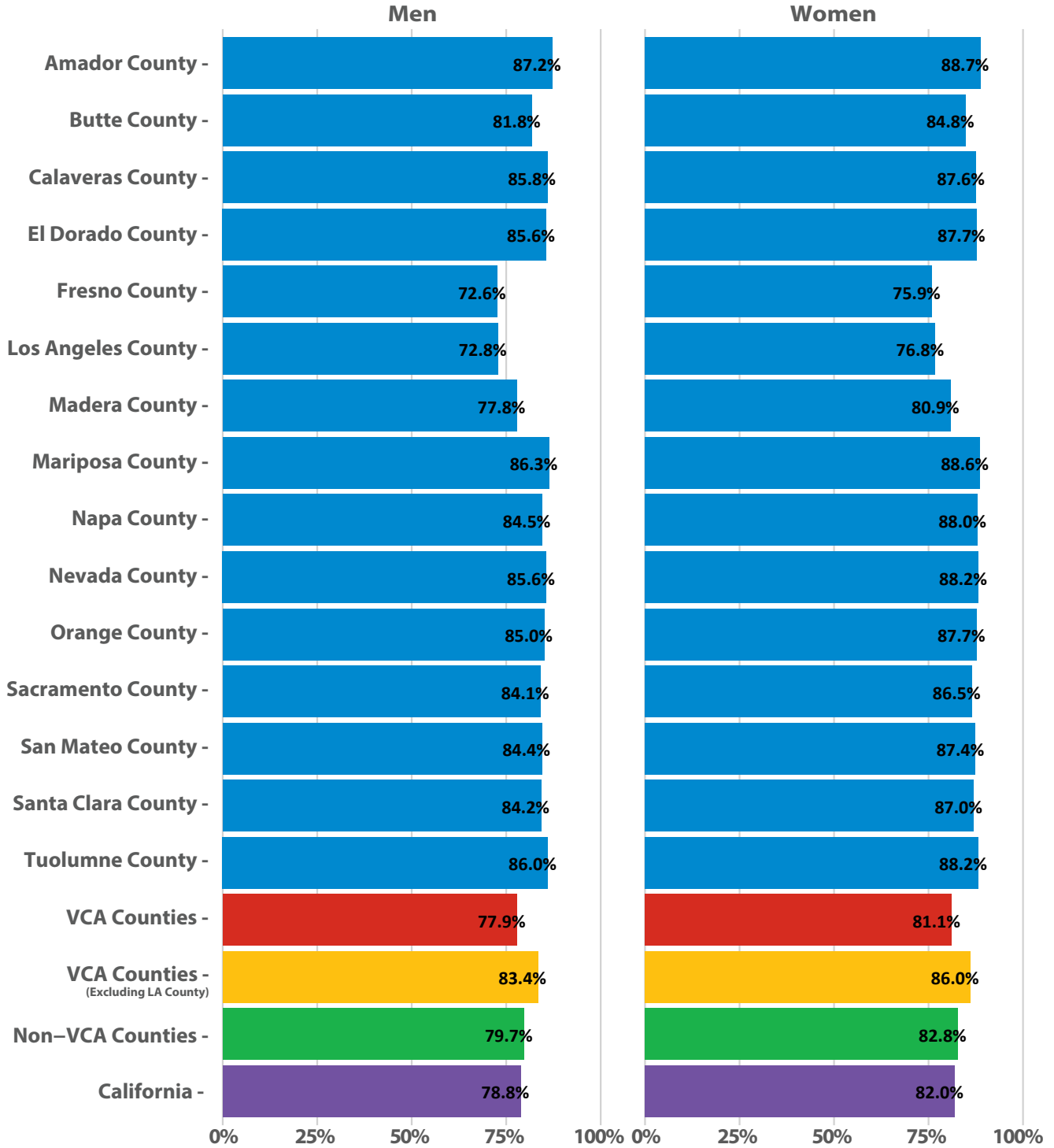
Note: These data Identifying white and Black voters in the California voter file are not reliable for research purposes. Exercise strong caution when reviewing this data table.

Eligible and Registered Voter Turnout - Youth (age 18 to 24) Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File, California Department of Finance

Registered Voter Turnout - Gender Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election

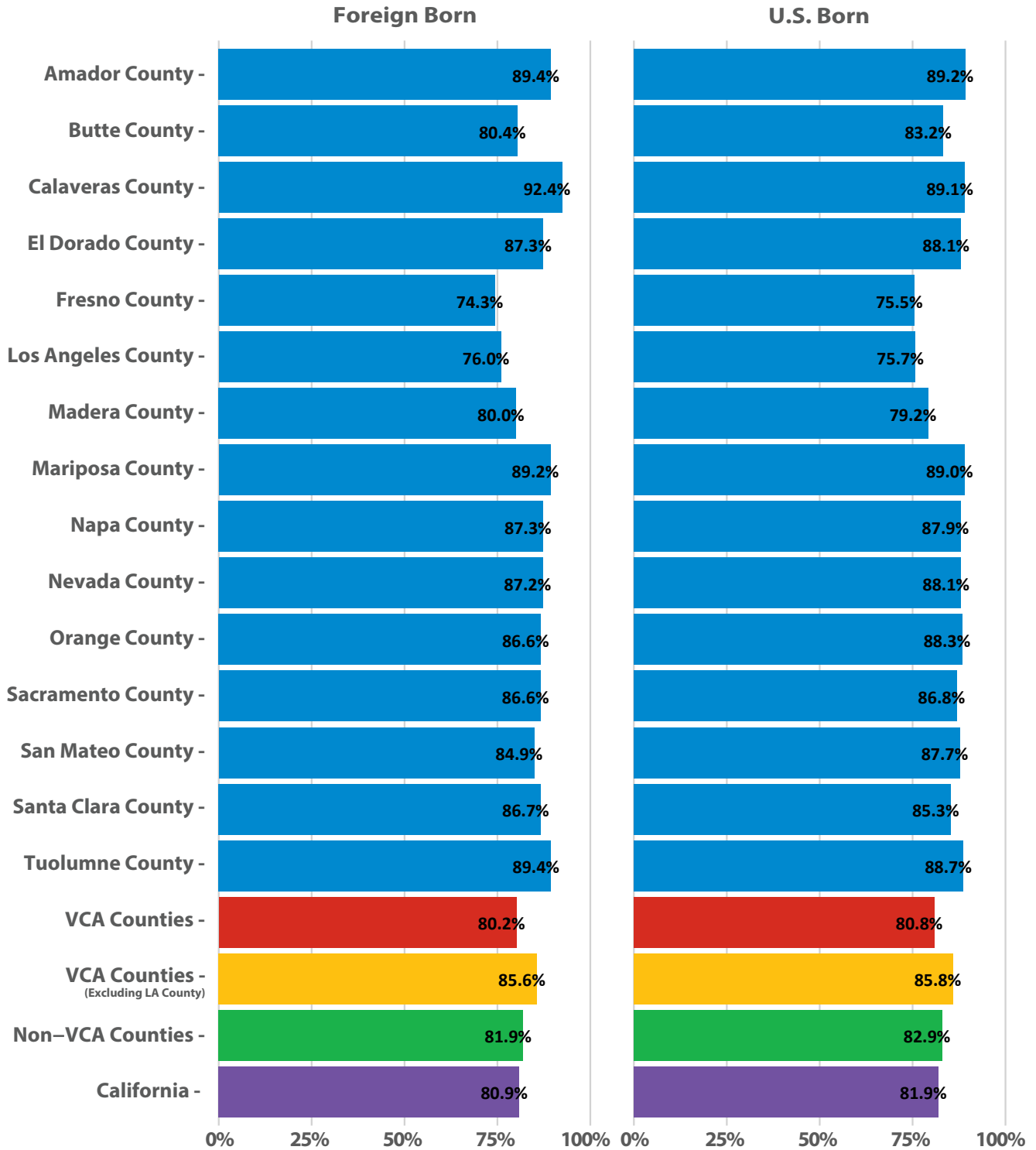


Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

*Men and women identified using first name databases commonly use by researchers to identify gender. Data sources that provide non-binary and other gender identities are not available.

Registered Voter Turnout - Nativity

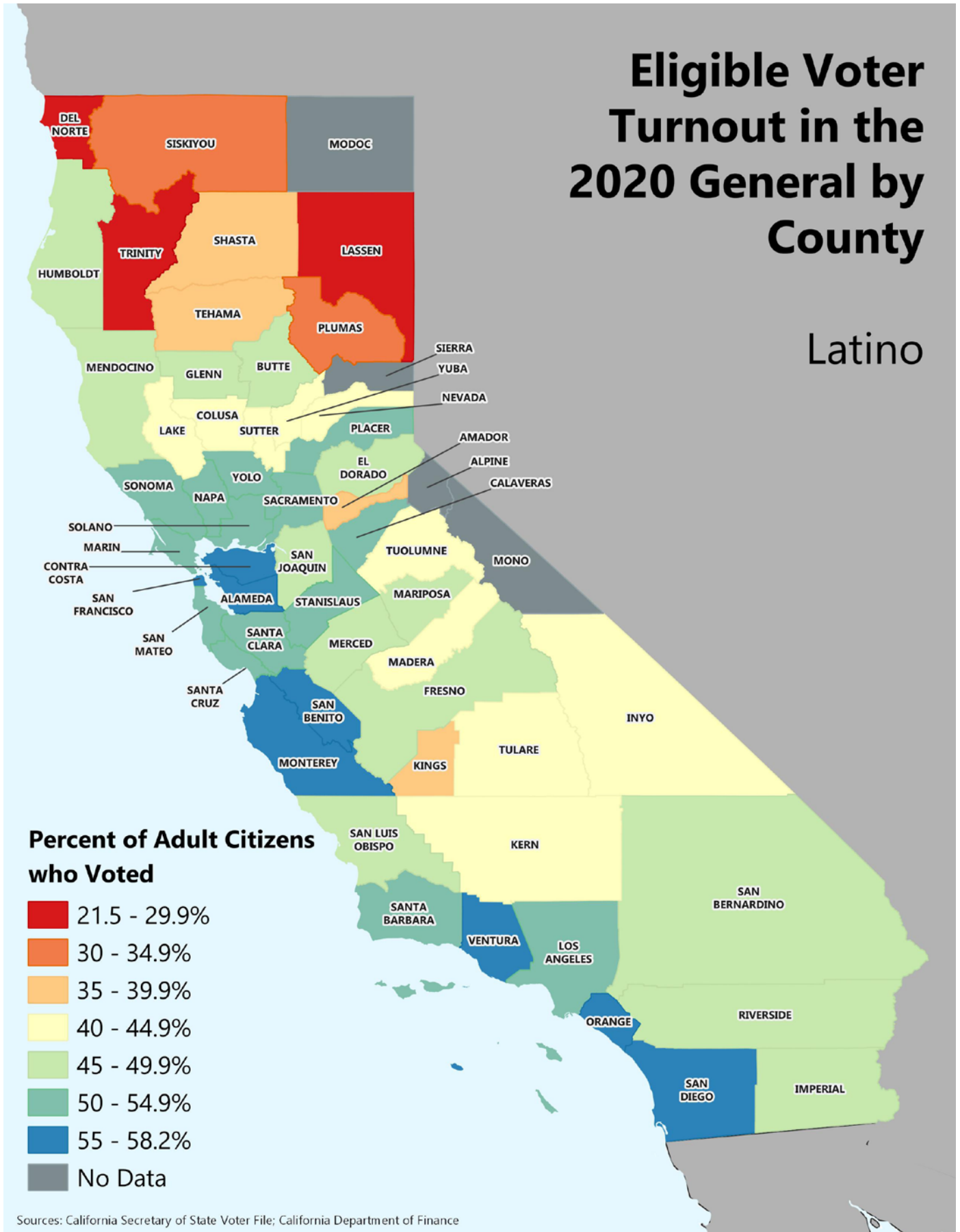
Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

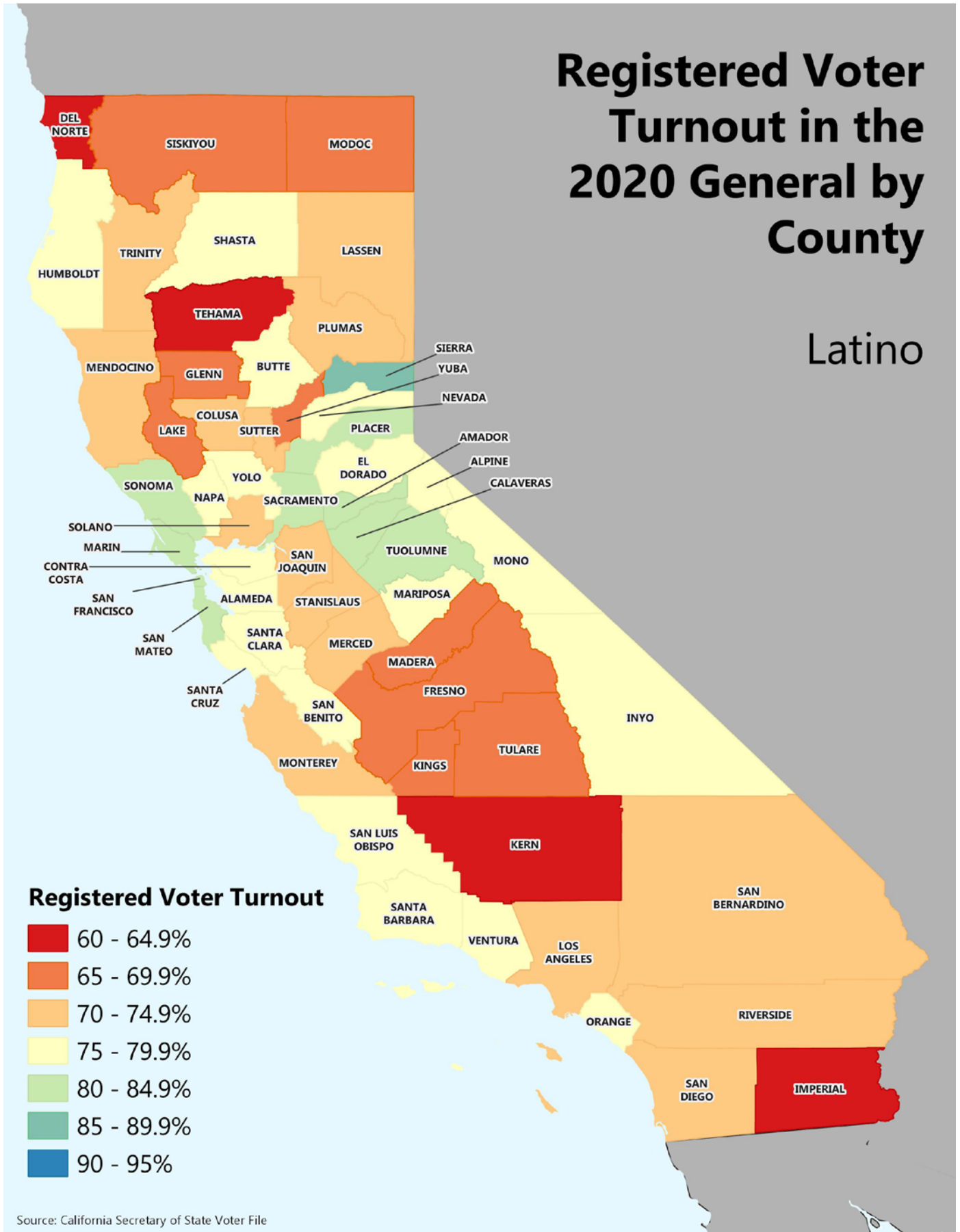
Eligible Voter Turnout in the 2020 General by County

Latino



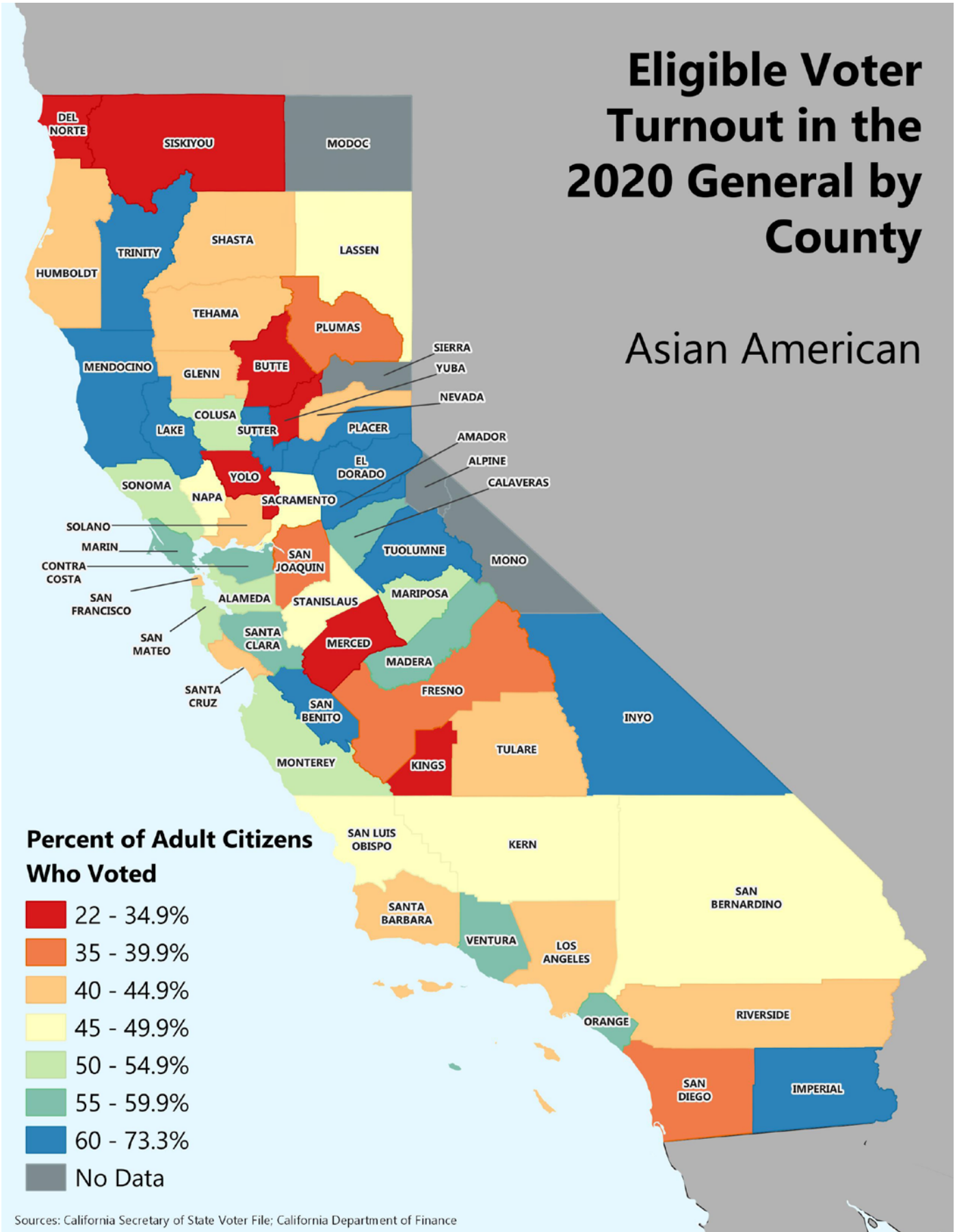
Registered Voter Turnout in the 2020 General by County

Latino



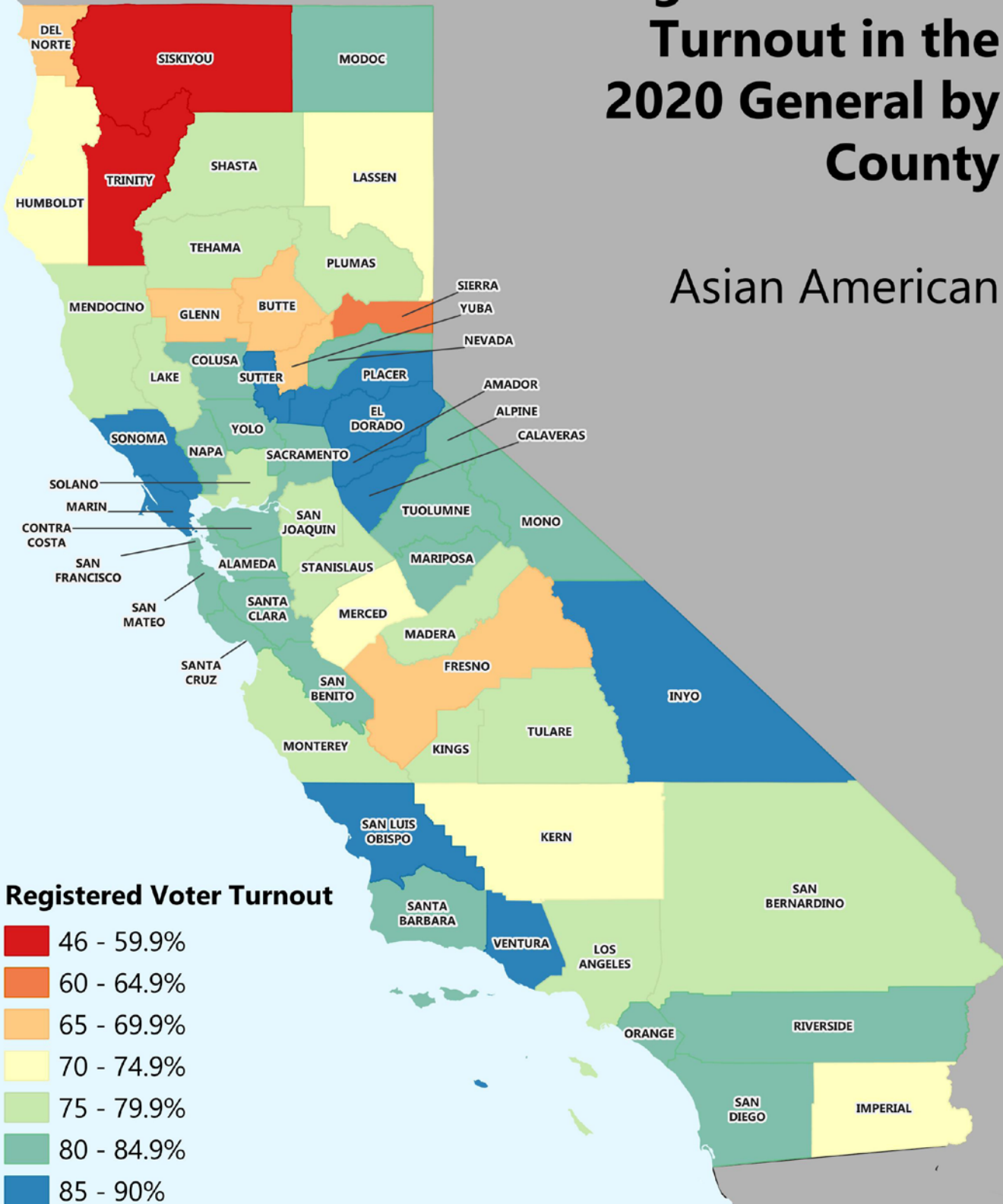
Eligible Voter Turnout in the 2020 General by County

Asian American



Registered Voter Turnout in the 2020 General by County

Asian American

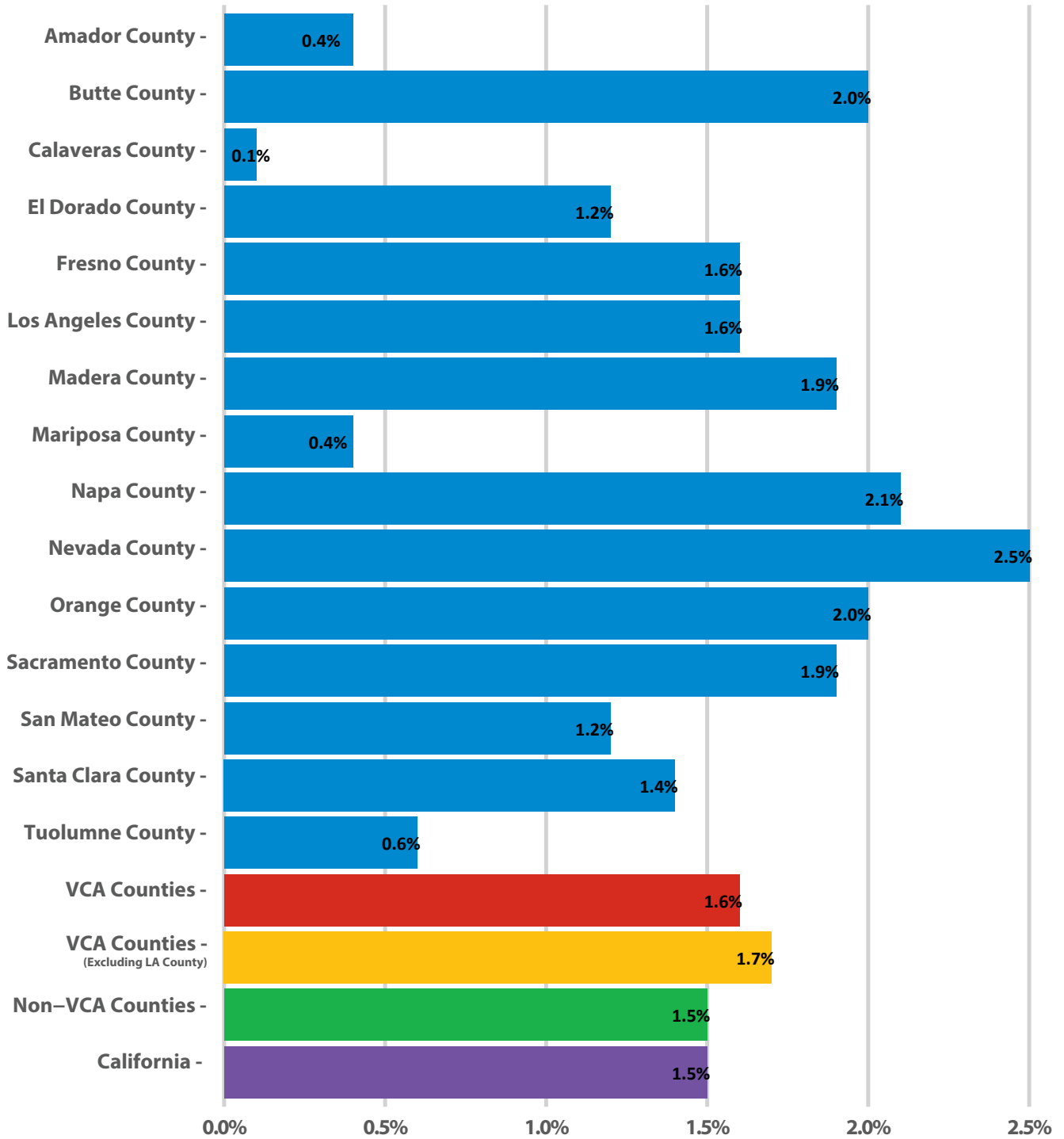


Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Appendix D: Conditional Voter Registration

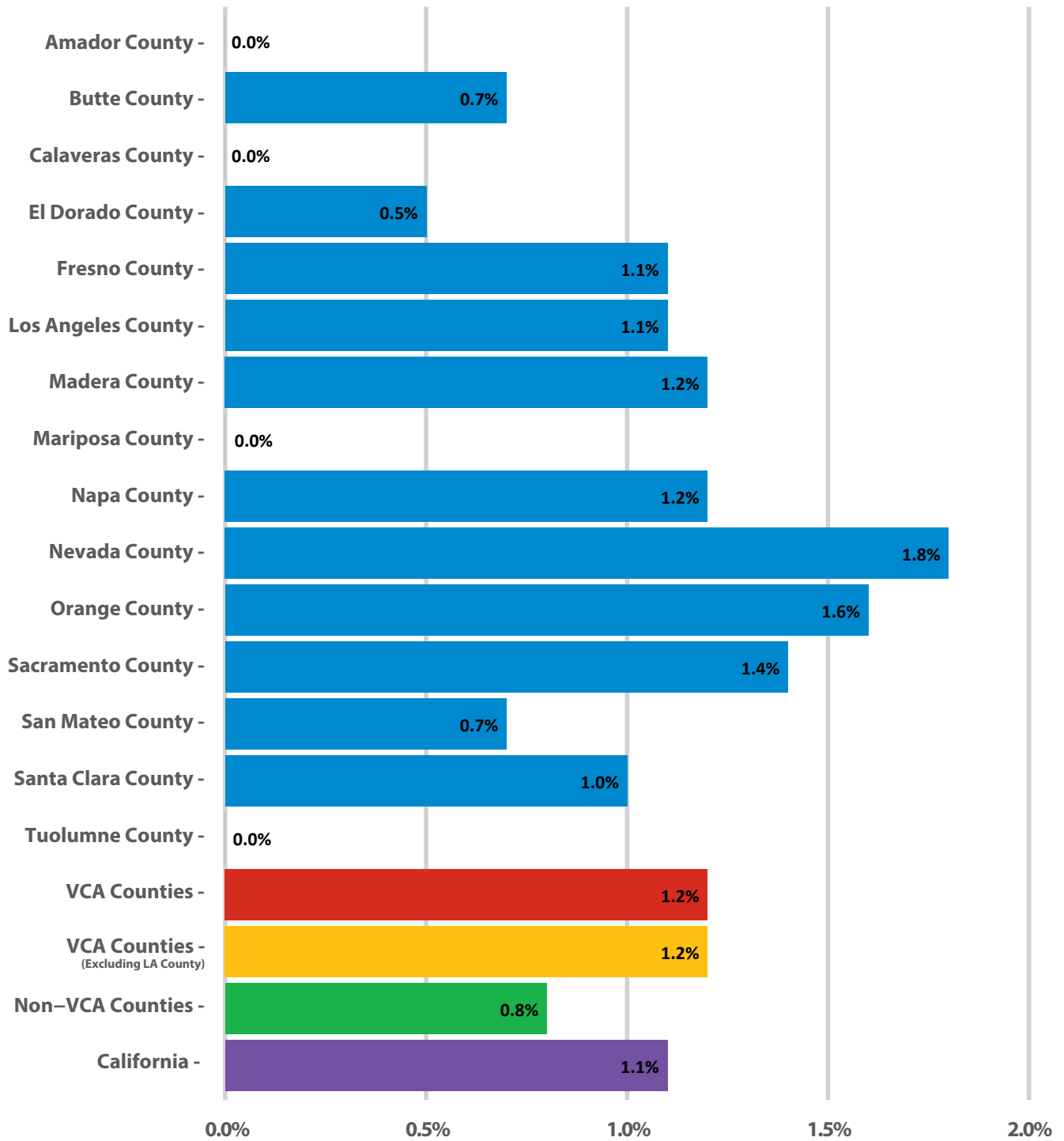
Conditional Voter Registration and Provisional Ballots Percent of Voters: 2020 General Election California Counties					
County	Conditional Voter Registration Counted	Provisional Ballots Counted	Total Votes Counted	% CVR of Votes	% Provisional Ballots of Votes
Alameda County	6,742	66	767,303	0.9%	0.0%
Alpine County	0	27	728	0.0%	3.7%
Amador County	25	0	22,176	0.1%	0.0%
Butte County	874	423	101,542	0.9%	0.4%
Calaveras County	24	1	26,862	0.1%	0.0%
Colusa County	82	105	7,864	1.0%	1.3%
Contra Costa County	2,691	590	574,428	0.5%	0.1%
Del Norte County	83	0	11,005	0.8%	0.0%
El Dorado County	571	24	115,388	0.5%	0.0%
Fresno County	3,572	32	362,058	1.0%	0.0%
Glenn County	112	0	11,200	1.0%	0.0%
Humboldt County	638	681	67,956	0.9%	1.0%
Imperial County	348	4,105	54,380	0.6%	7.5%
Inyo County	64	39	9,340	0.7%	0.4%
Kern County	2,451	19,246	292,550	0.8%	6.6%
Kings County	632	185	42,734	1.5%	0.4%
Lake County	142	2,336	28,340	0.5%	8.2%
Lassen County	48	26	11,905	0.4%	0.2%
Los Angeles County	54,632	2,753	4,150,848	1.3%	0.1%
Madera County	578	3	52,934	1.1%	0.0%
Marin County	545	366	154,076	0.4%	0.2%
Mariposa County	14	9	10,211	0.1%	0.1%
Mendocino County	173	1,256	42,960	0.4%	2.9%
Merced County	728	186	88,244	0.8%	0.2%
Modoc County	3	23	4,260	0.1%	0.5%
Mono County	43	20	6,606	0.7%	0.3%
Monterey County	1,385	6,767	162,258	0.9%	4.2%
Napa County	687	7	71,756	1.0%	0.0%
Nevada County	664	0	64,076	1.0%	0.0%
Orange County	19,057	270	1,515,991	1.3%	0.0%
Placer County	2,111	15	233,068	0.9%	0.0%
Plumas County	19	0	11,215	0.2%	0.0%
Riverside County	17,524	0	984,850	1.8%	0.0%
Sacramento County	9,238	3	717,283	1.3%	0.0%
San Benito County	20	6	28,367	0.1%	0.0%
San Bernardino County	10,928	691	822,767	1.3%	0.1%
San Diego County	11,994	2,160	1,575,604	0.8%	0.1%
San Francisco County	1,365	4,083	432,578	0.3%	0.9%
San Joaquin County	2,091	2,186	276,749	0.8%	0.8%
San Luis Obispo County	1,042	237	158,313	0.7%	0.1%
San Mateo County	2,417	0	371,968	0.6%	0.0%
Santa Barbara County	501	246	198,739	0.3%	0.1%
Santa Clara County	7,227	202	849,818	0.9%	0.0%
Santa Cruz County	1,086	32	144,012	0.8%	0.0%
Shasta County	910	856	91,794	1.0%	0.9%
Sierra County	1	0	1,926	0.1%	0.0%
Siskiyou County	201	23	22,907	0.9%	0.1%
Solano County	1,167	2,692	203,029	0.6%	1.3%
Sonoma County	1,310	405	266,468	0.5%	0.2%
Stanislaus County	2,776	38	212,755	1.3%	0.0%
Sutter County	373	170	42,453	0.9%	0.4%
Tehama County	309	289	28,305	1.1%	1.0%
Trinity County	0	0	6,056	0.0%	0.0%
Tulare County	1,168	478	145,828	0.8%	0.3%
Tuolumne County	144	0	29,786	0.5%	0.0%
Ventura County	2,028	45	423,396	0.5%	0.0%
Yolo County	1,006	18	95,977	1.0%	0.0%
Yuba County	290	266	28,973	1.0%	0.9%
VCA Counties	99,724	3,727	8,462,697	1.2%	0.0%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	45,092	974	4,311,849	1.0%	0.0%
Non-VCA Counties	77,130	50,960	8,774,266	0.9%	0.6%
California	176,854	54,687	17,236,963	1.0%	0.3%

Conditional Voter Registration Use Rates - Latino Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Conditional Voter Registration Use Rates - Asian American Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

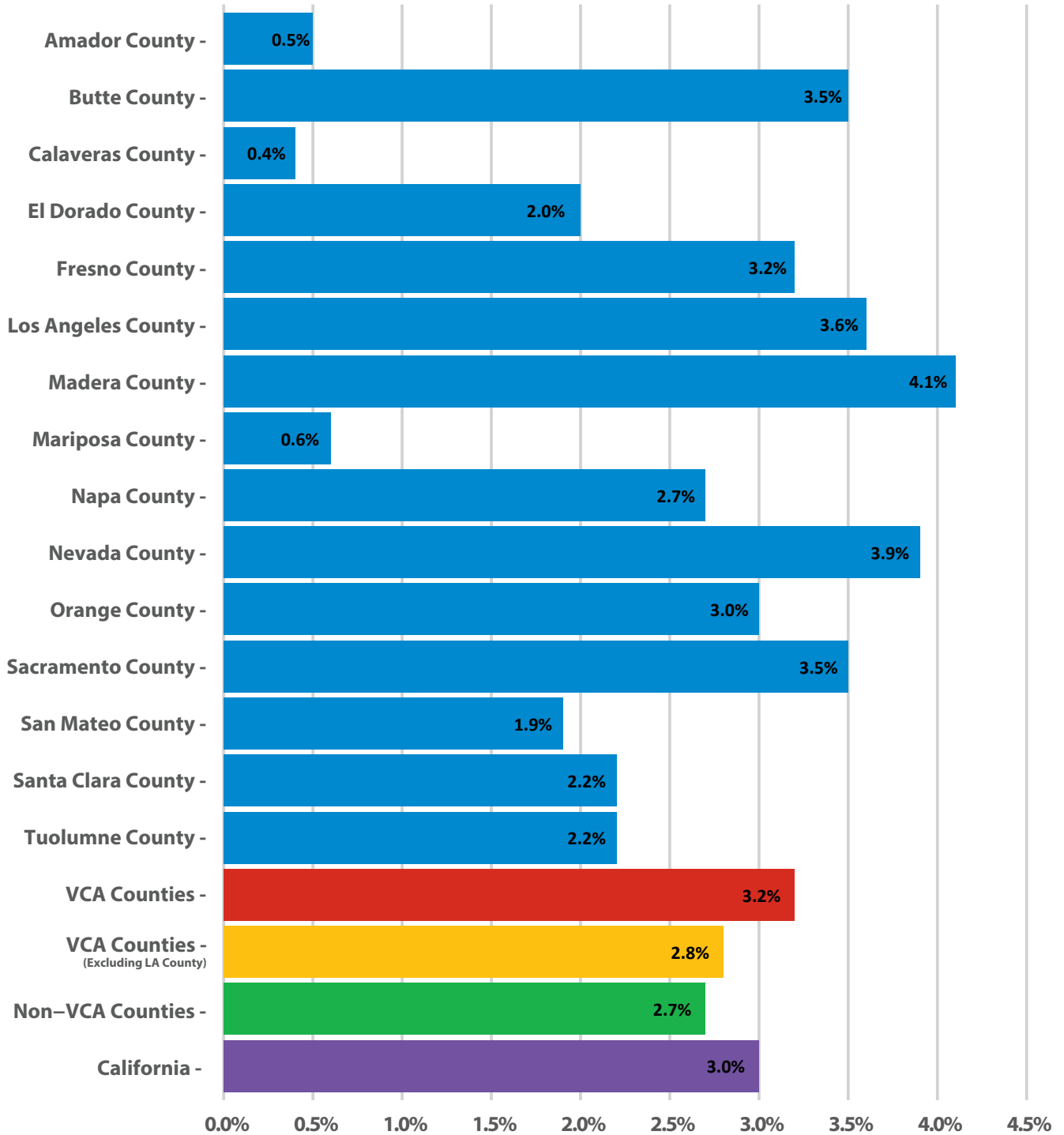
Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) Use by Race and Ethnicity: 2020 General Election Voter's Choice Act Counties					
County	All	Black	Asian-American	Latino	White and No Ethnicity Identified*
Amador County	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.1%
Butte County	0.9%	0.0%	0.7%	2.0%	0.7%
Calaveras County	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
El Dorado County	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%	1.2%	0.4%
Fresno County	1.0%	0.1%	1.1%	1.6%	0.6%
Los Angeles County	1.3%	0.3%	1.1%	1.6%	1.3%
Madera County	1.1%	0.0%	1.2%	1.9%	0.7%
Mariposa County	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.1%
Napa County	1.0%	0.0%	1.2%	2.1%	0.7%
Nevada County	1.0%	0.0%	1.8%	2.5%	1.0%
Orange County	1.3%	0.0%	1.6%	2.0%	0.9%
Sacramento County	1.3%	0.2%	1.4%	1.9%	1.2%
San Mateo County	0.6%	0.0%	0.7%	1.2%	0.5%
Santa Clara County	0.9%	0.0%	1.0%	1.4%	0.6%
Tuolumne County	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.5%
VCA Counties	1.2%	0.3%	1.2%	1.6%	1.0%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	1.0%	0.1%	1.2%	1.7%	0.8%
Non-VCA Counties	0.9%	0.1%	0.8%	1.5%	0.7%
California	1.0%	0.2%	1.1%	1.5%	0.8%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

*PDI combines voters identified as white (non-Latino) and voters with no identified ethnicity in the same category.

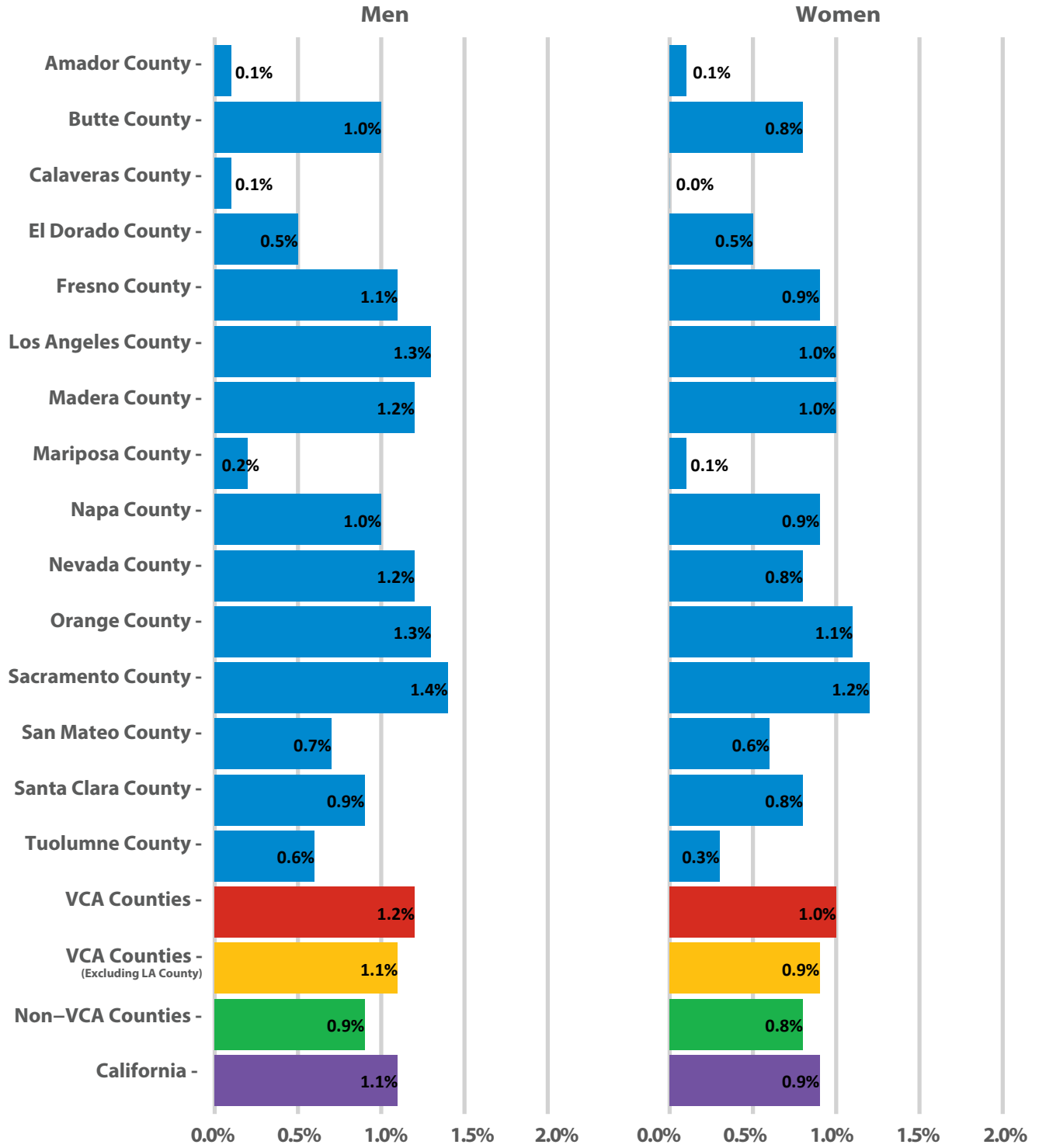
Note: These data identifying white and Black voters in the California voter file are not reliable for research purposes. Exercise strong caution when reviewing this data table.

Conditional Voter Registration Use Rates - Youth (age 18 to 24) Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

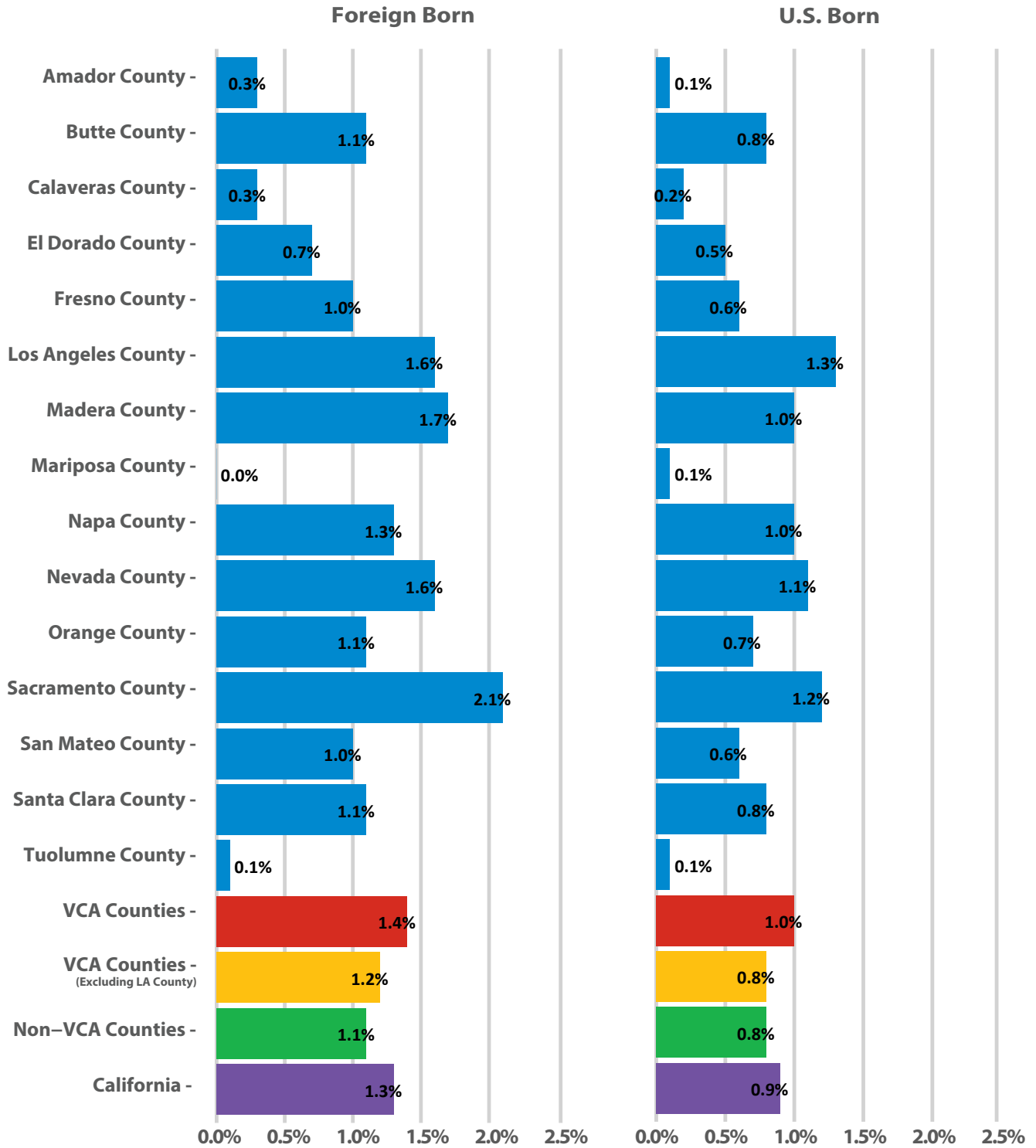
Conditional Voter Registration Use Rates - Gender Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

*Men and women identified using first name databases commonly use by researchers to identify gender. Data sources that provide non-binary and other gender identities are not available.

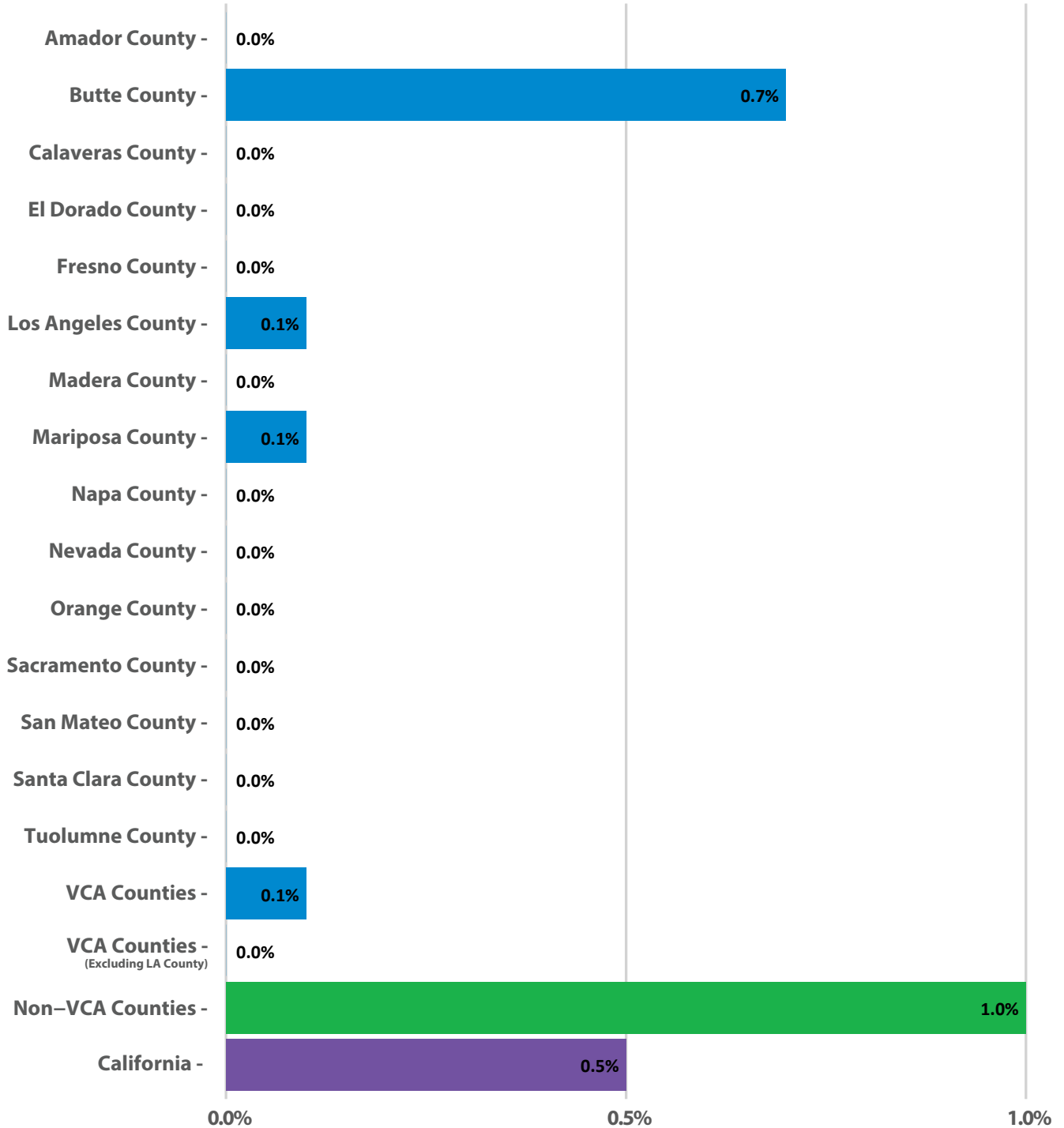
Conditional Voter Registration Use Rates - Nativity Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

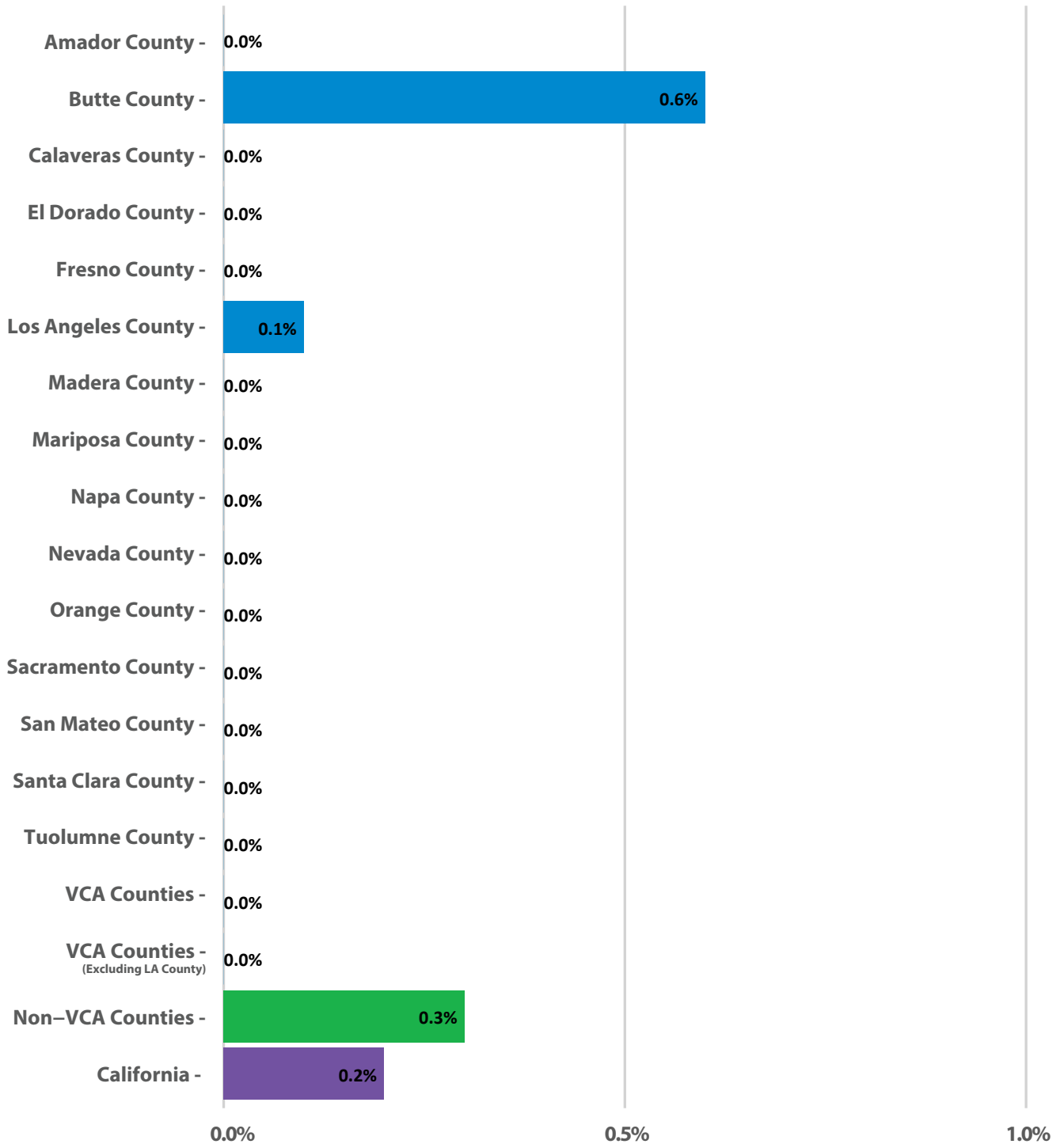
Appendix E: Provisional Voting

Provisional Ballots - Latino Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Provisional Ballots - Asian American Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

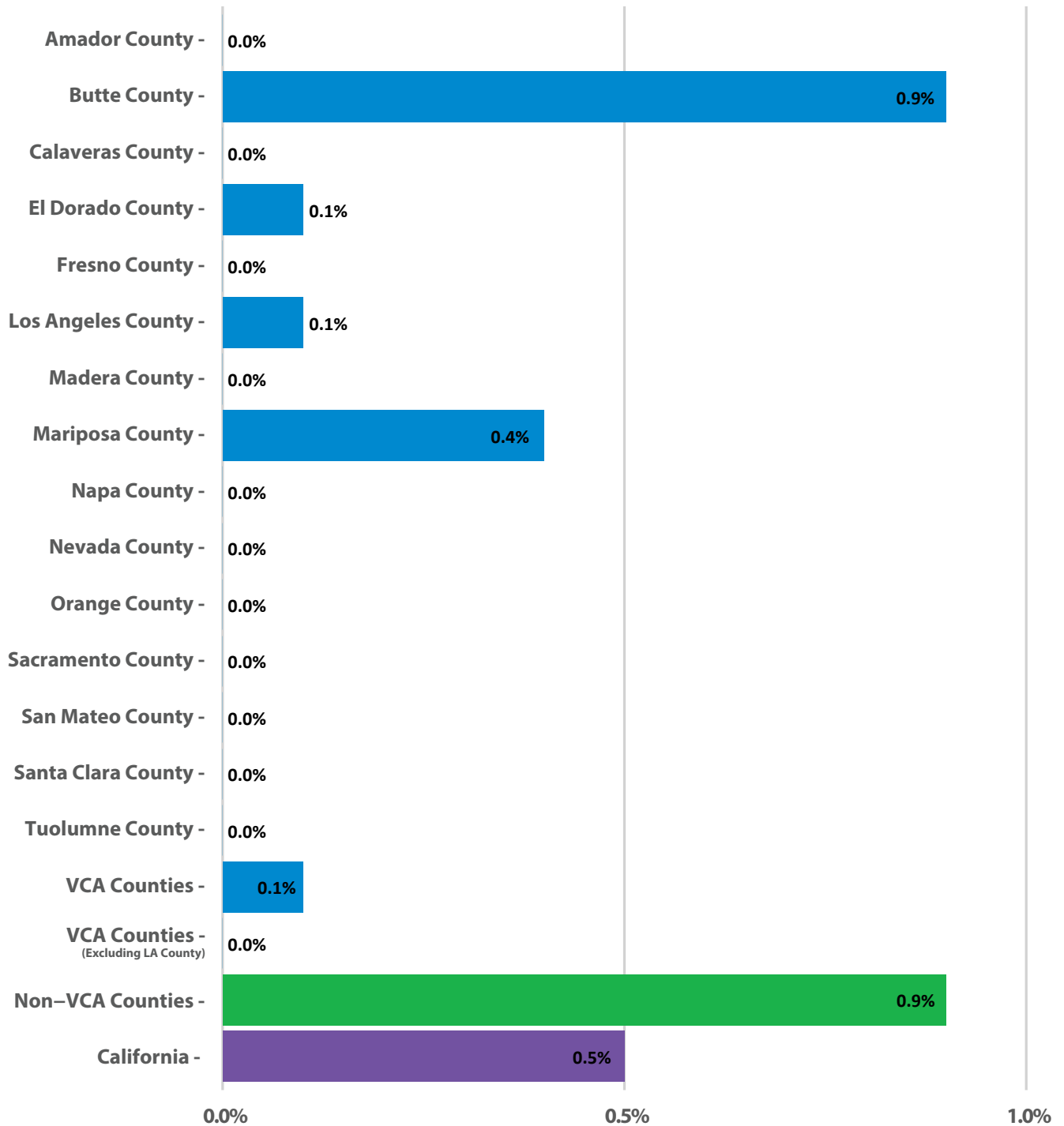
Provisional Ballots by Race and Ethnicity: 2020 General Election Voter's Choice Act Counties					
County	All	Black	Asian-American	Latino	White and No Ethnicity Identified*
Amador County	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Butte County	0.4%	0.4%	0.6%	0.7%	0.4%
Calaveras County	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
El Dorado County	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Fresno County	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Los Angeles County	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Madera County	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Mariposa County	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Napa County	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Nevada County	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Orange County	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sacramento County	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
San Mateo County	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Santa Clara County	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Tuolumne County	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
VCA Counties	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Non-VCA Counties	0.6%	0.3%	0.3%	1.0%	0.5%
California	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

*PDI combines voters identified as white (non-Latino) and voters with no identified ethnicity in the same category.

Note: These data identifying white and Black voters in the California voter file are not reliable for research purposes. Exercise strong caution when reviewing this data table.

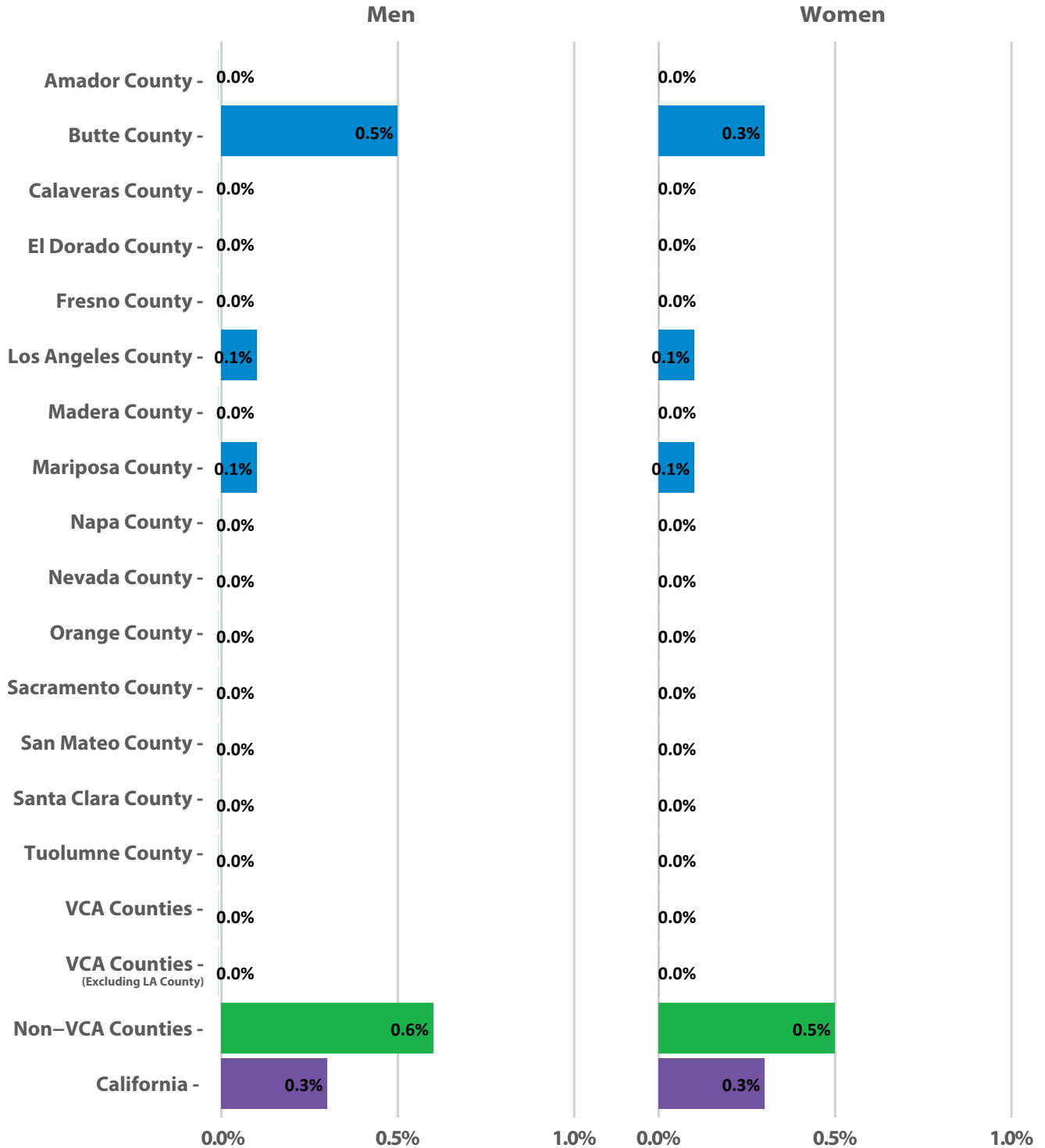
Provisional Ballots - Youth (age 18 to 24) Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Provisional Ballots - Gender

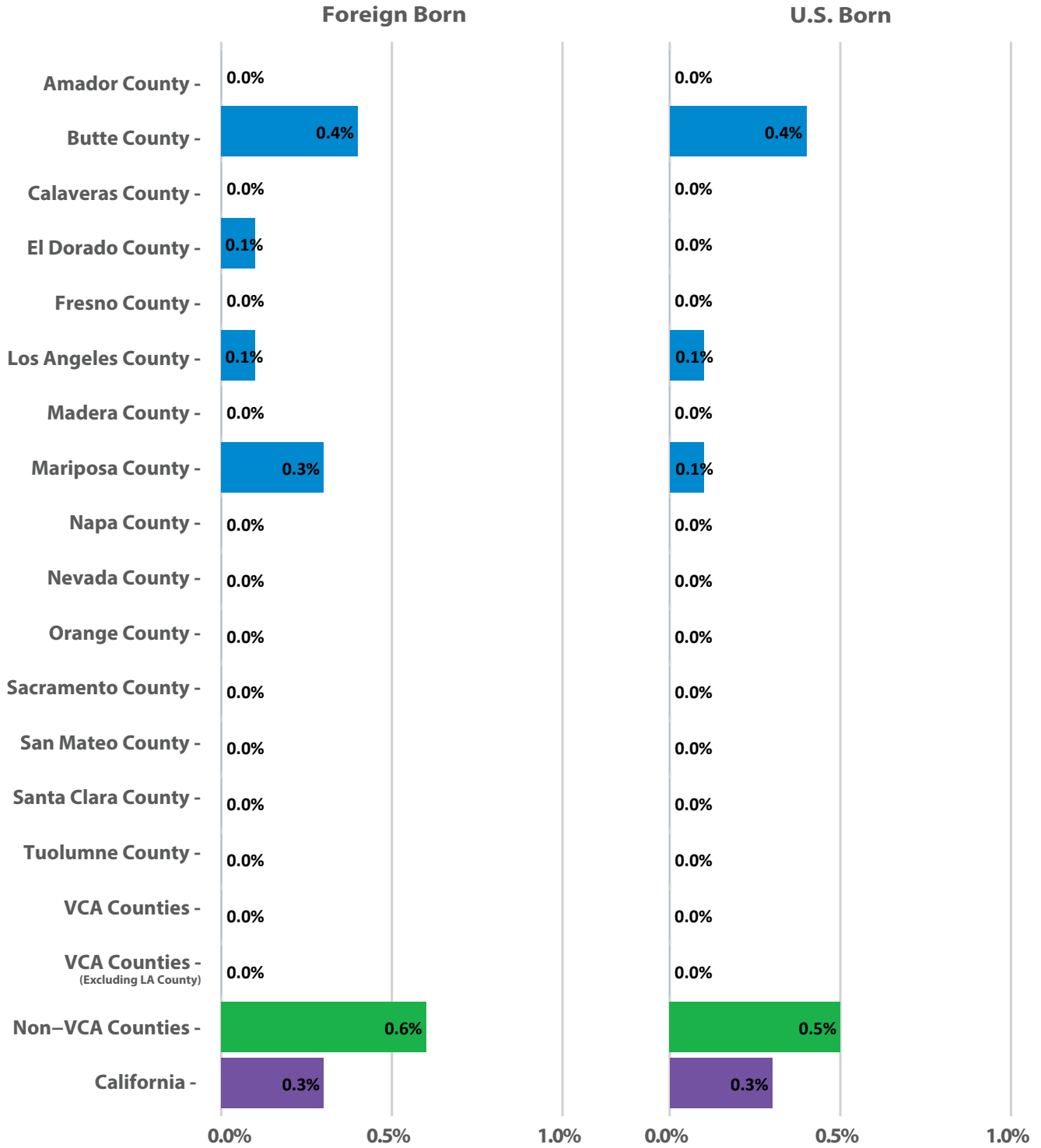
Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

*Men and women identified using first name databases commonly use by researchers to identify gender. Data sources that provide non-binary and other gender identities are not available.

Provisional Ballots - Nativity Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 General Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File