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Voter's Choice Act: 2020 Primary Election Voter Registration and Turnout

**Released by the California Secretary of State's Office
May 13, 2022**



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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Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the members of the California Secretary of State Voter's Choice Act Task Force for providing careful review of and feedback on this report. We would also like to thank Eric McGhee and Kim Alexander for their comments on this report.

We thank Barbara Chami, Alexander Richardson, and Eleanor Love for their assistance with this report. We also thank Jason Mendez at Snapshot Media for his graphic design services and Katherine Lee for her copyediting expertise.

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A finalized version 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 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 (with exceptions in Los Angeles County in the 2020 primary), who can return them by mail, at a vote center, or at a secure ballot drop box.

This report is the first in a three-part series conducted by the USC Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID) examining the VCA's implementation in California. The report focuses on voter registration and turnout in adopting counties during the March 2020 primary election. For a discussion of the study's methodology, please see the full report (page 10).

Most voters voted by mail

The overwhelming majority (72.2%) of Californians cast their votes in the 2020 primary election with VBM ballots, a substantial increase from 58.9% in the 2016 primary. Over 48% of California voters used the mail to cast their VBM ballot, and substantial percentages instead dropped their VBM ballot off at a vote center (15.1%) or a county drop box location (8.6%). More than a quarter of voters statewide voted in person.

While mailing a VBM ballot was by far the most common voting method statewide, the rates at which voters used the mail and voted in person varied between VCA counties and non-VCA counties (see table). Los Angeles County was the exception, where voting in person was the most common method and mailing a VBM ballot occurred at a rate lower than other VCA counties and non-VCA counties. In contrast, VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County had a lower rate of in-person voting than both statewide and non-VCA percentages.

Voting methods in the 2020 Primary Election					
	California-wide	VCA Counties	VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	Los Angeles County	Non-VCA Counties
Mailed VBM Ballot	48.5%	44.8%	51.1%	37.6%	51.9%
Dropped off VBM ballot at vote center	15.1%	15.5%	14.8%	16.2%	14.8%
Dropped off VBM ballot at drop box location	8.6%	10.6%	19.5%	0.2%	6.7%
Voted in person	27.8%	29.1%	14.6%	46.0%	26.5%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

The likelihood of voting in person or voting by mail varied by voter characteristic. We analyzed voting methods by race and ethnicity, new voter status, previous polling place voters, and age. Latino voters, youth voters (age 18 to 24), new voters, and previous polling place voters voted in person at higher rates in VCA counties (as well as in the rest of the state) compared to the general population. Asian-American voters cast ballots in person at lower rates compared to Latinos and youth.

We also examined voting methods by nativity, gender, party affiliation, and county size. In all VCA counties, foreign-born and U.S.-born voters had similar voting methods. Among nearly all individual VCA counties, men voted in person and by mail at slightly higher rates than women, while women voted by drop box and voter center drop off at slightly higher rates than men. With regard to party affiliation, Republican voters consistently chose to vote by mail at much higher rates than voters with other party affiliations. Counties with fewer than 35,000 registered voters had higher rates of mail voting than larger counties with over 800,000 registered voters.

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 some 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 Latino, Asian-American, youth, and new voters. When excluding Los Angeles County, the fourteen other VCA counties still had the same VBM rejection rate as the statewide rate.

VBM ballot rejection rates by group in the 2020 Primary Election					
	California-wide	VCA Counties	VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	Los Angeles County	Non-VCA Counties
Young voters	3.9%	3.9%	4.0%	3.7%	3.9%
New voters	2.9%	2.7%	3.0%	2.3%	3.1%
Previous polling place voters	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%	1.8%	1.8%
Latino voters	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.7%	1.9%
Asian-American voters	1.6%	1.5%	1.6%	1.3%	1.7%
General population	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Specifically, in the 2020 primary election, 1.4% of all VBM ballots cast in California were rejected (see table). The VBM rejection rate was the same in VCA counties (1.4%) and non-VCA counties (1.4%). VCA counties excluding Los Angeles also had a 1.4% VBM rejection rate.

Numerous groups experienced higher VBM ballot rejection rates than the general population. These included youth voters, new voters, voters who had last voted in person at a polling place, and Latino and Asian-American voters. For these voters, VCA counties saw lower ballot rejection rates than non-VCA counties, but still higher than the general population with the exception of youth voters.

VBM rejection rates were also analyzed by nativity and party affiliation. The VBM rejection rates for foreign-born voters (1.5% statewide, 1.4% VCA counties, 1.6% non-VCA counties) were slightly higher than those of U.S.-born voters (1.4% statewide, 1.3% VCA counties, 1.5% non-VCA counties). Both statewide and in VCA counties, the ballot rejection rate of voters registered as Democrats matched the rejection rate of the general voter population (1.4%), while the rejection rate of registered Republican voters (1.0% and 1.1%) was lower than the general population and the rejection rate of No Party Preference voters (1.8% and 1.9%) was higher than the general population.

Late ballots caused most rejections of vote-by-mail ballots

Although late ballots were the most common reason for VBM ballot rejection across the state, signature issues (including signature not matching or signature missing) were more common than late ballots in some counties.

Reasons for VBM ballot rejection in the 2020 Primary Election					
	California-wide	VCA Counties	VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	Los Angeles County	Non-VCA Counties
Too late	69.1%	70.6%	67.6%	75.9%	67.6%
Signature doesn't match	14.7%	11.8%	17.7%	1.6%	17.4%
No signature	13.0%	14.2%	13.3%	15.8%	11.9%
Other	3.2%	3.3%	1.4%	6.7%	3.0%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Los Angeles County's ballot rejection reasons were distributed differently than other VCA counties and non-VCA counties. Specifically, in Los Angeles County, 75.9% of rejected VBM ballots were rejected for being late—a higher number than in other VCA counties (67.6%) or non-VCA counties (67.6%). Los Angeles County also had a much lower rate of rejecting VBM ballots for reasons of a non-matching signature (1.6%) compared to other VCA counties (17.7%) and non-VCA counties (17.4%). Excluding Los Angeles County, VCA counties as a group were fairly similar to non-VCA counties as a group in their distribution of VBM ballot rejection reasons, though VCA counties had slightly higher rates of rejection for no signature.

Examination of individual VCA counties showed large variation in distribution of VBM rejection reasons. Strikingly, the percentage of VBM ballots rejected for being late ranged from 4.5% up to 91.5%. The percentage of VBM ballots rejected for non-matching signatures ranged from 1.6% to 60.5% in VCA counties.

VBM rejection reasons were analyzed by voter characteristics. Both statewide and in VCA counties, Latino voters and young voters had lower rates of late ballots and higher rates of signature issues than the general population (out of rejected ballots). Conversely, Asian-American voters and foreign-born voters had higher rates of late VBM ballots than the general population.

Voter turnout in counties adopting the VCA had similar trends to the state and persisting disparities

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. In California's 2020 primary election, voter turnout trends were similar statewide and in VCA counties as a group.

Voter turnout in the 2020 California primary election was historically high. Across California, 36.4% of eligible voters (adult citizens) cast a ballot. Twelve of the fifteen VCA counties had higher eligible voter turnout rates than the state as a whole, although as a group, VCA counties (36.0%) had slightly lower turnout than statewide. VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County (39.4%) had higher turnout rates than California as a whole.

Despite historically high voter turnout in general, Latinos and youth did not see the same increase in eligible voter turnout compared to the 2016 primary, either statewide or in VCA counties. 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 adults) who cast a ballot. Among Latinos and youth, registered voter turnout decreased between the 2016 and 2020 primaries.

This study compared disparities in voter turnout among Latinos, Asian-Americans, and young voters over time. Disparities in turnout among these groups were clear in the 2016 primary election. In the 2020 primary, the disparities persisted both statewide and in VCA counties. Latinos, Asian-Americans, and young voters all had lower registered voter turnout rates than the general population (see table). While turnout rates in VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County were higher than statewide, these disparities were still present.

The study also found that registered voter turnout varied by nativity, gender, new voter status, voting method, and political affiliation—both statewide and in VCA counties. Foreign-born voters had lower registered voter turnout rates than the general population, while U.S.-born voters had higher turnout rates. Women had a higher registered voter turnout rate than men statewide and in every VCA county. New voters had significantly lower registered voter turnout rates than the general population, and voters who previously voted in person at polling places had significantly lower registered turnout than those who used VBM in their last election. In addition, Democratic voters and Republican voters had stronger turnout than No Party Preference voters. Across these analyses, similar trends applied statewide and in VCA counties, both including and excluding Los Angeles County.

Registered voter turnout by group in the 2020 Primary Election					
	California-wide	VCA Counties	VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	Los Angeles County	Non-VCA Counties
U.S. born voters	50.0%	47.6%	53.8%	41.5%	52.4%
Foreign born voters	41.0%	39.2%	46.5%	34.0%	43.9%
Asian-American voters	39.3%	38.4%	42.4%	33.4%	40.8%
Latino voters	33.5%	32.9%	37.9%	30.5%	34.1%
Women	48.0%	45.8%	52.7%	40.0%	50.2%
Young voters	29.2%	29.6%	31.5%	27.8%	28.8%
General population	46.1%	43.7%	50.4%	37.9%	48.6%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Voter registration rates were higher in VCA counties

Overall and among specific demographic groups, VCA counties saw higher rates of voter registration than non-VCA counties leading up to the 2020 primary. Immediately prior to the 2020 primary election, 79.0% of eligible voters in California were registered to vote—the highest percentage heading into a California presidential primary in 68 years. VCA counties had a higher registration rate for eligible voters (82.2%) than non-VCA counties (76.0%).

Statewide and in VCA counties, Latino, Asian-American, and youth voters had significantly 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 in 2020 ranged from 37.0% (Amador) to 75.1% (Los Angeles); Asian-American registration rates ranged from 44.4% (Butte) to 81.9% (Tuolumne); and registration rates for youth ranged from 21.6% (Calaveras) to 83.3% (San Mateo). Smaller counties generally had lower registration rates than larger counties.

Voters in VCA counties used conditional voter registration at higher rates

Conditional voter registration (CVR) allows eligible voters to register or update their voter registration information after the deadline and cast a conditional ballot. CVR ballots are counted once the county elections official has verified the registration. VCA counties are required to offer CVR as an option at vote centers (over the multiple days they are open); non-VCA counties also provide a CVR option.

A comparison of the CVR rate in the general population shows that Los Angeles County had a higher rate than others. In the 2020 primary election, 1.5% of California voters used CVR (see table). VCA counties altogether had a higher rate of CVR use (1.6%) than non-VCA counties (1.4%). When excluding Los Angeles County, though, VCA counties had the same CVR use rate as non-VCA counties at 1.4%. Los Angeles County had a higher CVR use rate of 2.0%.

Use of conditional voter registration (CVR) in the 2020 Primary Election					
	California-wide	VCA Counties	VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	Los Angeles County	Non-VCA Counties
New voters	13.6%	15.9%	13.6%	18.0%	11.4%
Young voters	6.9%	7.0%	6.1%	8.0%	6.7%
Asian-American voters	1.8%	1.6%	1.4%	1.9%	2.0%
Latino voters	2.4%	2.6%	2.4%	2.7%	2.2%
Previous polling place voters	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.3%	1.5%
General population	1.5%	1.6%	1.4%	2.0%	1.4%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Our analysis by race and ethnicity and whether the voter was a new voter revealed variation in CVR rates. Latino, youth, and especially new voters had higher CVR rates than the general population, both statewide and in VCA counties. Asian-American voters statewide had higher CVR rates than the general population, but the same rate as the general population in VCA counties. Asian-American voters in VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County also had the same CVR rates as the general population.

CVR rates also varied by voting method, party affiliation, and county size. 2020 primary voters who previously voted at polling places had slightly lower rates of CVR use than the general population. Voters registered as Democrats had higher CVR rates than registered Republicans and No Party Preference voters. In addition, smaller counties had lower rates of CVR than larger counties.

Conclusion

Our analysis reveals several notable differences in voter behavior in VCA counties compared to the state as a whole. Voters in VCA counties used the range of voting options available to them under the new model. While voters in VCA counties voted in person at slightly higher rates, they mailed their VBM ballots at lower rates than voters statewide, with a significant number opting to drop off their VBM ballot at a vote center or drop box available to them under the VCA. When looking at VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, in-person voting were significantly lower, while voters mailed their VBM ballots and used drop boxes at significantly higher rates.

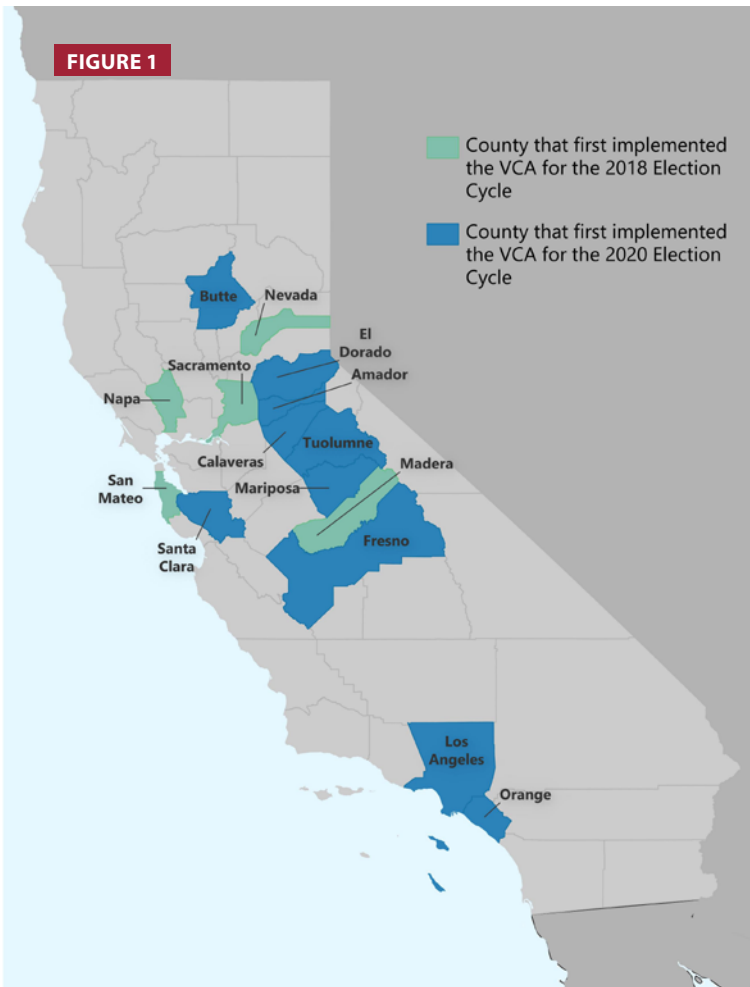
Our findings also underscore the significant variation in the use of in-person voting by demographic group. Latino voters, youth voters (age 18 to 24), new voters, and previous polling place voters cast their ballots in person at higher rates in VCA counties (as well as the rest of the state) compared to the general population. Conversely, Asian-American voters cast ballots in person at lower rates compared to Latinos and youth.

Additionally, VBM ballot rejection rates were lower for the general population and for many demographic groups in VCA counties, while higher proportions of voters in VCA counties were able to utilize conditional voter registration, ensuring their ability to cast a conditional ballot in the primary.

While voter turnout was high in VCA counties and across California, data from the 2020 primary reveal the persistence of disparities in voter registration, turnout, and ballot rejection among demographic groups including Latino, Asian-American, youth, and new voters in VCA counties as well as statewide. The findings also point to differences in smaller VCA counties versus larger counties. Counties with fewer than 35,000 registered voters generally had lower registration rates, experienced more mail ballot than in-person voting, had fewer voters using CVR, and had a larger range of VBM rejection than larger counties containing over 800,000 registered 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.

Introduction



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 (Los Angeles County was not required to and did not automatically send all registered voters VBM ballots in the 2020 primary election).² Vote centers offer a variety of services including in-person voting, accessible voting options, language assistance, VBM ballot drop-off, and conditional voter registration. These centers are distributed throughout the county and available to all voters up to ten days before Election Day. In addition, the VCA 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 representation, 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. In 2020, Los Angeles County opted into the model but was not required to mail all registered voters VBM ballots in

the primary election. In addition to Los Angeles County, the following counties adopted the VCA for the 2020 election cycle (see Figure 1): Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, 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.

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 canvass.

About the Study

To address the California Voter's Choice Act's research requirements for the 2020 primary election, the California Secretary of State 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 primary. The California Secretary of State also commissioned two VCA research reports by other university researchers: 1) A report by UCLA researchers examining VCA implementation in the primary 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 primary VCA implementation.³

Study Methodology

In order to provide the analysis of the 2020 primary 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).⁴ 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 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 and address the full scope of work for this report.⁵ With agreement from the Secretary of State's office, CID utilized 2020 primary election voter files provided by Political Data, Inc. (PDI). PDI's voter files (originating from county elections offices) provided additional voter data identified by gender, race, and ethnicity through surname matching and geocoding.⁶ 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 primary elections for the total population by race, ethnicity, and age.

Data Limitations

While matching a voter's first name to their gender is known to be highly 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 on only their last name (or first name). For white and Black voters, geocoding can help produce some level of accuracy at the census block or 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 in California due to this group's smaller proportion of the state's population (5.5 percent) compared to 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.⁷ 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 not generally reliable at the county level in California. For more information on the voter file limitations for identifying race and ethnicity, see CID's website.

Glossary:

Eligible Voter Turnout: The percent of adult citizens who voted.

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. 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 registration cannot be confirmed while voting in person 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 Primary Election Context

The 2020 California primary election was noteworthy for a number of contextual elements, including the presence of a highly competitive Democratic primary race for U.S. president. This competitive context was enabled by the California State Legislature's decision to move the state's primary election up three months to March 3rd (Super Tuesday) in order to provide California voters with greater influence over the early stages of the presidential primary. Additionally, we note that California's presidential primary voting rules allowing crossover voting created unique election administration and voter education challenges.⁹

In addition, the primary was held just as awareness of COVID-19 was growing among the public and approximately two weeks before the state entered the pandemic lockdown. However, while some counties reported minimal challenges with regard to maintaining polling place staff due to fears of contracting COVID-19, election officials largely did not need to adjust their administration of the election at any level near what was needed during the general election.

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). This was the only VCA county allowed such an exception under the VCA. This policy decision may have influenced the vote-by-mail use rates seen in the county.

Due to Los Angeles County's large proportion of the total number of California's VCA voters in the 2020 primary (46.1%), its voting data significantly influenced the overall findings for VCA counties presented in this report. For that reason, we present data in this report for VCA counties with and without the inclusion of Los Angeles County.

Voting in Presidential Primary Elections

In California presidential primary elections, No Party Preference (NPP) voters (voters who registered to vote without stating a political party preference) receive a “non-partisan” ballot that does not include presidential candidates. A nonpartisan ballot contains only the names of candidates for voter-nominated offices and local nonpartisan offices and measures.

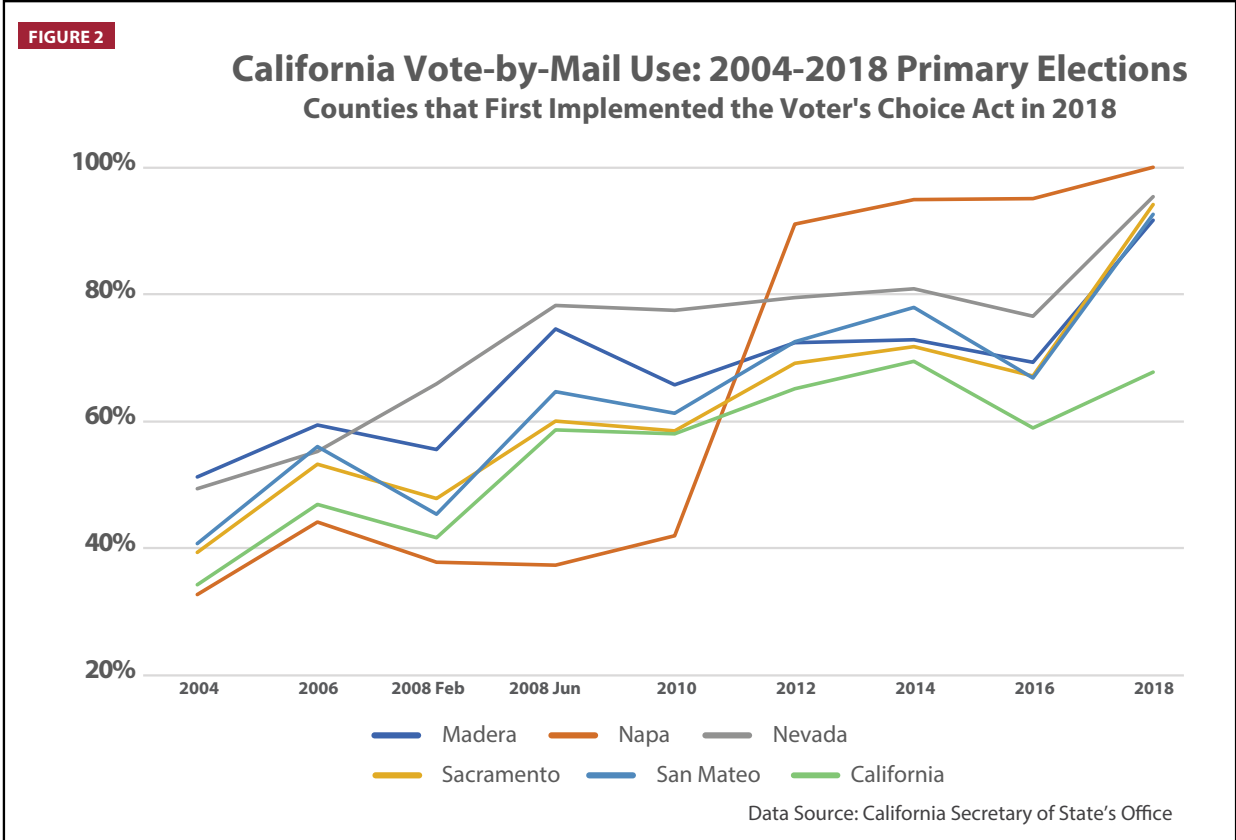
NPP voters may vote in a political party’s partisan election if the political party authorizes NPP voters to vote in the next presidential primary election. An NPP voter may request the ballot of one of the political parties, if any, that authorizes NPP voters to vote in the presidential primary election.

In California’s 2020 presidential primary, the Democratic Party, the American Independent Party, and the Libertarian Party permitted no party preference voters to request a party ballot in recent primary elections for partisan offices. The Republican Party did not allow voters not registered with the party to vote in its presidential primary races.

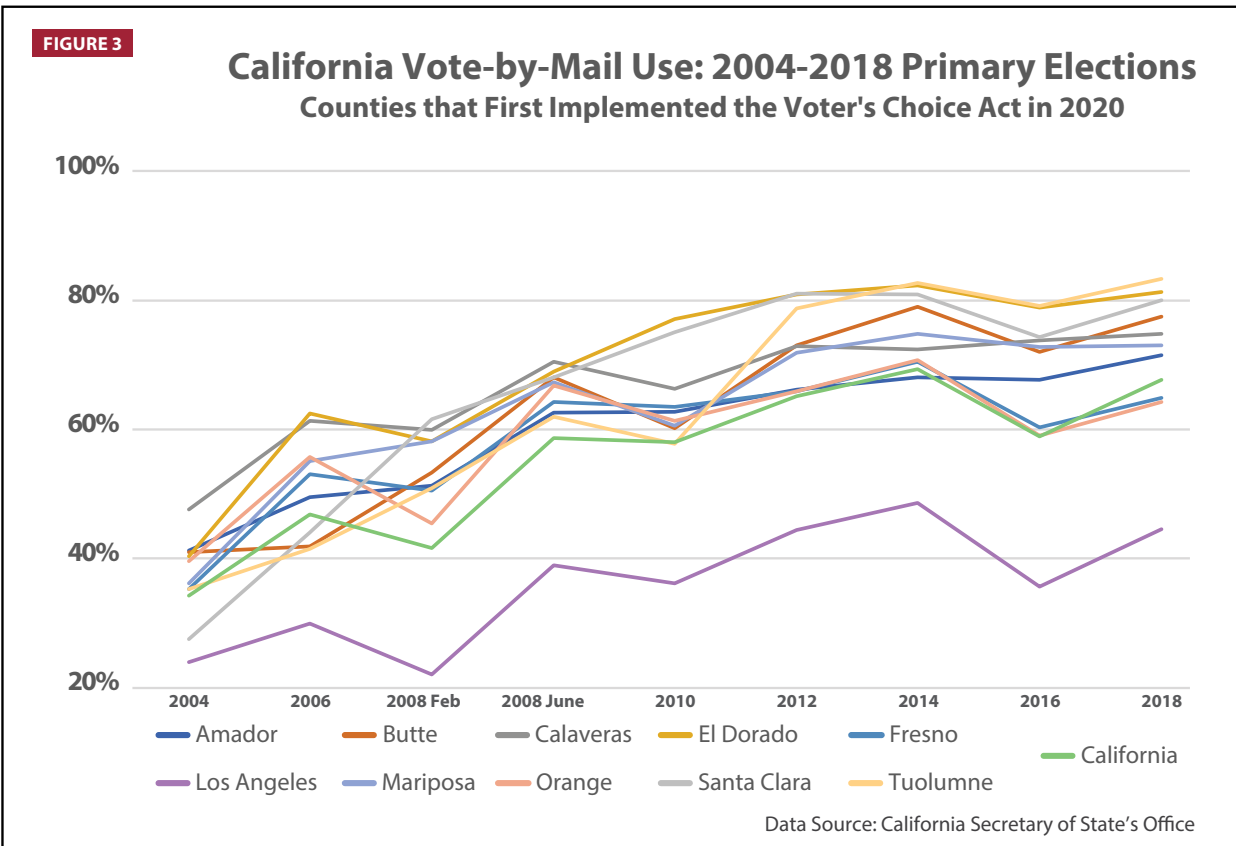
History of Vote-by-Mail Use in California

When the VCA became law, vote-by-mail (VBM) was already a frequently chosen method of voting for Californians. The use of VBM ballots in the state has steadily increased since 2002, when Californians were given the ability to register as permanent VBM voters.¹⁰ In the 2016 primary, prior to the first county implementation of the VCA, VBM ballots comprised 58.9% of all votes cast, up from 26.1% of ballots in the 2002 primary.

Figures 2 and 3 show the percent of primary election ballots cast over time that were VBM for the counties first adopting the VCA in 2018 and 2020. While all five counties in 2018 had VBM use rates far above the statewide average, (ranging from 92% in Madera to 99% in Napa), counties first implementing the VCA in 2020 varied more significantly in their voters’ experiences with VBM (45% VBM use rate in Los Angeles to 83% in Tuolumne in the 2018 primary). It should also be noted that Los Angeles County has had historically lower VBM use rates compared to other VCA counties.



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 currently 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 state and nation (Los Angeles and Orange). Tables 1 and 2 show the wide distribution across VCA counties in the racial and ethnic composition of their populations, as well as specifically for those eligible to vote (measured as adult citizens).¹¹ In Table 3 we also see the proportions of each VCA county that are foreign-born, limited English proficient, and people who report a disability. Overall, 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.¹²

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. Throughout this report analysis is broken out by race, ethnicity, age, gender, foreign-born status, and party affiliation, wherever available data allows.

**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%
LosAngeles 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 Primary Election

Table 4: Definition of Voting Methods Used in the 2020 Primary 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:

- Over 48% of Californians mailed in their vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots in the 2020 primary election, while another 23.7% dropped off their VBM ballot at a vote center or county drop box. Another 27.8% voted in person at a vote center or polling place.
- Among individual VCA counties, mailing in a VBM ballot was the leading method chosen by voters in all counties except Los Angeles, which had the highest rate of in-person voting. However, as a whole, VCA counties had a lower rate of mail voting (44.8%) than non-VCA counties combined (51.9%) and a slightly higher rate of in-person voting.
- Excluding Los Angeles County, VCA counties had a slightly lower rate of mail voting (51.1%) and a lower rate of in-person voting (14.6%) than non-VCA counties (51.9% and 26.5%, respectively).
- Latino voters, 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 had lower rates of in-person voting compared to Latinos and youth.
- In VCA counties, foreign-born and U.S.-born voters chose similar voting methods. Men chose in-person and mail voting at slightly higher rates than women, while women chose drop box and vote center drop off options at slightly higher rates than men. Republican voters consistently chose to vote by mail at much higher rates than voters with other party affiliations.

In the 2020 primary 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. 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 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.¹³

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).¹⁴

2020 Primary Voting Methods

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). This was the only VCA county allowed such an exception under the VCA. This policy decision may have influenced the vote-by-mail use rates seen in the county.

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 in that election cycle compared to eligible voters in the counties adopting the VCA for the first time in 2020.

The overwhelming majority (72.2%) of Californians cast their votes in the 2020 primary election with VBM ballots, up from 58.9% in the 2016 primary. However, Figure 4 breaks out how voters cast their VBM ballots and shows that 23.7% of the state's voters did not send their VBM ballots through the mail, instead dropping them off at a voting location or county drop box location. Around 48% of California voters actually used the mail to cast their ballot. The remaining 27.8% of voters cast their ballots in person at a voting site (see Figures 5 and 6 for maps of mail and in-person voting rates in all California counties).

While mailing a VBM ballot was by far the most common voting method in California, the rates at which voters used the mail and voted in person varied greatly between VCA counties and non-VCA counties. In-person voting usage was similar in VCA and non-VCA counties - 29.1% of VCA voters voted in person at vote centers, while 26.5% of non-VCA voters cast a ballot at a voting site. When looking at VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, however, in-person voting dropped significantly to 14.6%. At the same time, just over half (51.9%) of all voters in non-VCA counties voted by mail, compared to 44.8% of VCA voters. Just over 51% of voters in VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County voted by mail. In VCA counties, more voters preferred to drop off their ballot at a drop box (10.6%) compared to non-VCA voters (6.7%). The use of drop boxes was higher in VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, with 19.5% of voters dropping off their ballot at a drop box. Additionally, 15.5% of VCA voters, 14.8% of VCA excluding Los Angeles County voters, and 14.8% of non-VCA voters chose to drop off ballots at vote centers or polling places. We note here that availability of drop boxes in non-VCA counties, as a whole, was not as widespread as it is in VCA counties.

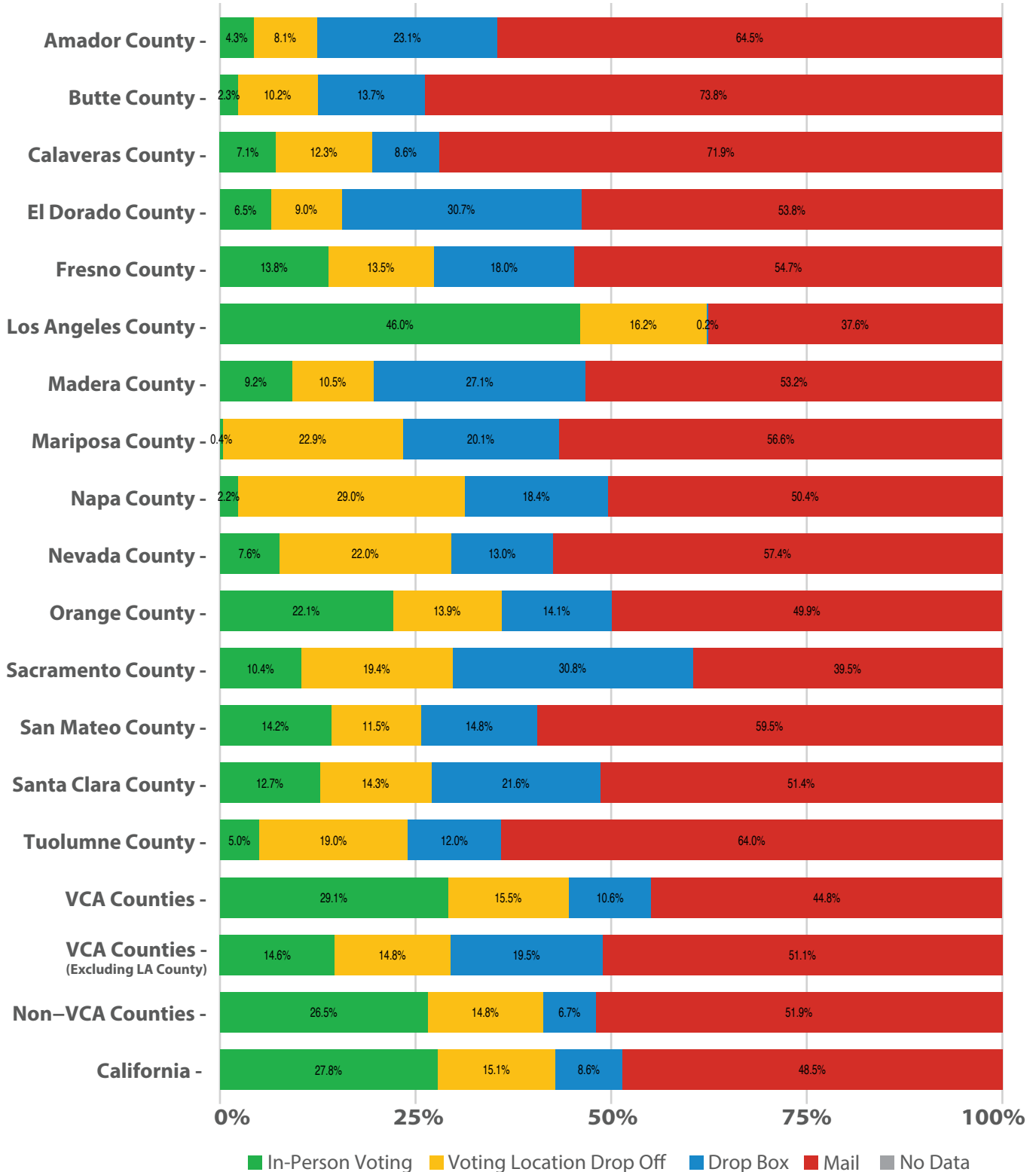
Among individual VCA counties, voting by mail was the leading method for all counties except for Los Angeles, which had higher rates of in-person voting at vote centers. Voting by mail ranged from 37.6% (Los Angeles) of voters to 73.8% (Butte) of voters. Voting by drop box location ranged from just 0.2% (Los Angeles) of voters to 30.8% (Sacramento) of voters. Voting by vote center drop off ranged from 8.1% (Amador) of voters to 29% (Napa) of voters. In-person voting at vote centers ranged from 0.4% (Mariposa) of voters to 46% (Los Angeles) of voters.

Voting patterns in the 2020 primary emerge according to the size of a VCA county's registered voter population. Smaller counties with under 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) had higher rates of mail voting compared to larger counties containing over 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles). Mail use in smaller counties ranged from 56.6% (Mariposa) of voters to 71.9% (Calaveras) of voters. Mail use in larger counties ranged from 37.6% (Los Angeles) of voters to 51.4% (Santa Clara) of voters. In-person voting at vote centers in smaller counties ranged from 0.4% (Mariposa) of voters to 7.1% (Calaveras) of voters. In-person voting at vote centers in larger counties ranged from 10.4% (Sacramento) of voters to 46% (Los Angeles) of voters.

FIGURE 4

Method of Voting All Voters

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election

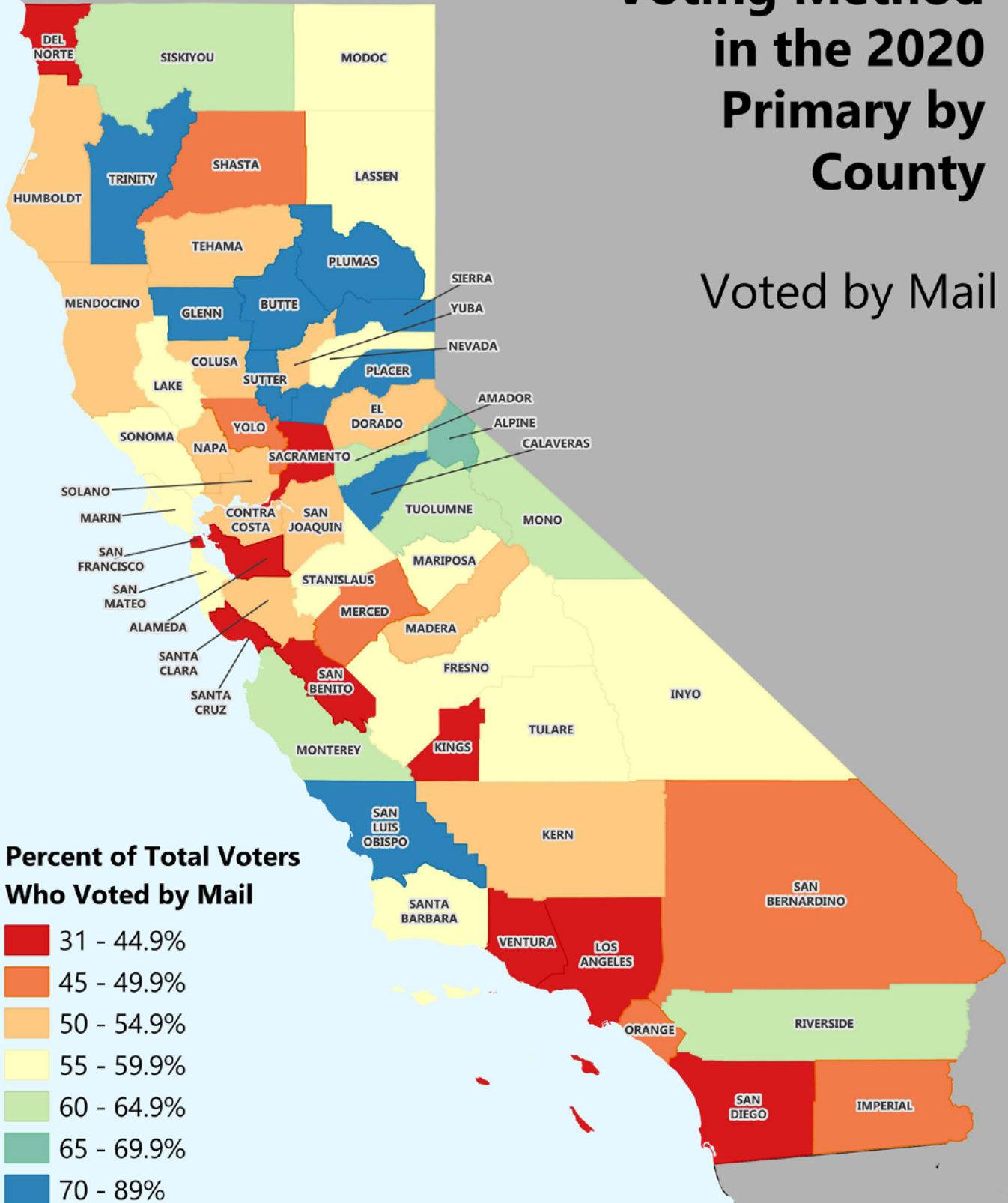


Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 5

Voting Method in the 2020 Primary by County

Voted by Mail

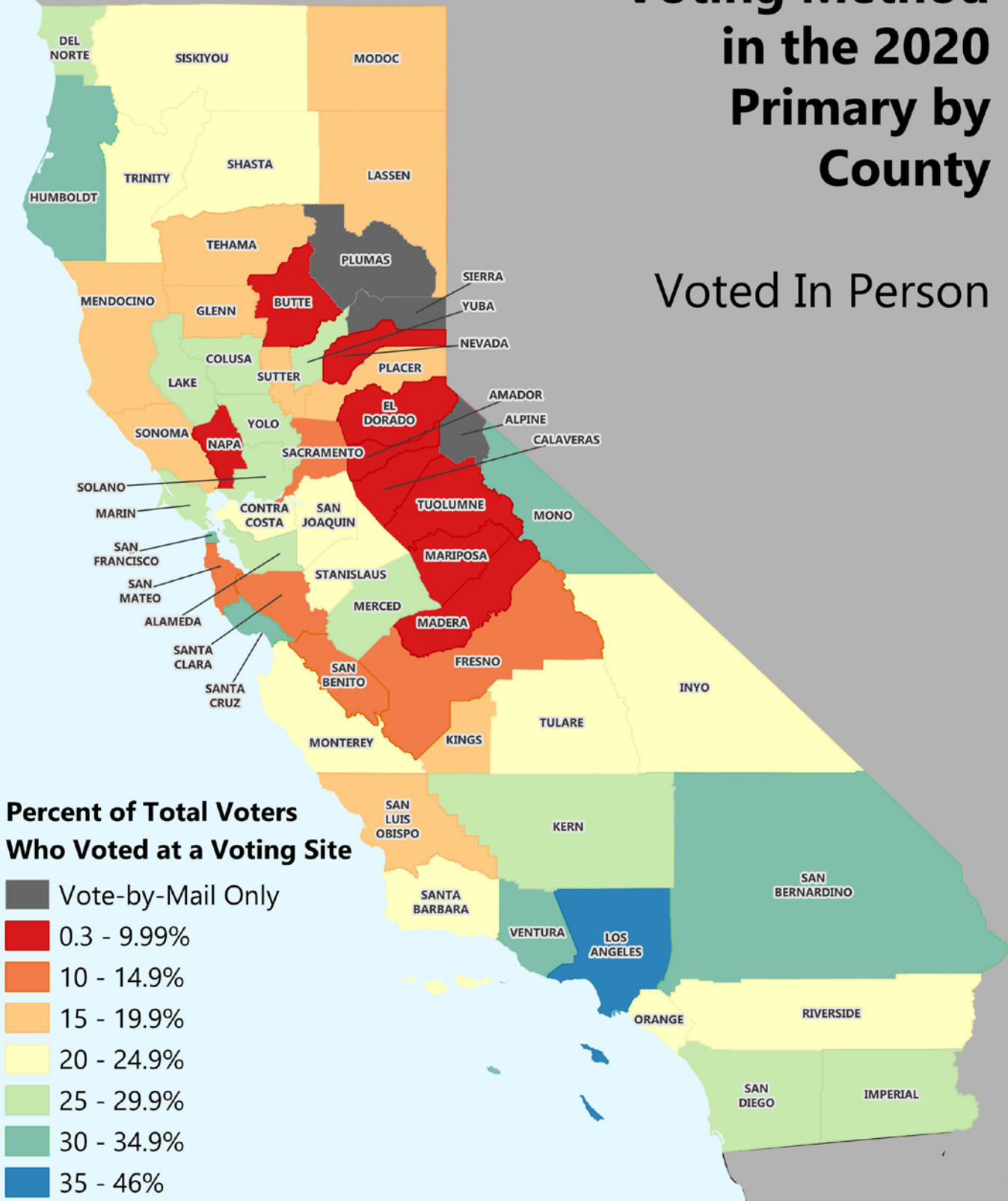


Source: Political Data, Inc.; California Secretary of State's Office

FIGURE 6

Voting Method in the 2020 Primary by County

Voted In Person



Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Voting Method: Latinos

California's Latino voters had higher rates of in-person voting and voting site drop off in the 2020 primary compared to the general population. In California, 37.9% of Latino voters voted in person, 17.2% dropped off their VBM ballot at a voting site and 6.5% dropped off their ballot at a drop box (see Appendix A for detailed data chart). Just over 38% of Latinos in the state voted by mail compared with 48.5% of all voters casting their ballots by mail.

In VCA counties as a whole, Latinos also cast their ballots in person at higher rates – 42.4%. Another 17.5% voted by dropping off their VBM ballot at a vote center, 7.6% voted by VBM drop box, and 32.4% voted by mail. In non-VCA counties, 33% of Latino voters cast their ballots in person, while 44.7% of Latino voters voted by mail.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, Latinos cast their ballots in person at lower rates and cast their ballots using VBM ballots at higher rates than the statewide rates. Around 22% of Latinos cast their ballots in person, while 17.7% voted by dropping off their VBM ballots at a vote center, 19.9% voted by VBM drop box, and 40.4% voted by mail.

Every individual VCA county, except Mariposa, also saw higher in-person voting by Latino voters compared to all voters. Among Latino voters, voting in person ranged from 0.3% (Mariposa) to 54.9% (Los Angeles), while voting by mail ranged from 27.6% (Los Angeles) to 69.1% (Calaveras).

Voting Method: Asian Americans

In the 2020 primary, Asian-American voters had higher rates of voting by mail and using drop boxes compared to the general population. Conversely, Asian Americans had lower rates of in-person voting than all voters and similar rates of dropping off a VBM ballot at a voting location. More than half (54.8%) of Asian-American voters voted by sending their ballot through the mail, compared to 48.5% of the general population (see Appendix A for detailed data chart). Just over 20% of Asian-American voters voted in person, 14.7% voted by VBM drop off at a voting site, and 10.1% dropped off their VBM ballot at a drop box.

In VCA counties, Asian-American voters voted by mail at higher rates than the general population and voted in person and through vote center VBM drop off at lower rates. Among Asian-American voters in VCA counties, 55.8% voted by mail, 19.8% voted in person at vote centers, 13.5% voted by vote center drop off, and 11% voted by VBM drop box. In non-VCA counties, just over 53% of Asian-American voters voted by mail and 21.3% voted in person.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, Asian-American voters continued to vote by mail at higher rates than the general population while voting in person and through vote center VBM drop off at lower rates. Just over 12% of Asian-American voters in VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County voted in person, while 57.9% voted by mail, 12.2% voted by VC drop off, and 17.5% voted by VBM drop box.

Among the individual VCA counties, Asian-American voters casting their VBM ballots by mail ranged from 43.8% (Sacramento) of voters to 83.3% (Calaveras). Asian-American voters casting their ballots in person ranged from zero percent (Mariposa) to 31.7% (Los Angeles). Asian-American voters using vote center drop off ranged from 5.2% (Calaveras) of voters to 29.4% (Napa). Asian Americans voting by drop box ranged from 0.4% (Los Angeles) to 31.2% (Sacramento).

Voting Method: Youth Voters

In the 2020 primary, young (age 18 to 24) voters cast their ballots in person and by dropping off their VBM ballot at a voting site at higher rates than the general population. Over a third of young voters voted in person and 18.9% voted by vote center drop off. Just under 36% of young voters voted by mail and 8.1% voted by drop box (see Appendix A for detailed data chart).

In VCA counties, overall, a higher percentage (38.6%) of young voters voted in person at vote centers than in non-VCA counties (35.5%). Just under 19% of young voters in VCA counties voted by vote center drop off, while 32.7% of young voters voted by mail and 9.8% of young voters voted by dropping off their VBM ballot at a drop box.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, young voters voted in person at lower rates and by mail at higher rates than both VCA counties (all fifteen counties) and non-VCA counties. Over 25% of young voters voted in person at a vote center, while 17.3% voted by VC drop off, 18.5% voted by drop box, and 38.9% voted by mail.

In every individual VCA county, young voters voted in person at higher rates than the general population. Young voters voting in person ranged from 2.2% (Mariposa) to 52.8% (Los Angeles). Young voters voting by mail ranged from 26.2% (Los Angeles) to 66.2% (Calaveras). Young voters voting by vote center drop off ranged from 9.8% (Amador) to 38.2% (Napa). Young voters voting by drop box ranged from 0.5% (Los Angeles) to 33.7% (Madera).

Voting Method: Gender

In California, men used in-person voting and voting by mail at somewhat higher rates in the 2020 primary than women, while women voted by vote center drop off and drop box at higher rates than men. Overall 28.9% of men in California cast their ballots in person at vote centers or polling places, while 26.8% of women voted in person (see Appendix A for detailed data chart). Just under 49% of men voted by mail and 48.4% of women voted by mail. For voting site drop off, 14.1% of men used this method and 16% of women. Men and women voted by drop box at 8.2% and 8.8%, respectively.

In VCA counties, men voted by mail and in person at slightly higher rates than women. Women voters used drop off boxes and vote center drop off options at a higher rate than men. Just under 30% of men voted in person at vote centers, while 28.5% of women voted in person. Over 45% of men voted by mail compared to 44.3% of women who voted by mail.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, men continued to vote in person and by mail at slightly higher rates than women, and women voted by vote center drop off and drop box at slightly higher rates than men. About 15% of men voted in person, compared to 13.8% of women. Just under 52% of men voted by mail, while 50.4% of women voted by mail. About 14% of men and 15.5% of women voted by vote center drop off. Additionally, 18.8% of men and 20.2% of women voted by drop box.

Among all individual VCA counties, these patterns continued with men choosing in-person and mail voting at slightly higher rates than women, and women choosing drop box and vote center drop off options at slightly higher rates than men. We note there that this analysis is limited in its ability to identify only men and women due to its data source (first names commonly associated with these two genders). Non-binary and other genders cannot currently be identified from the voter file.

Voting Method: Nativity

Both foreign-born and U.S.-born Californian voters chose to vote by mail in the 2020 primary at much higher rates than in person. U.S.-born voters had only slightly higher rates of voting by vote center drop off and voting by drop box compared to foreign-born voters, while foreign-born voters had slightly higher rates of in-person voting and voting by mail (see Appendix A for detailed data chart). Almost 50% of foreign-born voters and 48.4% of U.S.-born voters voted by mail, while 28.3% of foreign-born voters cast their ballots in person at vote centers and 27.7% of U.S.-born voters voted in person. Another 14.1% of foreign-born voters voted with a VBM ballot by using vote center drop off, while 15% of U.S.-born voters voted by vote center drop off. Just under 8% of foreign-born voters and 8.9% of U.S.-born voters used drop boxes.

In VCA counties, however, foreign-born voters had higher rates of voting by mail and in person at vote centers than U.S.-born voters, while U.S.-born voters had higher rates of voting by vote center drop off and drop boxes. Just under

48% of foreign-born voters voted by mail, while 44.2% of U.S.-born voters voted by mail. Around 30% of foreign-born voters and 28.6% of U.S.-born voters voted in person. Over 13% of foreign-born voters dropped off their VBM ballots at a vote center and 15.7% of U.S.-born voters voted by vote center drop off. Another 8.5% of foreign-born voters chose drop boxes, compared to 11.4% of U.S.-born voters.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, foreign-born voters continued to have higher rates of voting by mail and in-person voting at vote centers than U.S.-born voters. Around 14.6% of foreign-born voters voted in person, while 14.4% of U.S.-born voters voted in person. About 55% of foreign-born voters voted by mail, compared to 50.3% of U.S.-born voters. About 13% of foreign-born voters voted by vote center drop off, while 15.1% of U.S.-born voters voted by vote center drop off. Almost 17% of foreign-born voters voted by drop box, while over 20% of U.S.-born voters voted by drop box.

In most individual VCA counties, foreign-born voters also chose to vote by mail at higher rates than U.S.-born voters. We note here that Calaveras County was omitted from the nativity analysis due to missing data for this county from the PDI data source.

Voting Method: New Voters

In this section, we examine how newly registered voters, those who have never cast a ballot (by any voting method), are using the voting options under the VCA. We define new voters as those who registered to vote in California for the first time after the 2018 general election and who voted in the 2020 primary election. A total of 1,510,979 new registrants were identified in the voter file, 463,247 of whom were first-time voters in the 2020 primary.

New voters in the 2020 primary cast their ballots in person at a voting site at much higher rates than the general population. Conversely, new voters voted by mail, drop box, and vote center drop off at lower rates than the general voting population. From Figure 7, we can see that 38.8% of new voters cast their ballots in person (compared to 27.8% of the general population). Just over 39% of new voters voted by mail, 14.9% of new voters dropped off their ballot at a voting site, and 7.0% of new voters used a drop box.

In VCA counties, overall, 41.1% of new voters voted in person (compared to 29.1% of the general population). Thirty-five percent of new voters voted by mail and 15.1% dropped off their VBM ballot at a vote center. Around 8% of new voters used a ballot drop box.

When looking at VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, new voters continued to vote in person at higher rates, while voting by mail, drop box, and vote center drop off at lower rates compared to the general population. Just under 30% of new voters in VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County voted in person, compared to 14.6% of the general population. Just over 41% voted by mail, 12.8% voted by vote center drop off, and 16.4% voted by drop box.

In each VCA county, new voters also cast their ballots in person at higher rates than the general population. New voters voting in person ranged from 3.2% (Mariposa) to 51.5% (Los Angeles), while new voters voting by mail ranged from 31.0% (Los Angeles) to 65.3% (Calaveras). New voters voting by vote center drop off ranged from 7.9% (Amador) to 31.9% (Napa). New voters voting by drop box ranged from 0.3% (Los Angeles) to 28.7% (El Dorado).

Voting Method: Previous Polling Place Voters

In order to understand how the new voting options under the VCA might have changed voting methods in the 2020 primary, we examined the method of voting for those who voted at a polling place (or vote center in a county adopting the VCA in 2018) in a previous election. A previous polling place voter is defined as a registrant who voted at a polling place in the last election in which they voted. Similarly, a previous VBM voter is defined as a registrant who cast a VBM ballot by mail in their last election experience. We applied these definitions to voters whose most recent voting experience was in any election from 2010 to 2018. Note: A voter who did not vote between 2010 and 2018, but who

may have voted before 2010, was excluded from this analysis as voting methods from these elections may less reliably indicate future voter use.

In the 2020 primary, voters who previously voted at a polling place overwhelmingly chose to vote in person compared to the general population. Previous polling place voters chose to use a VBM ballot and drop it off at a voting site or drop box at lower rates than the general population.

Figure 8 shows that over two-thirds of previous polling place voters cast their ballots in person during the 2020 primary, compared to 27.8% of the general population. Just over 17% of previous polling place voters voted by mail (compared to 48.5% of the general population), 9.8% of previous polling place voters cast their VBM ballots by dropping them off at a voting site and 4.1% voted by drop box.

In VCA counties, 63.8% of previous polling place voters voted in person, compared to 29.1% of the general voting population. Another 18.8% of previous polling place voters voted by mail. Over 11% of previous polling place voters voted by vote center drop off and 5.8% voted by drop box.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 37.8% of previous polling place voters voted in person, while 14.6% of the general population voted in person. Just under 30% voted by mail (compared to 51.1% of the general population), while 15.3% voted by vote center drop off and 17.3% voted by drop box.

Among individual VCA counties, there is a wide variation in the percentage of previous polling place voters who voted in person in the 2020 primary. In every VCA county, previous polling place voters voted in person at much higher rates than the general population. In-person voting rates for previous polling place voters ranged from 0.5% (Mariposa) to 76.7% (Los Angeles), while mail rates for previous polling place voters ranged from 13.4% (Los Angeles) to 62.6% (Butte). Previous polling place voters dropping off their VBM ballot at a vote center ranged from 9.8% (Los Angeles) to 38.9% (Napa). Previous polling place voters voting by drop box ranged from 0.1% (Los Angeles) to 33.4% (El Dorado).

Voting Method: Party Affiliation

Registered Republican voters consistently chose to vote by mail in the 2020 primary at higher rates than those registered as Democrats or No Party Preference (voters registered with third parties are consolidated as the “other” category).¹⁵ Those voters registered as Democrats and No Party Preference voters cast their ballots in person at higher rates than Republicans. Figure 9 shows that 57.7% of registered Republicans in California voted by mail, compared to 43.8% of Democrats and 47.6% of No Party Preference voters. Conversely, 21.6% of Republicans voted in person, compared to 30.1% of Democrats and 31.1% of No Party Preference voters. About 17.2% of Democratic voters dropped off their VBM ballot at a voting site compared to 12.5% of Republicans and 13.2% of No Party Preference voters. Just over 8% of both Republican and No Party Preference voters used a drop box, compared to 9.0% of Democratic voters.

In VCA counties combined, 54.4% of registered Republicans voted by mail, compared to 40.3% of Democrats and 44.8% of No Party Preference voters. Just over 20% of Republicans voted in person, compared to 32.0% of Democrats and 33.0% of No Party Preference voters. About 17% of Democratic voters dropped off their VBM ballot at a vote center, compared to 13.1% of Republicans and 12.6% of No Party Preference voters, while 12.3% of Republican voters cast their ballot via drop box, compared to 10.1% of Democratic voters and 9.6% of No Party Preference voters.

In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, Republican voters continued to vote by mail at higher rates than those registered as Democrats or No Party Preference, while Democrats voted by drop box and vote center drop off at higher rates than those registered as Republican or No Party Preference. Just over 57% of Republicans voted by mail, compared to 46.4% of Democrats and 51.6% of No Party Preference voters. About 16.8% of Democratic voters voted by vote center drop off, compared to 12.9% of Republican voters and 12.8% of No Party Preference voters. Just over 21% of Democratic voters voted by drop box, while 18.3% of Republican voters and 17.3% of No Party Preference voters voted by drop box. 15.6% of Democratic voters, 11.5% of Republican voters, and 18.2% of No Party Preference voters voted in person at a vote center.

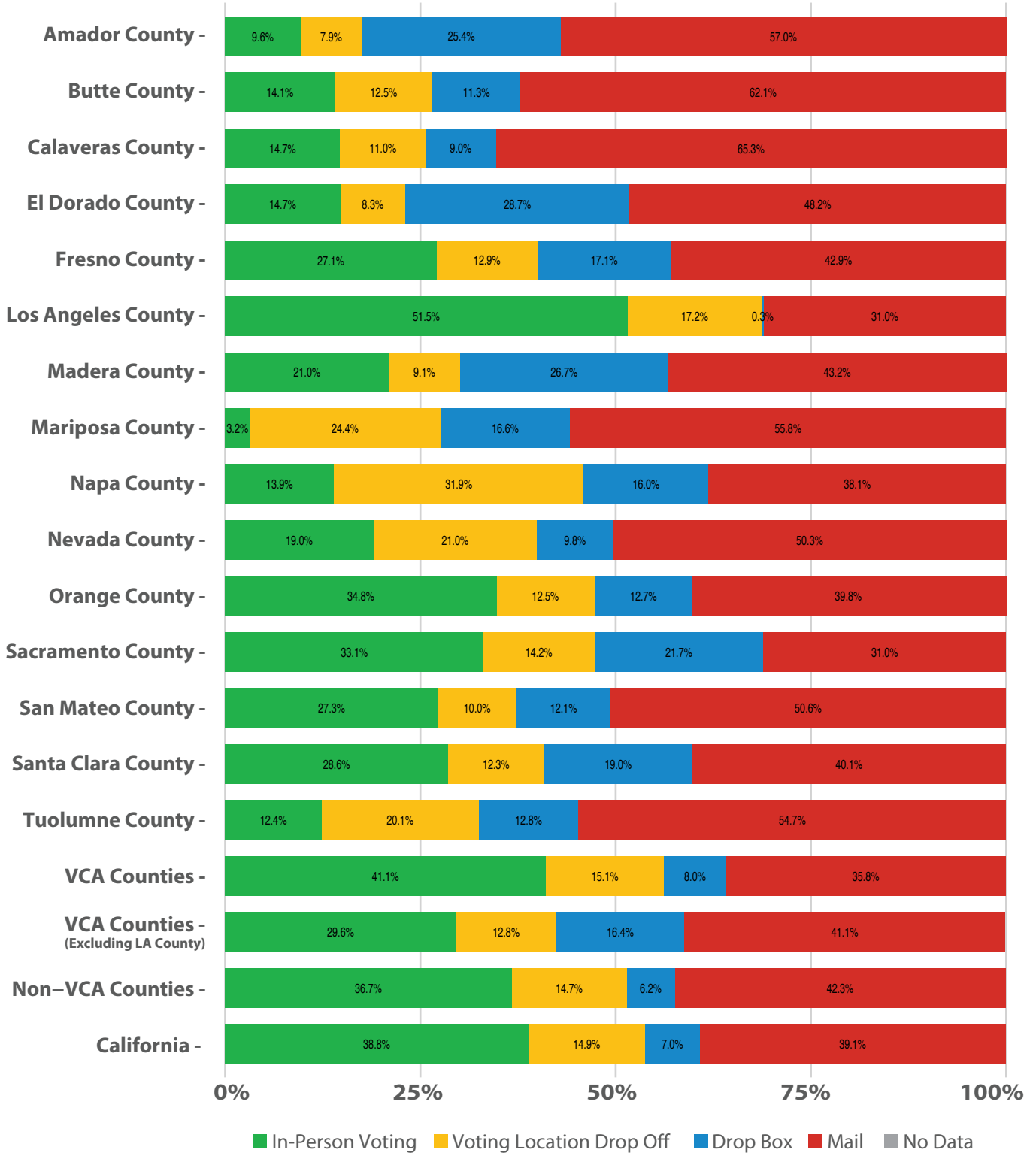
In every individual VCA county, Republicans voted by mail at higher rates than Democratic voters (and higher than No Party Preference voters in every VCA county). Republicans voting by mail ranged from 45.9% (Sacramento) to 77.3% (Butte). Democrats voting by mail ranged from 34.7% (Los Angeles) to 69.5% (Butte). No Party Preference voters casting their ballots by mail ranged from 36.3% (Los Angeles) to 74.7% (Butte).

FIGURE 7

Method of Voting

New Voters

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election

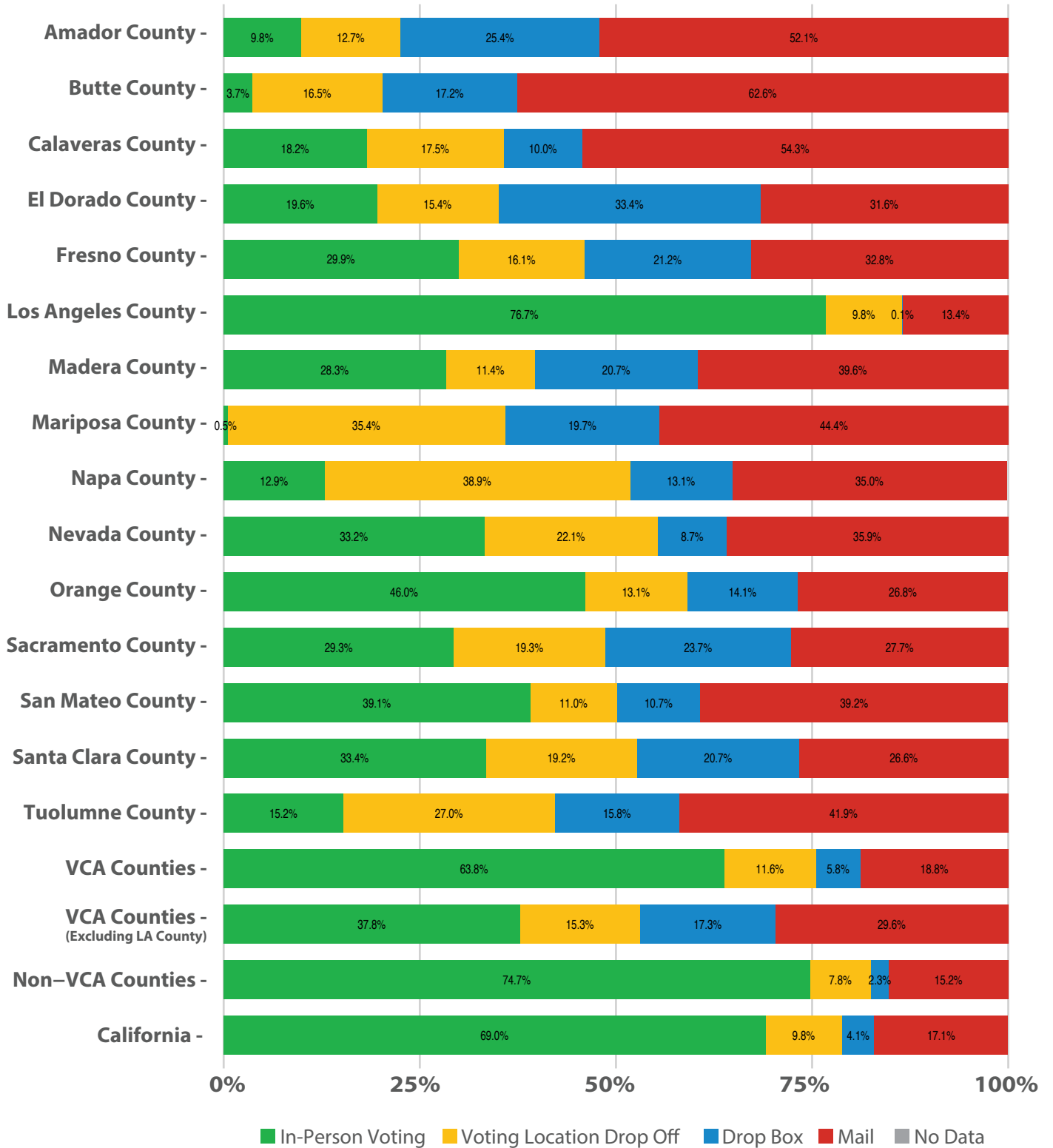


Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Method of Voting Previous Polling Place Voters

FIGURE 8

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election

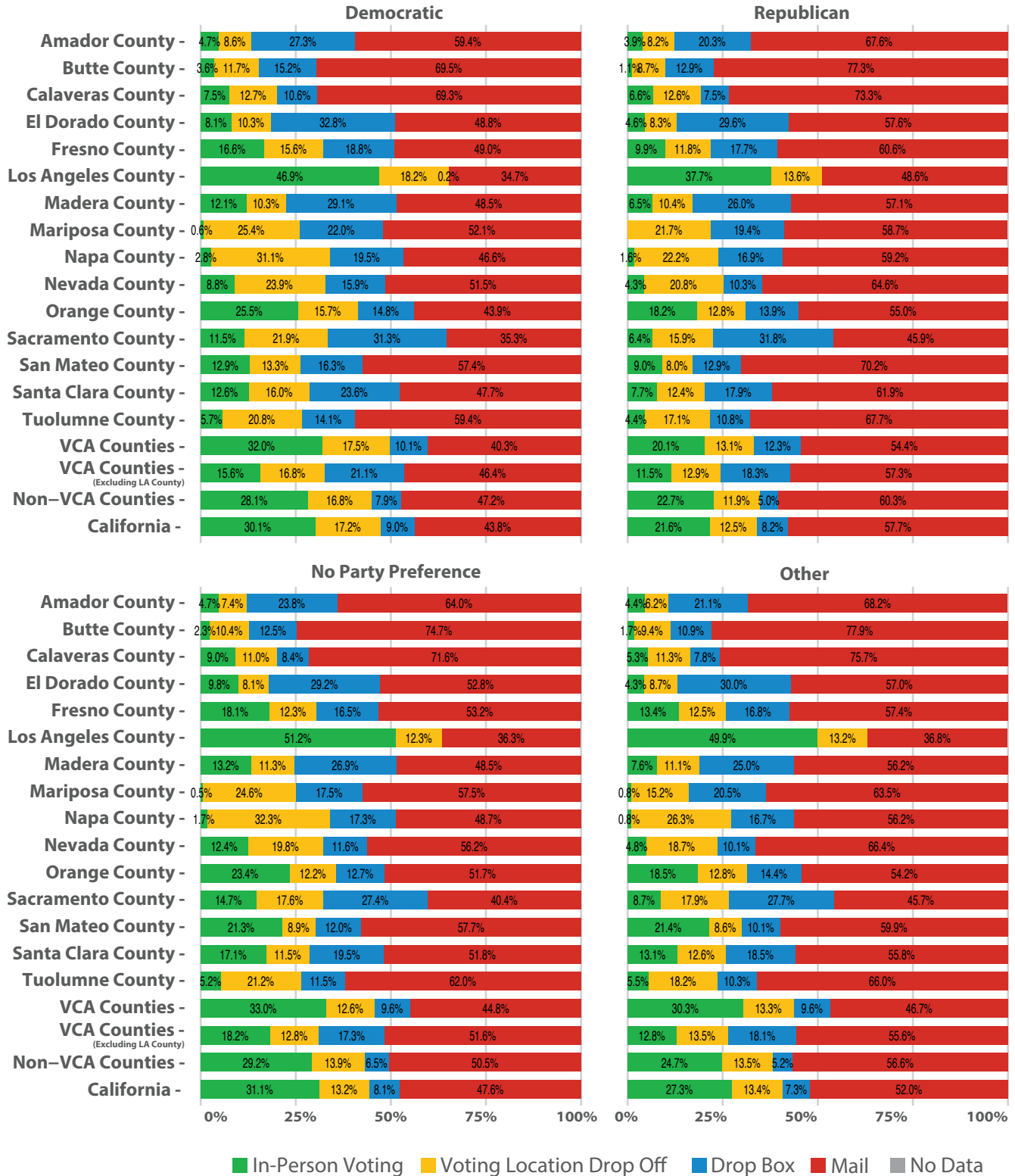


Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 9

Method of Voting Party Affiliation

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



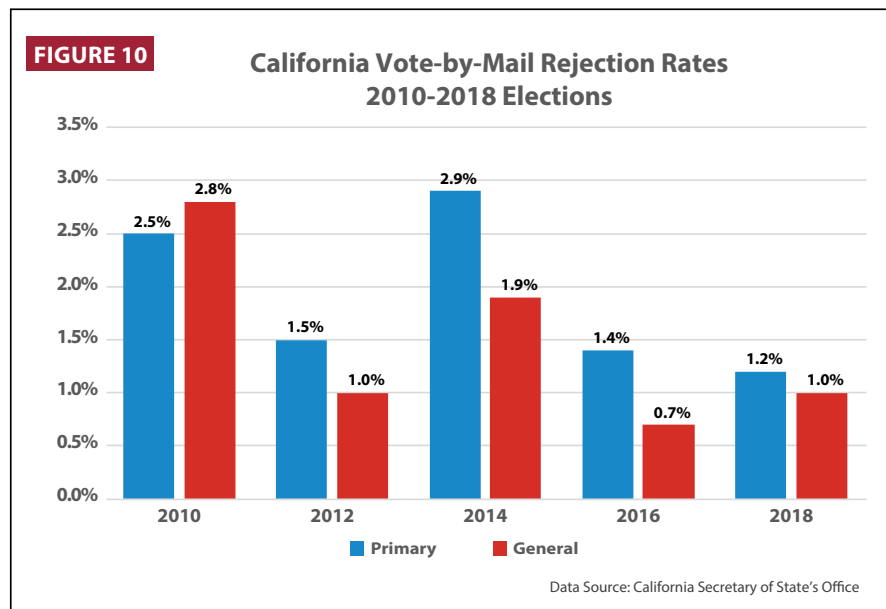
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

2. Vote-by-Mail Ballot Rejection Rates

Key Takeaways:

- Nearly 1.4% of all VBM ballots cast in California were rejected in the 2020 primary election. The VBM rejection rate was the same in VCA counties (1.4%) and non-VCA counties (1.4%).
- Latino (1.8%), Asian-American (1.6%), youth voters (3.9%), new voters (2.9%), and previous polling place voters (1.8%) 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 youth voters.
- About 1.5% of foreign-born voters' VBM ballots were rejected, while 1.4% of U.S.-born voters' VBM ballots were rejected.
- The VBM rejection rate of Democratic voters (1.4%) matched the rejection rate of the general voter population, while the VBM rejection rate of Republican voters (1.0%) was lower than the general population and the VBM rejection rates of No Party Preference voters (1.8%) was higher 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. In this section, we examine the rejection rates of VBM ballots (percent of cast VBM ballots that were rejected and uncounted) for the 2020 primary election (see Appendix B for the 2020 primary 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.



Our analysis found that 1.4% (93,705 ballots) of all VBM ballots cast in California (6,721,116 ballots) were rejected in the 2020 primary election. From Figure 11 we can see that the VBM rejection in VCA counties matches the California rejection rate of 1.4% (45,216 rejected ballots out of 3,193,731). VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County had the same 1.4% VBM rejection rate. Non-VCA counties also had a rejection rate of 1.4% (48,489 rejected ballots out of 3,527,430 VBM ballots). We note here that Solano County was omitted from the California and non-VCA counties analysis due to incomplete VBM rejection data.

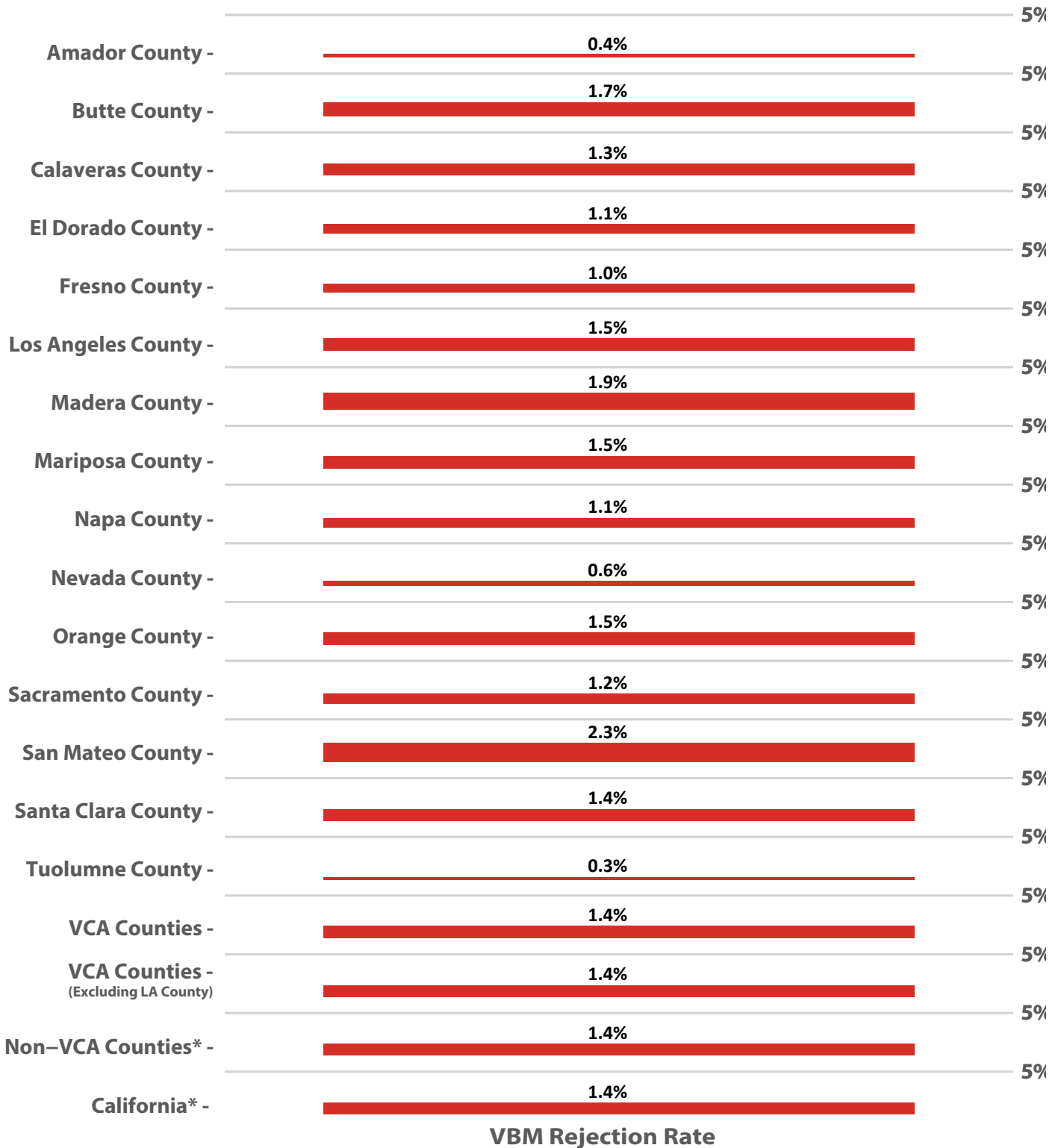
Among the individual VCA counties, the VBM rejection rate ranged from 0.3% in Tuolumne County to 2.3% in San Mateo County. Larger counties containing over 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles) consistently had VBM rejection rates close to the VCA average ranging from 1.2% (Sacramento) to 1.5% (Orange and Los Angeles). Smaller counties containing under 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) had a larger range in rejection rates, ranging from 0.3% (Tuolumne) to 1.5% (Mariposa).

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rate

All Voters

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election

FIGURE 11

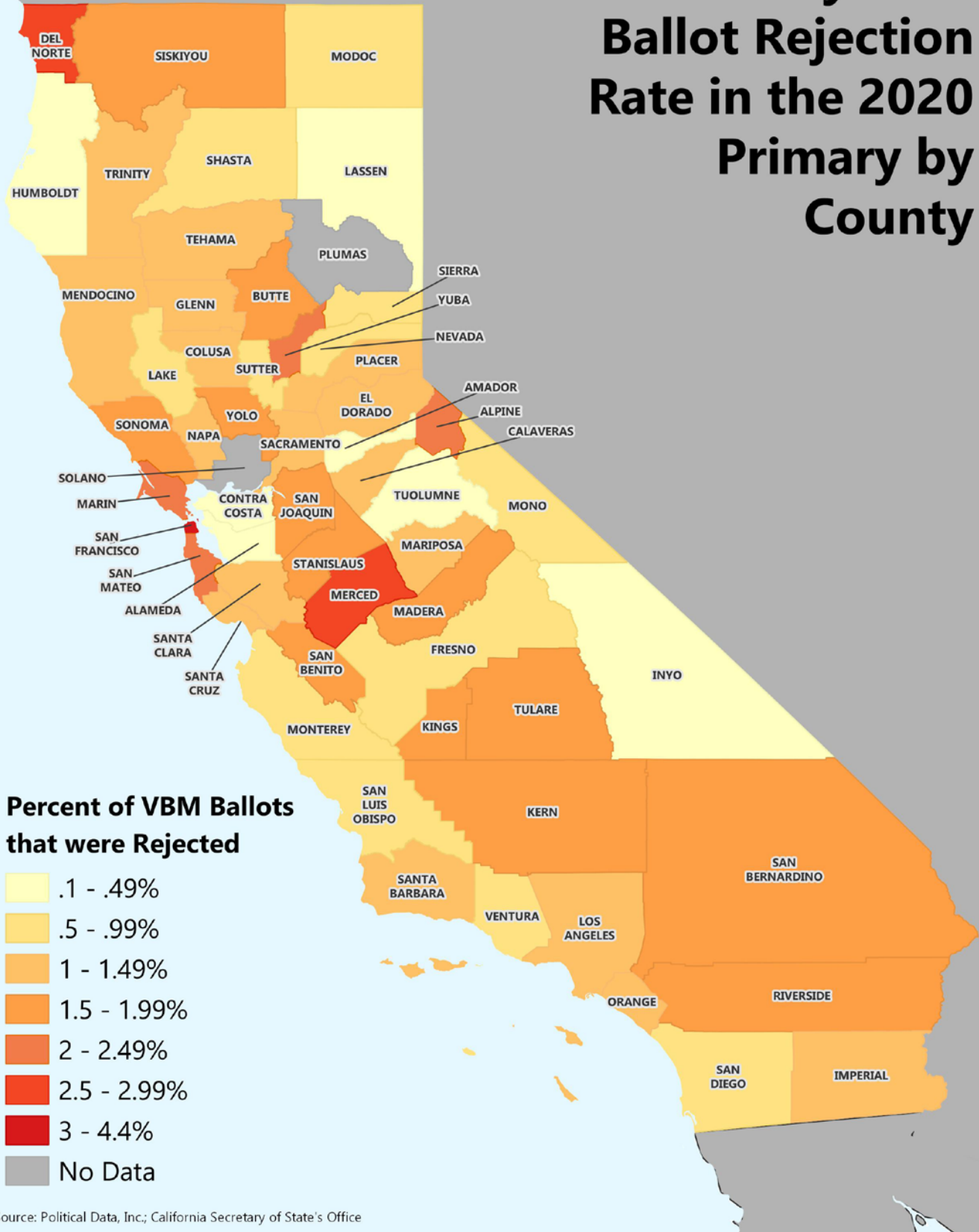


VBM Rejection Rate

*Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA counties analysis
Data Source: Political Data, Inc. and California Secretary of State

FIGURE 12

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



VBM Rejection Rates: Latinos

Latino voters in the 2020 primary election saw higher VBM ballot rejection rates than the general population. In California, 1.8% of Latino VBM ballots were rejected, compared to 1.4% of VBM ballots cast by the general population (see Appendix B for detailed data chart). In VCA counties combined, 1.8% of Latino VBM ballots were rejected, compared to 1.4% of the general population. Latino voters in VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County also had a 1.8% VBM rejection rate. In non-VCA counties, 1.9% of Latino VBM ballots were rejected, compared to 1.4% of the non-VCA general population.

In all individual VCA counties, Latino VBM rejection rates were higher than those of the general population. Latino VBM rejection rates ranged from 0.6% (Amador and Tuolumne) to 3.4% (Madera). Tuolumne County and Madera County had a Latino VBM rejection rate at or near twice the general population VBM rejection rate in their respective counties.

VBM Rejection Rates: Asian Americans

In the 2020 primary, Asian-American voters saw slightly higher VBM ballot rejection rates than the general population. In California, 1.6% of Asian-American VBM ballots were rejected, compared to 1.4% of the general population (see Appendix B for detailed data chart). In VCA counties, 1.5% of Asian-American VBM ballots were rejected, compared to 1.4% of the general population in those counties. Asian-American voters in VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County had a slightly higher VBM rejection rate of 1.6%.

Among the individual VCA counties, Asian-American VBM ballot rejection rates ranged widely. Excluding counties without any rejected ballots cast by Asian-American voters (Amador and Mariposa), the Asian-American VBM rejection rate ranged from 0.5% (Nevada) to 4.4% (Madera).

VBM Rejection Rates: Youth Voters

Young voters' (aged 18 to 24) VBM ballots were rejected at much higher rates than the general population (see Appendix B for detailed data chart). In California, 3.9% of youth VBM ballots were rejected compared to 1.4% of the general population. In VCA counties, likewise, 3.9% of youth VBM ballots were rejected compared to 1.4% of the general population. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 4.0% of youth VBM ballots were rejected compared to 1.4% of the general population.

Among individual VCA counties, most counties rejected VBM ballots cast by youth at much higher rates than those cast by the general population, except for Amador County which had a lower youth VBM rejection rate compared to the general population (0.3% and 0.4%, respectively). The remaining 14 VCA counties had at least double the rate of VBM rejection for youth voters compared to the general population, with three counties reaching four to six times the rate (Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Nevada). Youth voter VBM ballot rejection rates ranged from 0.3% (Amador) to 6.7% (San Mateo and Madera).

VBM Rejection Rates: Gender

VBM rejection rates between men and women were similar in the 2020 primary election, with slightly more VBM ballots from men being rejected than those from women. In California, 1.4% of men's VBM ballots were rejected and 1.3% of women's VBM ballots were rejected (see Appendix B for detailed data chart). VCA counties saw a similar outcome, with 1.4% of men's VBM ballots being rejected and 1.3% of women's VBM ballots rejected. VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County had the same VBM rejection rates for men and women as all VCA counties (1.4% and 1.3% respectively).

Among individual VCA counties, VBM rejection rates between men and women were also consistent. Rejection rates for men were higher than rejection rates for women in all counties except Los Angeles, Mariposa, and Tuolumne where rejection rates were the same for men and women.

VBM Rejection Rates: Nativity

In the 2020 primary election, slightly more foreign-born voters' VBM ballots were rejected compared to the VBM ballots of U.S.-born voters. In California, 1.5% of foreign-born voters' ballots were rejected, while 1.4% of U.S.-born voters' VBM ballots were rejected (see Appendix B for detailed data chart). In VCA counties, 1.4% of foreign-born voters' ballots were rejected and U.S.-born voters saw 1.3% of their VBM ballots rejected. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 1.4% of foreign-born voters' ballots were rejected and 1.3% of U.S.-born voters' ballots were rejected.

Among individual counties, differences between VBM rejection rates of foreign and U.S.-born voters differed significantly. Six VCA counties rejected foreign-born voters' VBM ballots at a higher rate than U.S.-born voters' ballots (Amador, Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Sacramento, and Tuolumne). Among these six counties, rejection rates of foreign-born voters' VBM ballots ranged from 0.4% (Tuolumne) to 2.8% (Madera), while rejection rates of U.S.-born voters' ballots ranged from 0.3% (Amador and Tuolumne) to 1.8% (Madera). The largest difference between rejection rates in these counties is in Amador County, with 1.5% of foreign-born voters' ballots rejected compared to 0.3% of U.S.-born voters' ballots rejected.

Five VCA counties rejected U.S.-born voters' ballots at a higher rate than foreign-born voters' ballots (Butte, Los Angeles, Nevada, San Mateo, and Santa Clara). Among these five counties, rejection rates for foreign-born voters' ballots ranged from 0.4% (Nevada) to 2.0% (San Mateo), while rejection rates for U.S.-born voters' ballots ranged from 0.5% (Nevada) to 2.1% (San Mateo). All five counties had a 0.1% difference in VBM rejection rates between foreign-born and U.S.-born voters. (Calaveras County was omitted from nativity analysis due to data unavailability.)

VBM Rejection Rates: New Voters

In the 2020 primary election, VBM ballots cast by new voters (as defined earlier in this report) were rejected at higher rates than the general population. In California, 2.9% of new voters' VBM ballots were rejected, compared to 1.4% of all voters. In VCA counties, 2.7% of new voters' VBM ballots were rejected, compared to 1.4% of all voters (see Figure 13). When looking at VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 3.0% of new voters' VBM ballots were rejected.

This pattern was seen for all individual VCA counties, except Tuolumne County which rejected new voters' VBM ballots at the same rate as all voters (0.3%). Rejection rates for new voters' VBM ballots ranged from 0.3% (Tuolumne) to 6.1% (Madera). The county with the biggest difference between the new voter rejection rate and the overall voter rejection rate was Madera County with 6.1% new voters' VBM ballots rejected and 1.9% of all voters' VBM ballots rejected.

VBM Rejection Rates: Previous Polling Place Voters

The 2020 primary VBM ballots of previous polling place voters (as defined earlier in this report) were rejected at higher rates than the general population. In California, previous polling place voters' VBM ballots were rejected at 1.8%, compared to 1.4% of the general population. In VCA counties, previous polling place voters' ballots were rejected at slightly higher rates than the general voting population with 1.7% rejected compared to 1.4% of the general population (see Figure 14). In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 1.7% of previous polling place voters' VBM ballots were rejected. Previous polling place voters had lower rejection rates when casting a VBM ballot in VCA counties than in non-VCA counties.

Among individual VCA counties, VBM rejection rates for previous polling place voters were higher than the general population in all counties, ranging from 0.4% (Tuolumne) to 6.0% (San Mateo). Counties with the highest VBM rejection rates for previous polling place voters include San Mateo (6.0%), Madera (4.9%), and Sacramento (3.1%).

VBM Rejection Rates: Party Affiliation

The VBM rejection rate in the 2020 primary varied somewhat by the registered political affiliation of voters. In Figure 15, we can see that in California, the rejection rate of the VBM ballots of registered Democrats was 1.4%, while the rejection rate of VBM ballots cast by registered Republicans was 1.0%, and the rejection rate of VBM ballots from No Party Preference registered voters was 1.8% (voters registered with third parties are consolidated as the "other" category).

In VCA counties, the rejection rate of VBM ballots from registered Democrats was 1.4%, the rejection rate of registered Republican VBM ballots was 1.1%, and VBM ballots cast by voters registered as No Party Preference was 1.9%. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 1.4% of Democratic voters' VBM ballots were rejected, 1.0% of Republican voters' VBM ballots were rejected, and 1.8% of No Party Preference voters' VBM ballots were rejected.

This pattern was also seen in the majority of individual VCA counties, with the exceptions of Napa and Tuolumne counties where VBM ballots cast by registered Republicans were rejected at slightly higher rates than VBM ballots cast by registered Democrats (1.0% to 0.9% and 0.3% to 0.2% respectively) and Amador and Nevada counties where Democratic and Republican VBM ballots were rejected at the same rate (0.3% and 0.5% respectively). Rejection rates for Democratic ballots ranged from 0.2% (Tuolumne) to 2.3% (Madera). Republican ballot rejection rates ranged from 0.3% (Tuolumne and Amador) to 1.7% (San Mateo). No Party Preference ballot rejection rates ranged from 0.2% (Tuolumne) to 3.6% (Madera).

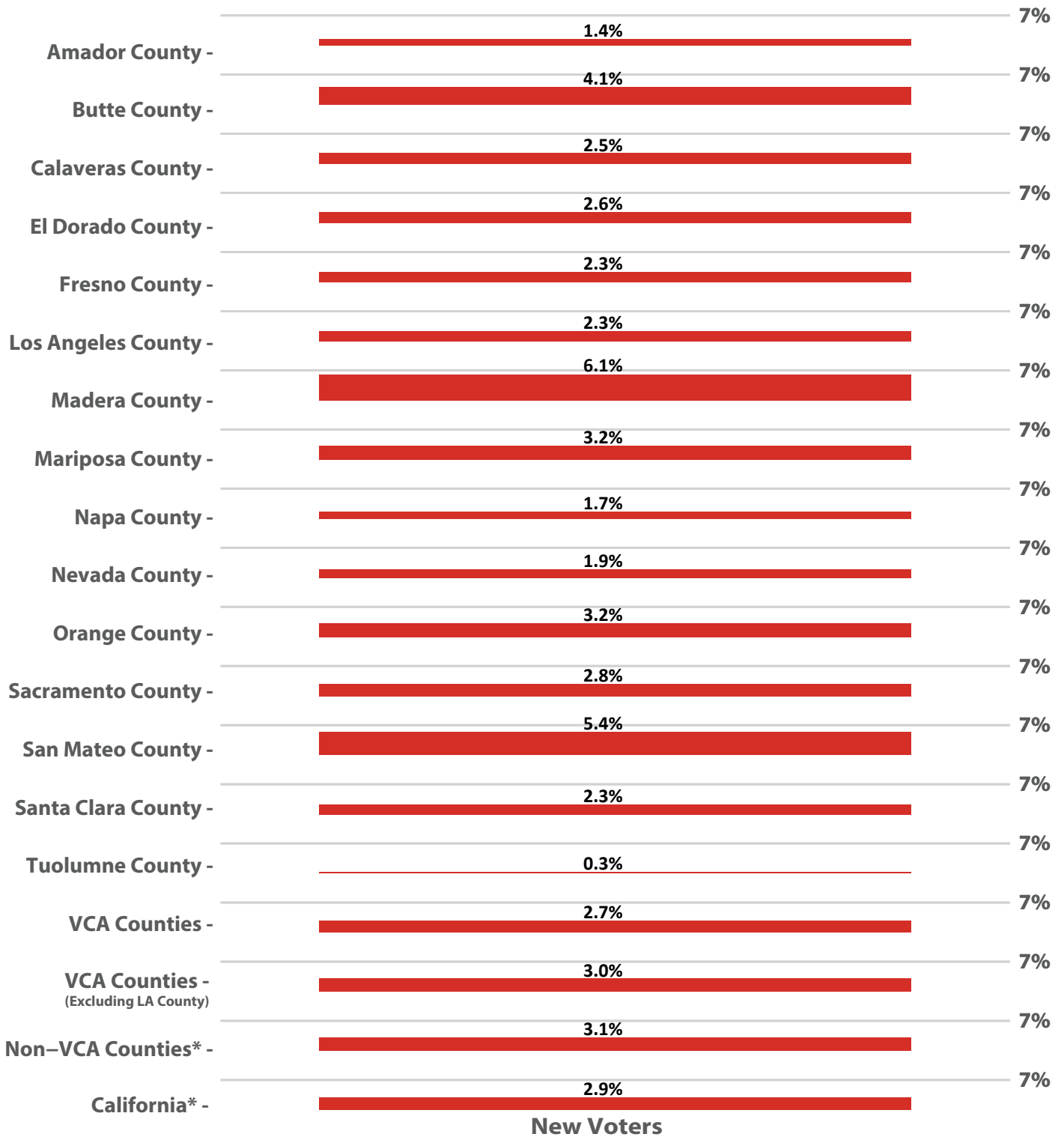
Note: Some groups within the individual VCA counties, especially counties with under 35,000 registered voters, had low VBM ballot and rejection totals, such as Latino, Asian-American, youth, and new voters. This should be considered when looking at individual VCA counties' VBM rejection rate results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

FIGURE 13

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rates

New Voters

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election

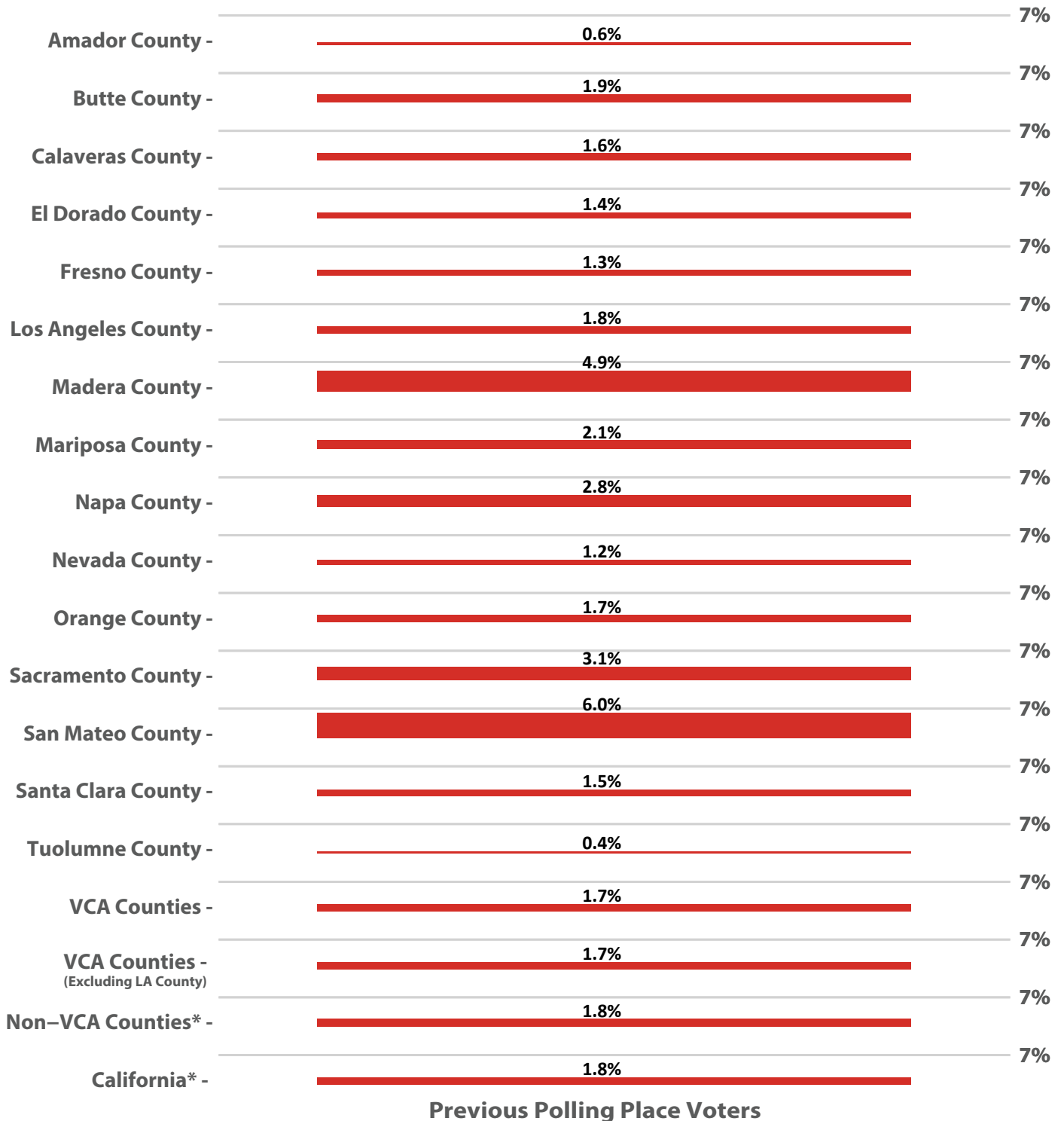


*Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA counties analysis
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rates Previous Polling Place Voters

FIGURE 14

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election

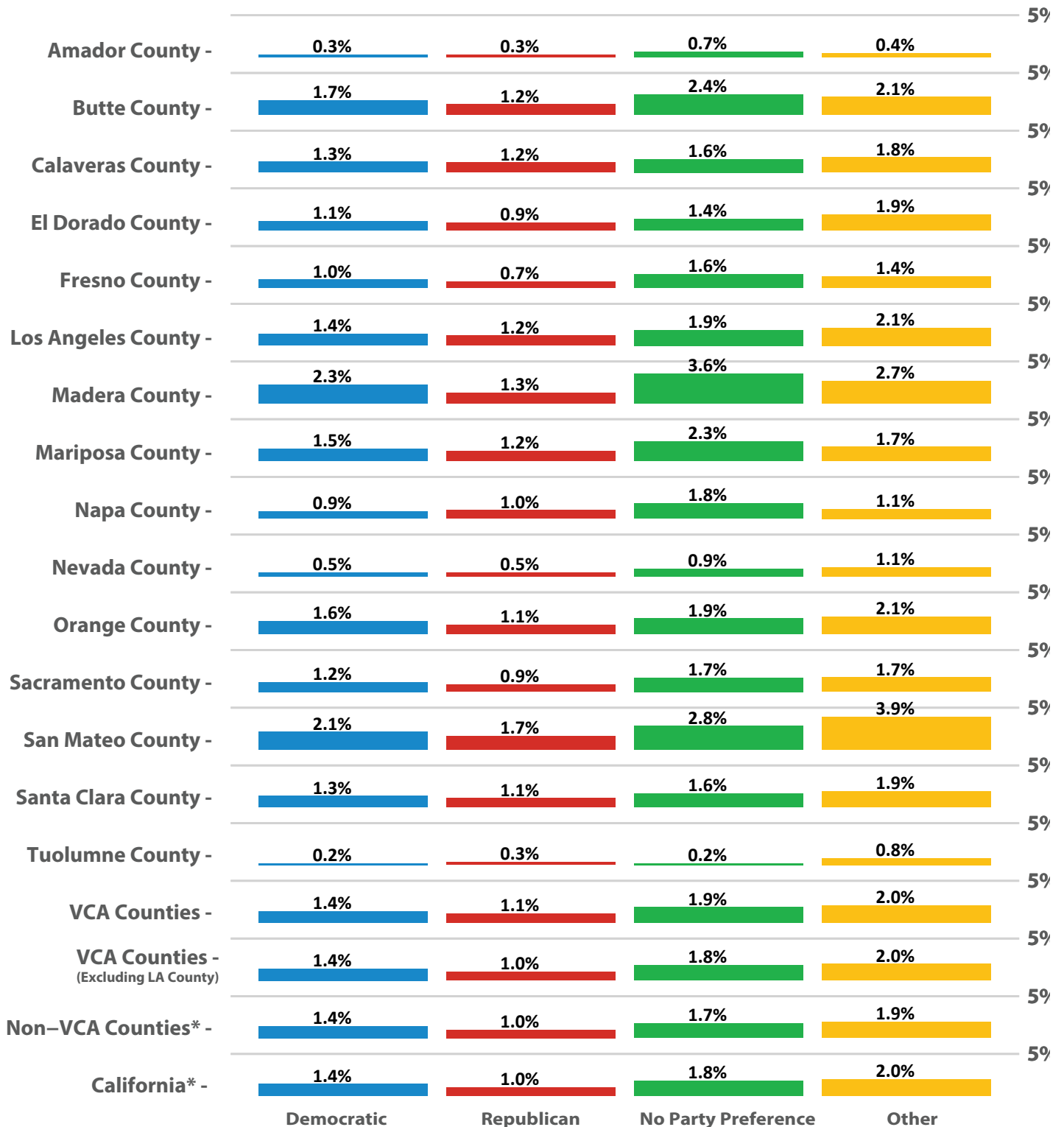


*Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA counties analysis
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 15

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rate Party Affiliation

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



*Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA counties analysis
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

3. Reasons for Vote-by-Mail Ballot Rejection

Key Takeaways:

- In California, 69.1% of VBM ballots rejected in the 2020 primary election were rejected for being late, 14.7% did not have a matching signature, 13.0% were missing a signature, and 3.2% were rejected for some other reason.
- Rejection reasons varied greatly across counties, with the percent of VBM ballots rejected for being late ranging from 4.5% up to 91.5%.
- VCA counties had higher rates of late ballot rejection than non-VCA counties.
- Latino voters and young voters had lower rates of late ballots and higher rates of signature issues than the general population.
- Asian-American voters and foreign-born voters had higher rates of late VBM ballots than the general population.

In this section, we examine the variation in the reasons for VBM ballot rejection (1.4% of all VBM ballots) in California's 2020 primary election. Figure 16 shows that our analysis found the majority (69.1%) of the VBM ballots rejected in the California primary were uncounted because they were not postmarked or received on time (arriving more than three days after the election, the statutory limit when postmarked by Election Day).¹⁶ The second and third most frequent reasons for VBM rejection involved signature issues, totaling 27.7% of rejected ballots: 14.7% of VBM rejected ballots did not have a matching signature and 13.0% were missing a signature.

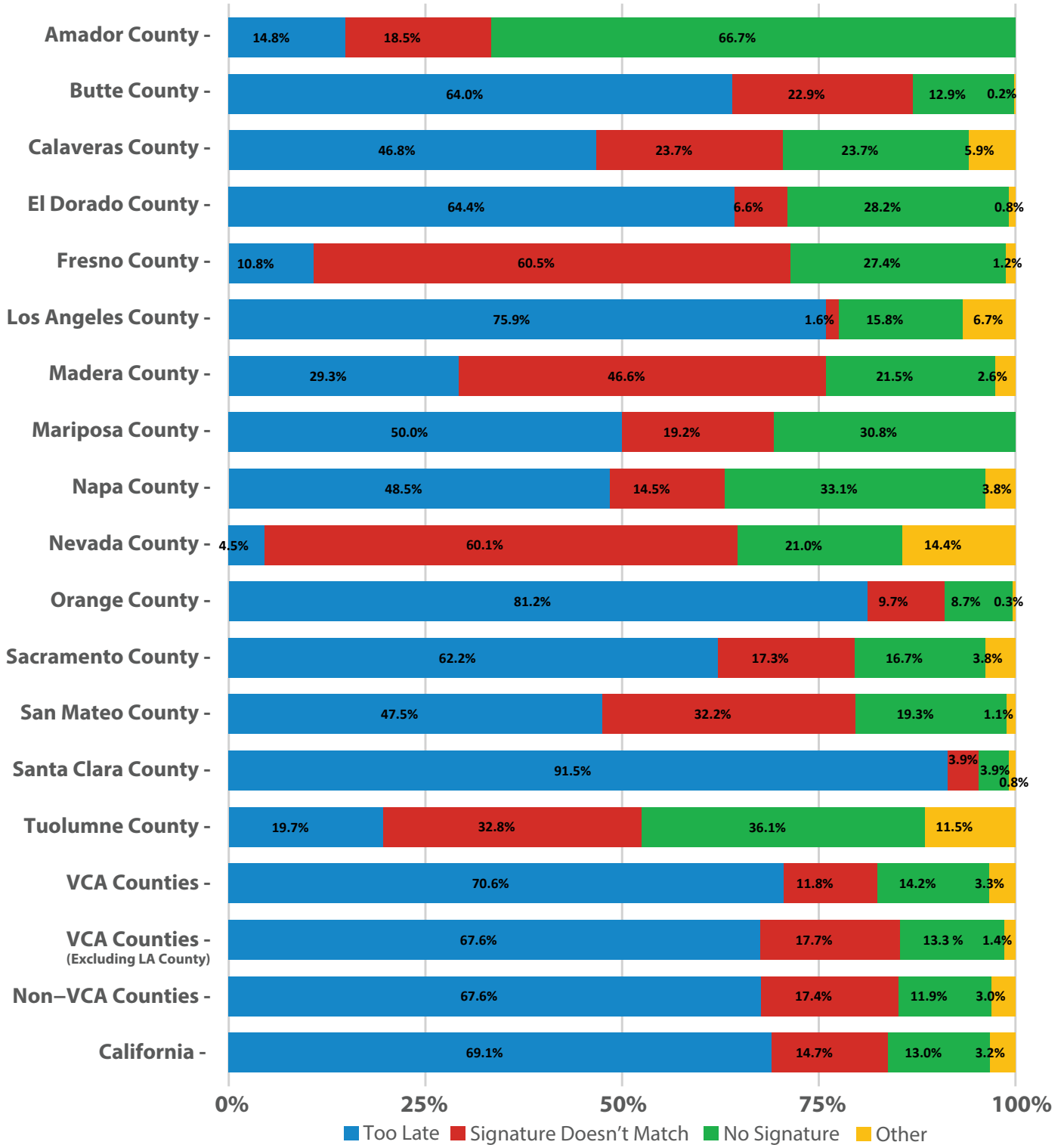
As a group, VCA counties saw a higher percent (70.6%) of VBM ballot rejection due to lateness than the statewide rate. Non-VCA counties had a lower percent (67.6%) of their rejected VBM ballots that were uncounted for being late. In VCA counties 11.8% of rejected VBM ballots did not have a matching signature and 14.2% were missing a signature. In non-VCA counties, 17.4% of rejected VBM ballots did not have a matching signature and 11.9% were missing a signature. VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County saw a lower percent (67.6%) of VBM ballot rejection due to lateness than the statewide rate. Additionally, 17.7% of VBM ballots in VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County were rejected for a non-matching signature and 13.3% were rejected for a missing signature.

Reasons for VBM rejection varied among individual VCA counties. Small counties (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Tuolumne) had a higher share of VBM ballots rejected due to missing signatures and a lower share rejected for lateness than large VCA counties (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, Los Angeles). Among small VCA counties, the percent of VBM ballots rejected for missing signatures was between 23.7% (Calaveras) and 66.7% (Amador). In large VCA counties, the percent of VBM ballots rejected for missing signatures was between 3.9% (Santa Clara) and 16.7% (Sacramento).

The share of rejected VBM ballots received late in small VCA counties ranged from 14.8% (Amador) to 50.0% (Mariposa), while the percent of rejected VBM ballots received late in large VCA counties ranged from 62.2% (Sacramento) to 91.5% (Santa Clara). The percent of VBM ballots rejected for having a non-matching signature also varied greatly across individual VCA counties, ranging from 1.6% (Los Angeles) and 60.5% (Fresno). Small VCA counties had higher percentages of VBM ballots rejected for non-matching signatures, ranging from 18.5% (Amador) to 32.8% (Tuolumne), while large VCA counties had lower percentages of VBM ballots rejected for non-matching signatures, ranging from 1.6% (Los Angeles) to 17.3% (Sacramento).

FIGURE 16

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



*Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA Counties Analysis

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

VBM Rejection Reasons: Latinos

Latino voters had a lower share of their rejected VBM ballots in the 2020 primary uncounted due to lateness and a higher share rejected due to signature issues than the general voter population. In California, 64.5% of Latino voters' rejected VBM ballots were postmarked or received late, compared to 69.1% of the general population. Just under 19% of Latino voters' rejected ballots had non-matching signatures and 12.4% were rejected due to missing signatures (see Appendix B for detailed data chart).

In VCA counties, 67.9% of Latino voters' rejected VBM ballots were postmarked or received late, 14.1% had non-matching signatures, and 13.5% were rejected due to missing signatures. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, just over 62% of Latino voters' rejected VBM ballots were received late, 24.9% had non-matching signatures, and 11.8% were missing signatures.

In individual VCA counties, the percent of Latino voters' rejected VBM ballots that were received late ranged from 0.0% (Amador) to 90.3% (Santa Clara). The share of Latino voters' rejected VBM ballots with non-matching signatures ranged from 1.6% (Los Angeles) to 66.8% (Fresno), while the share of Latino voters' rejected ballots with missing signatures ranged from 4.1% (Santa Clara) to 40.0% (Amador). We should note here that Amador County, Mariposa County, and Tuolumne County had low numbers of rejected VBM ballots from Latino voters. Amador County had five rejected VBM ballots, Mariposa County had eight rejected VBM ballots, and Tuolumne County had seven rejected VBM ballots from Latino voters.

VBM Rejection Reasons: Asian Americans

Asian-American voters had higher rates of VBM ballots rejected because of lateness and lower rates of VBM ballot rejection due to signature issues than the general population. In California, 74.3% of Asian Americans' rejected VBM ballots were postmarked or received late, compared to 69.1% of the general population. Over 12% of Asian Americans' rejected ballots had non-matching signatures and 11.1% had missing signatures (see Appendix B for detailed data chart).

In VCA counties, 73.9% of Asian-Americans' rejected ballots were received late, compared to 70.6% of the general population. About 12% of rejected Asian-American VBM ballots had non-matching signatures and 11.9% were missing signatures. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 73.2% of Asian-Americans' rejected VBM ballots were received late. Almost 16% were rejected for non-matching signatures, an increase from 12.2% in all VCA counties. More than 10% of Asian-Americans' rejected ballots were missing a signature.

Among individual VCA counties, the percent of Asian-American rejected VBM ballots that were uncounted due to lateness ranged from 0.0% (Tuolumne and Nevada) to 100% (Calaveras). The percent of VBM ballots cast by Asian Americans that were rejected for non-matching signatures ranged from 0.0% (Tuolumne and Nevada) to 64.9% (Fresno), while the share of Asian-American VBM ballots rejected for missing signatures ranged from 0.0% (Calaveras) to 100% (Tuolumne and Nevada).

We should note that Nevada County had two Asian-American voters with rejected VBM ballots and Tuolumne County had one Asian-American voter with a rejected ballot. All of these voters' rejected VBM ballots were uncounted due to missing signatures. Additionally, Calaveras County had four Asian-American voters with rejected VBM ballots, all of which were uncounted for being received late.

VBM Rejection Reasons: Youth Voters

Young voters (aged 18 to 24) had lower rates of rejected VBM ballots in the 2020 primary due to lateness and missing signatures than the general voter population but had higher rates of non-matching signatures. In California, 63.8% of young voters' rejected VBM ballots were received late, compared to 69.1% of the general population. A quarter of young voters' rejected ballots had non-matching signatures and 8.8% had missing signatures (see Appendix B for detailed data chart).

In VCA counties, 68.2% of young voters' rejected VBM ballots were postmarked or received late, compared to 70.6% of the general population. A little under 19% of young voters' rejected ballots had non-matching signatures, while 10.1% of young voters' rejected VBM ballots had missing signatures. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 63.6% of young voters' rejected ballots were received late, 27.8% were rejected for non-matching signatures, and 7.6% were missing a signature. In individual VCA counties, the percent of young voters' VBM ballots that were postmarked or received late ranged between 0.0% (Amador) to 89.5% (Santa Clara). The range for the share of young voters' VBM ballots that had non-matching signatures was between 1.8% (Los Angeles) and 100% (Amador). The range for the share of young voters' VBM ballots that had missing signatures was between 0.0% (Amador and Mariposa) and 16.9% (Napa). Please note that Amador had only one young voter with a rejected VBM ballot and this ballot was rejected for non-matching signature.

VBM Rejection Reasons: Gender

For both men and women voters in the 2020 primary, the majority of VBM rejected ballots were uncounted due to not being postmarked or received on time. However, rejected VBM ballots cast by women were uncounted for lateness at a higher rate than men's VBM ballots. In California, 66.4% of men's rejected VBM ballots and 71.7% of women's rejected VBM ballots were rejected for being late (see Appendix B for detailed data chart).

Men had higher rates of VBM ballots rejected for signature issues than women voters. In California, 16.6% of men's VBM rejected ballots were rejected for not having a matching signature and 13.9% because of a missing signature, while 12.6% of women's VBM rejected ballots were rejected for not having a matching signature and 12.4% because of a missing signature.

In VCA counties, overall, 68.0% of men's VBM rejected ballots and 73.2% of women's VBM rejected ballots were rejected for being late. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 64.8% of men's VBM rejected ballots and 70.3% of women's VBM rejected ballots were received late. Among individual VCA counties, the more frequent reason for VBM ballot rejection varied for men versus women. In most VCA counties, women had higher rates of late VBM ballots than men and men had higher rates of signature issues than women. In Amador, Napa, and Tuolumne counties, higher rates of men had their VBM ballots rejected for being late than women, and women had higher rates of signature issues. In Amador, Fresno, Madera, Nevada, and Tuolumne counties, the majority of VBM ballots for both men and women were rejected for signature issues and not due to lateness.

VBM Rejection Reasons: Nativity

For both foreign-born and U.S.-born voters in the 2020 primary, the majority of rejected VBM ballots were uncounted due to lateness. Foreign-born voters' VBM ballots were rejected for being late at slightly lower rates than U.S.-born voters' VBM ballots. In California, 69.5% of foreign-born voters' rejected ballots and 69.6% of U.S.-born voters' rejected ballots were uncounted for being received late (see Appendix B for detailed data chart). Almost 14% of foreign-born voters' rejected ballots and 13.1% of U.S.-born voters' rejected ballots were rejected for missing a signature, while 13.0% of foreign-born voters' rejected ballots and 14.2% of the rejected ballots of U.S. born voters were uncounted for a non-matching signature. In VCA counties, 71.1% of foreign-born voters' rejected ballots and 70.9% of U.S.-born voters' rejected ballots were rejected for being late. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 70.8% of foreign-born voters' rejected ballots and 68.0% of U.S.-born voters' rejected ballots were rejected for being late.

Among individual VCA counties, the top rejection reasons for foreign-born and U.S.-born voters varied. VBM ballots received late was the leading rejection reason in the majority of VCA counties for both foreign-born and U.S.-born voters. In five counties (Amador, Fresno, Madera, Nevada, Tuolumne), signature issues were the biggest reason for rejected ballots for both groups. Foreign-born voters had higher rates of late VBM ballots than U.S.-born voters in seven counties, while U.S.-born voters had higher rates of late ballots in the other seven counties. Note that Tuolumne County only recorded two rejected VBM ballots for foreign-born voters, both uncounted for missing signature. (Calaveras County was omitted from nativity analysis due to data unavailability.)

VBM Rejection Reasons: New Voters

The majority of rejected VBM ballots cast by new voters (as defined earlier in this report) in the 2020 primary were received late. Figure 17 shows that in California, 65.6% of new voters' VBM rejected ballots were uncounted for being late, compared to 69.1% of the general population. Just under 22% of new voters' rejected ballots were rejected for non-matching signatures, while 9.7% of the rejected ballots of new voters were uncounted due to missing signatures.

In VCA counties, 68.0% of new voters' VBM rejected ballots were rejected for being late, compared to 70.6% of the general population. Almost 18% of new voters' rejected ballots were rejected for non-matching signatures and 10.9% of these voters' rejected VBM ballots were uncounted due to missing signatures. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 63.6% of new voters' rejected ballots were received late, while 26.3% were rejected for a non-matching signature and 9.1% had missing signatures.

Among individual VCA counties, the reasons for new voters' rejected VBM ballots varied. The percent of VBM ballots received late ranged from 6.7% (Fresno) to 100% (Tuolumne). The percent of VBM ballots missing a signature ranged from 0.0% (Tuolumne) to 37.5% (Calaveras). The share of VBM ballots with a non-matching signature ranged from 0.0% (Tuolumne) to 75.9% (Nevada). Note that Tuolumne County reported two new voters with rejected VBM ballots, both uncounted for being late.

VBM Rejection Reasons: Previous Polling Place Voters

In the 2020 primary, previous polling place voters (as defined earlier in this report) had lower rates of late ballots and non-matching signatures and higher rates of other ballot issues compared to the general population. In California, 68.9% of rejected VBM ballots cast by previous polling place voters were received late, compared to 69.1% in the general population (see Figure 18). Just over 12% of previous polling place voters' rejected ballots had non-matching signatures and 15.3% of their rejected ballots were missing signatures.

However, in VCA counties overall, previous polling place voters saw a similar distribution of the reasons for VBM ballot rejection compared to the general population. In VCA counties, 70.6% of previous polling place voters' rejected VBM ballots were received late, matching the general population's rate. Another 10.2% of previous polling place voters' rejected ballots had non-matching signatures and 15.6% of their rejected VBM ballots were missing signatures. Previous polling place voters and the general population had similar rates of "other" rejection reasons (3.7% and 3.3%). Looking at VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, however, previous polling place voters had lower rates of late ballots (66.7%) compared to the general population. Over 17% of previous polling place voters' rejected ballots had non-matching signatures and 15.2% were missing a signature.

In individual VCA counties, there was a wide range in the most frequent reasons for VBM ballot rejection for previous polling place voters. The percent of late VBM ballots for these voters ranged from 4.2% (Nevada) to 85.7% (Santa Clara), while the percent of VBM ballots with non-matching signatures ranged from 1.5% (Los Angeles) of rejected ballots to 55.6% (Fresno) of rejected ballots. The percent of VBM ballots with missing signatures ranged from 7.6% (Santa Clara) to 70.0% (Amador).

VBM Rejection Reasons: Party Affiliation

For all party affiliations, the majority of rejected VBM ballots in the 2020 primary were uncounted due to lateness. Registered Democratic voters had a higher rate of late VBM ballots than registered Republican voters. Registered Republicans had a slightly higher rate of rejected VBM ballots for signature issues than voters registered as Democrats (Voters registered with third parties are consolidated as the "other" category.)

In California, 70.4% of rejected VBM ballots cast by registered Democrats were uncounted due to being late, 66.9% of rejected ballots of registered Republicans were late and 68.5% of rejected VBM ballots of voters registered as No Party

Preference were late. In California, 14.1% of the rejected ballots of registered Democratic voters had non-matching signatures and 12.2% of their rejected ballots had no signature. Over 15% of registered Republicans' rejected ballots had non-matching signatures and 14.5% of Republicans' rejected ballots had no signature. For No Party Preference voters, 15.4% of rejected VBM ballots had non-matching signatures and 13.1% had no signature.

In VCA counties overall, 71.4% of rejected ballots cast by registered Democrats were late, 69.9% of registered Republican VBM rejected ballots were rejected for being late, and 69.7% of No Party Preference ballots were rejected due to lateness. Also, in VCA counties, 11.0% of rejected VBM ballots cast by registered Democrats had non-matching signatures and 13.9% of these ballots had no signature. Just under 13% of Republican rejected ballots had non-matching signatures and 14.9% of their rejected ballots did not have a signature. For No Party Preference voters, 12.6% of rejected ballots had non-matching signatures and 14.1% had no signature. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 68.5% of rejected ballots cast by registered Democrats' were late, 66.5% of registered Republicans were late, and 67.3% of No Party Preference voters were late. About 17.6% of rejected ballots cast by registered Democrats had non-matching signatures, compared to 17.4% of Republican voters and 18.0% of No Party Preference voters. More than 12% of rejected ballots from Democratic voters were missing signatures, while 14.9% of Republican voters and 12.8% of No Party Preference voters were missing signatures. Among individual VCA counties, VBM rejection reasons varied for all party affiliations (see Figure 19).

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.

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Reasons New Voters

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election

FIGURE 17

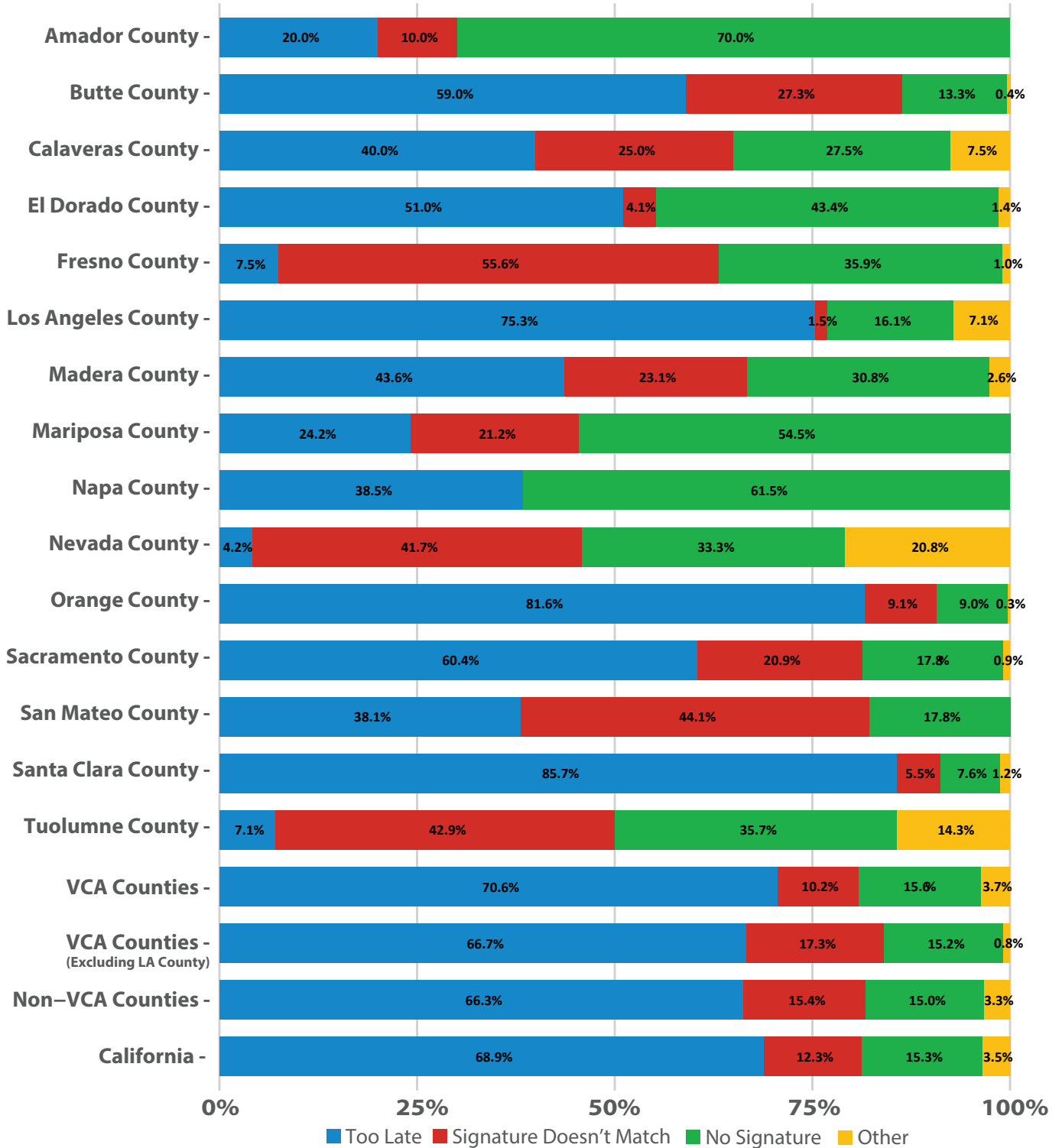


*Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA Counties Analysis

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 Primary Election



*Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA Counties Analysis

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 Primary Election



*Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA Counties Analysis
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

4. Voter Registration

Key Takeaways:

- Immediately prior to the 2020 primary election, 81.8% of eligible voters in California were registered to vote - the highest percentage of eligible citizens registered to vote heading into a California presidential primary in the past 68 years.
- VCA counties had a higher registration rate for eligible voters (84.8%) than non-VCA counties (79%).
- Latino, Asian-American, and youth voters had significantly lower registration rates than the general population.
- 2020 Latino registration rates ranged from 37.0% (Amador) to 75.1% (Los Angeles) in VCA counties; Asian-American registration rates ranged from 44.4% (Butte) to 81.9% (Tuolumne); and registration rates for youth ranged from 21.6% (Calaveras) to 83.3% (San Mateo).

At the time of the 2020 primary election, the official California registration rate (the percent of eligible adult citizens who are registered to vote) was 81.8% as reported by the Secretary of State's Office. This was the highest percentage of eligible citizens registered to vote heading into a California presidential primary in the past 68 years.¹⁷ Table 5 shows the growth in registration rates over time in VCA counties and statewide (see Appendix C for 2020 primary registration rates in every California county).

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

	2004	2006	Feb-08	Jun-08	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
Amador County	75.5%	76.7%	77.9%	77.1%	80.3%	75.7%	79.2%	75.6%	80.7%	84.8%
Butte County	73.9%	73.9%	75.3%	72.7%	72.8%	68.7%	71.1%	73.9%	68.1%	68.7%
Calaveras County	78.2%	76.9%	76.9%	77.4%	80.4%	78.5%	76.6%	76.2%	78.8%	82.9%
El Dorado County	79.4%	79.2%	79.2%	80.6%	81.6%	78.2%	78.9%	80.0%	82.1%	86.5%
Fresno County	69.0%	63.4%	66.7%	66.4%	71.6%	70.2%	72.4%	71.5%	74.1%	77.8%
Los Angeles County	65.4%	67.5%	69.4%	71.0%	75.0%	74.8%	79.9%	79.2%	82.8%	89.7%
Madera County	63.3%	46.3%	61.5%	61.6%	64.5%	61.3%	61.7%	62.0%	61.3%	68.1%
Mariposa County	76.8%	80.1%	78.3%	78.1%	81.1%	72.5%	69.3%	70.3%	70.9%	73.5%
Napa County	73.1%	74.2%	72.9%	73.4%	75.5%	75.2%	78.0%	77.6%	82.4%	87.5%
Nevada County	83.1%	84.4%	79.3%	80.1%	82.6%	79.3%	80.4%	85.4%	86.9%	87.4%
Orange County	77.0%	80.9%	83.5%	85.0%	85.2%	84.1%	72.2%	69.7%	73.3%	80.7%
Sacramento County	68.2%	68.8%	66.4%	67.6%	71.1%	69.4%	71.9%	72.7%	73.5%	79.7%
San Mateo County	71.5%	75.2%	75.3%	75.6%	69.8%	70.7%	72.7%	73.2%	76.7%	82.3%
Santa Clara County	74.9%	70.0%	62.6%	64.6%	67.5%	67.7%	70.0%	66.4%	70.3%	79.1%
Tuolumne County	80.9%	81.8%	82.7%	82.8%	83.0%	79.4%	75.4%	71.6%	75.2%	80.0%
VCA Counties	69.5%	69.5%	71.2%	72.6%	75.3%	74.8%	76.1%	75.0%	78.2%	84.8%
VCA Counties w/o LA	73.7%	73.7%	73.2%	74.2%	75.6%	74.7%	72.0%	70.7%	73.4%	79.9%
Non-VCA Counties	68.4%	68.4%	65.8%	67.5%	69.6%	70.0%	70.5%	69.7%	73.4%	79.0%
Statewide	69.0%	69.5%	68.5%	70.0%	72.4%	72.3%	73.3%	72.3%	75.7%	81.8%

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 primary 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

Figure 20 shows that at the time of the 2020 primary election, VCA counties had higher registration rates for the general population (82.2%) than non-VCA counties (76.0%). When looking at VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, the fourteen VCA counties combined still had a higher registration rate than non-VCA counties combined. Among individual VCA counties, registration rates ranged from 64.2% in Calaveras County to 86.0% in Los Angeles County.

Smaller counties containing under 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) had lower registration rates than larger counties containing over 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles). In smaller counties, registration rates ranged from 64.2% (Calaveras) to 75.3% (Mariposa). In larger counties, registration rates ranged from 76.6% (Sacramento) to 86.0% (Los Angeles).

2020 Voter Registration Rates: Latinos

California Latino voters had lower registration rates prior to the 2020 primary than the general population. Two thirds of eligible Latino voters were registered to vote, compared to 79.0% (the state registration rate based on the analysis of our dataset) of all eligible voters in California (see Appendix C for detailed data chart).

Latino voters in VCA counties had a higher registration rate than Latino voters in non-VCA counties. Just over 70% of eligible Latino voters in VCA counties were registered to vote and 63.9% of eligible Latino voters in non-VCA counties were registered. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, Latino voters had a lower registration rate than Latino voters in non-VCA counties. Just over 62% of eligible Latino voters in VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County were registered to vote. Among individual VCA counties, Latino voter registration rates ranged from 37.0% in Amador County to 75.1% in Los Angeles County. Latino voters had lower registration rates than the general population in all fifteen VCA counties.

2020 Voter Registration Rates: Asian Americans

Asian-American voters had lower registration rates for the 2020 primary than the general population. Just under 59% of eligible Asian-American voters were registered to vote. Asian-American voters in VCA counties had a higher registration rate than Asian-American voters in non-VCA counties: 61.1% and 55.4%, respectively (see Appendix C for detailed data chart). Asian-American voters had an even higher registration rate in VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, with 62.1% of eligible voters registered to vote.

Among individual VCA counties, Asian-American voter registration rates ranged from 44.4% in Butte County to 81.9% in Tuolumne County. Madera County and Tuolumne County had higher registration rates for Asian-American voters than the general population. Two-thirds of eligible Asian-American voters were registered in Madera County, compared to 64.6% of all eligible voters. Just under 82% of eligible Asian-American voters in Tuolumne County were registered to vote, while 73.9% of all eligible voters were registered. The remaining thirteen VCA counties had lower registration rates for Asian-American voters than the general population.

2020 Voter Registration Rates: Youth

Young voters (aged 18 to 24) had lower registration rates heading into the 2020 primary than the general population. In California, 53.6% of eligible young voters were registered to vote, compared to 79.0% of all eligible voters (see Appendix C for detailed data chart). As a group, VCA counties had a higher registration rate for young voters than non-VCA counties combined. Fifty-six percent of eligible young voters in VCA counties were registered to vote, while 51.4% of eligible young voters in non-VCA counties were registered to vote.

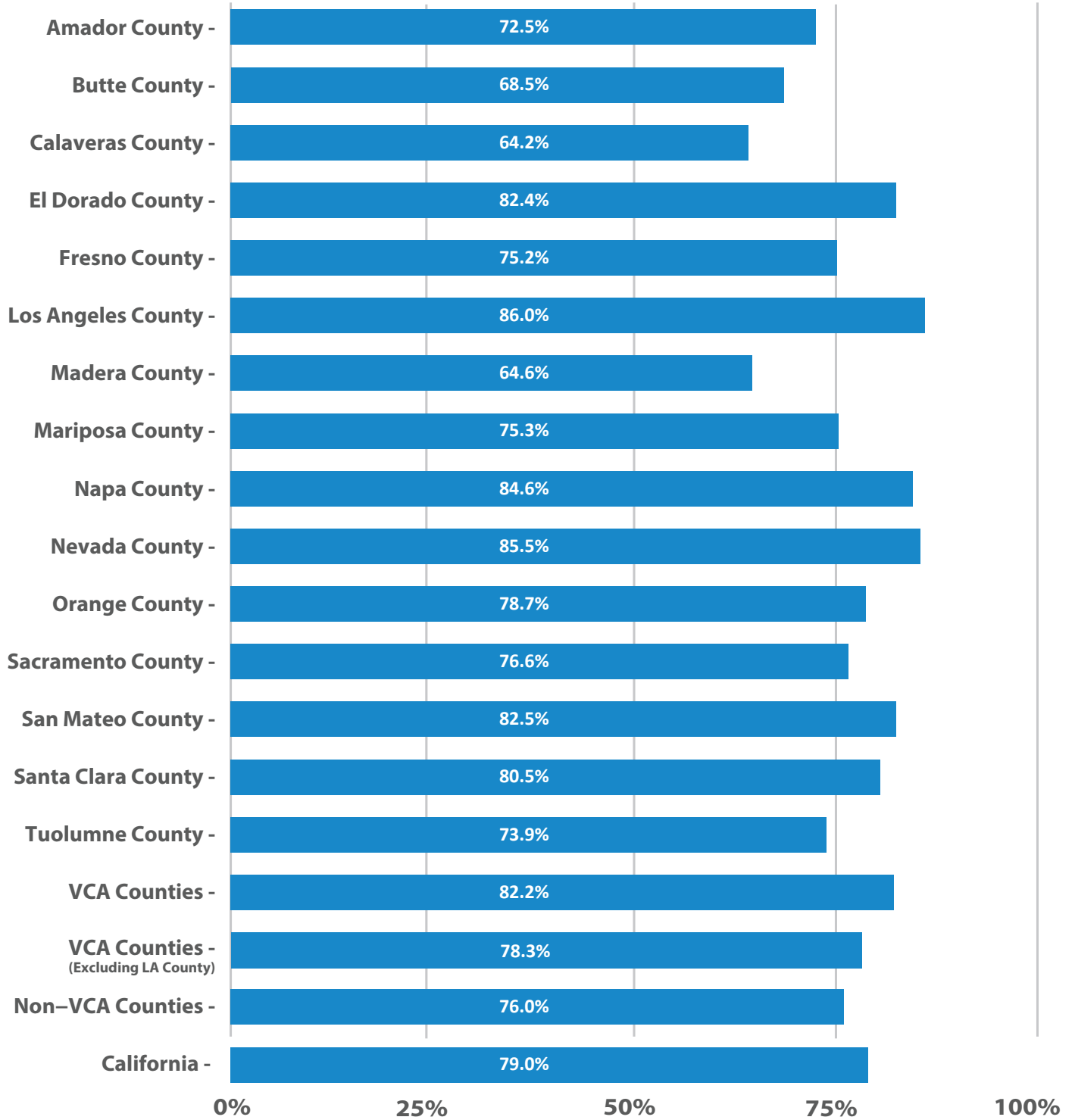
In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, young voters had a higher registration rate of 57.6%. Among individual VCA counties, the registration rate for young voters ranged from 21.6% in Calaveras County to 83.3% in San Mateo County. San Mateo County was the only VCA county to have a higher registration rate for young voters than the general population (82.5%).

FIGURE 20

Registration Rates*

All Voters

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



* Registration rates defined as the percent of adult citizens who are registered to vote.
Data Source: Political Data, Inc and Dept. Finance CVAP estimates

5. Voter Turnout

Making a causal connection between any 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.

Specific to the 2020 primary election there were some additional potential impacts on voter turnout. Holding the primary on Super Tuesday meant the state garnered greater attention from candidates and the media than in recent elections. At the same time, the primary took place within the context of a politically charged national environment where many voters felt a high degree of saliency regarding the presidential race.

As mentioned earlier, the race and ethnicity of every voter is not available from county voter registration files. Historical data by race and ethnicity were also not available from PDI. In order to examine the change in voter turnout of racial and ethnic groups in the 2020 primary compared to 2016, we used data provided by the Statewide Database (the official redistricting database for the California State Legislature) at UC Berkeley. 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).¹⁸

2016-2020 Primary Voter Turnout

Voter turnout in the 2020 California primary election was historically high. The state saw an official eligible voter turnout (turnout of adult citizens) higher than in 2016 and the second highest eligible turnout in any of the state's primary elections in the past 38 years (see Appendix C for detailed certified election results from the California Secretary of State).¹⁹

Utilizing data from the Statewide Database (Table 6), California eligible voter turnout was 36.4% in the 2020 primary, an increase of about three percentage points over the 2016 primary. Most VCA counties saw even greater change in eligible turnout than the overall state increase. The two California counties (Tuolumne and Calaveras) with the highest increase in turnout over 2016, about 10 percentage points, were both VCA counties. In contrast, three VCA counties, including Los Angeles (0.7% percentage point increase) saw an increase in eligible turnout that was below the statewide increase over 2016.

However, registered voter turnout as measured by the percentage of only those who are registered to vote decreased by just under a percentage point for the state, from 46.4% in 2016 primary to 45.7% in 2020. Three VCA counties also saw a decrease in registered voter turnout: Napa (-1.4 percentage points), Santa Clara (-3.5 percentage points) and Los Angeles (-1.5 percentage point). Nevada and Orange also had lower registered turnout. All other VCA counties experienced higher registered voter turnout in 2020 over 2016.

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. 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 Primary Voter Turnout: Latinos and Asian Americans

Table 6: Eligible Voter Turnout by Race and Ethnicity: 2016-2020 Primary 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	40.6%	36.6%	16.6%	48.4%	73.1%	18.4%	7.8%	36.5%	1.8%
Butte County	36.9%	15.0%	21.3%	39.7%	15.8%	22.9%	2.8%	0.7%	1.6%
Calaveras County	41.7%	46.6%	28.1%	51.5%	66.4%	32.3%	9.8%	19.8%	4.2%
El Dorado County	42.6%	23.8%	22.6%	49.6%	32.6%	24.8%	7.0%	8.8%	2.3%
Fresno County	28.1%	14.4%	19.1%	30.5%	14.7%	19.2%	2.3%	0.3%	0.1%
Los Angeles County	31.5%	15.7%	25.5%	32.3%	17.1%	22.3%	0.7%	1.4%	-3.3%
Madera County	28.0%	40.7%	16.6%	32.0%	32.3%	17.8%	4.0%	-8.4%	1.2%
Mariposa County	42.1%	47.1%	27.2%	47.4%	41.1%	25.8%	5.2%	-6.0%	-1.3%
Napa County	45.7%	21.1%	28.3%	49.0%	20.7%	26.3%	3.3%	-0.4%	-2.0%
Nevada County	52.8%	33.9%	26.5%	56.7%	37.6%	24.1%	3.8%	3.7%	-2.4%
Orange County	34.5%	20.9%	24.8%	39.4%	23.7%	23.9%	4.9%	2.8%	-1.0%
Sacramento County	33.6%	18.3%	24.2%	37.4%	19.7%	25.6%	3.8%	1.4%	1.4%
San Mateo County	39.0%	17.7%	27.8%	44.3%	22.5%	28.3%	5.3%	4.9%	0.5%
Santa Clara County	38.0%	24.8%	26.7%	40.5%	25.0%	25.5%	2.5%	0.2%	-1.2%
Tuolumne County	38.2%	51.9%	19.0%	47.8%	75.8%	23.3%	9.6%	23.8%	4.3%
VCA Counties Combined	33.5%	18.7%	25.0%	35.8%	20.4%	22.8%	2.3%	1.7%	-2.2%
Non VCA Counties Combined	33.5%	19.6%	21.5%	36.9%	20.5%	21.5%	3.4%	0.9%	0.0%
State Total	33.5%	19.1%	23.3%	36.4%	20.4%	22.1%	2.9%	1.4%	-1.1%

Source: Statewide Database, California Department of Finance

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

Table 6 shows that Latinos and Asian Americans did not experience the same growth in turnout in the 2020 primary as the general population and that significant disparities remain in both the registered and eligible turnout rates for these groups compared to the general population.²⁰ The 2020 eligible voter turnout rate for California Asian Americans was 20.4%, an increase of about a percentage point from the 2016 primary. In contrast, at 22.1%, Latino eligible turnout decreased just over a percentage point in 2020 from 2016.

Table 7: Registered Voter Turnout by Race and Ethnicity: 2016-2020 Primary 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	58.2%	61.0%	46.9%	65.4%	67.2%	50.5%	7.2%	6.2%	3.6%
Butte County	52.4%	42.6%	38.8%	56.9%	46.4%	40.8%	4.5%	3.7%	2.0%
Calaveras County	55.8%	51.1%	48.0%	62.8%	60.6%	52.1%	7.0%	9.5%	4.2%
El Dorado County	57.0%	48.0%	46.4%	59.8%	50.5%	46.9%	2.8%	2.6%	0.5%
Fresno County	39.4%	32.6%	31.2%	40.4%	34.1%	30.1%	1.0%	1.5%	-1.1%
Los Angeles County	38.9%	30.2%	36.7%	37.4%	32.6%	29.8%	-1.5%	2.4%	-6.9%
Madera County	49.3%	45.2%	35.1%	49.4%	40.0%	32.7%	0.1%	-5.2%	-2.3%
Mariposa County	60.2%	65.9%	50.3%	63.2%	58.5%	51.3%	3.1%	-7.4%	1.0%
Napa County	59.0%	48.0%	46.4%	57.7%	44.3%	41.0%	-1.4%	-3.7%	-5.5%
Nevada County	65.9%	62.8%	56.3%	66.4%	64.6%	54.8%	0.4%	1.9%	-1.5%
Orange County	48.5%	40.6%	43.8%	49.5%	41.8%	37.5%	1.0%	1.2%	-6.3%
Sacramento County	48.1%	40.4%	42.1%	48.9%	39.8%	39.8%	0.8%	-0.6%	-2.3%
San Mateo County	50.6%	39.9%	42.6%	53.6%	43.8%	41.7%	3.0%	3.8%	-0.9%
Santa Clara County	54.1%	47.4%	47.6%	50.6%	43.5%	40.5%	-3.5%	-3.8%	-7.1%
Tuolumne County	58.6%	53.2%	50.0%	63.6%	60.2%	53.1%	5.1%	7.0%	3.1%
VCA Counties Combined	43.9%	36.9%	38.3%	43.4%	38.0%	32.4%	-0.6%	1.1%	-5.9%
Non VCA Counties Combined	48.9%	41.1%	38.5%	48.0%	40.4%	33.4%	-0.9%	-0.7%	-5.1%
State Total	46.4%	38.5%	38.4%	45.7%	38.9%	32.9%	-0.7%	0.4%	-5.5%

Source: Statewide Database

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

When looking at registered voter turnout, we also see significant disparities. Table 7 shows that 32.9% of registered Latinos and 38.9% of registered Asian Americans voted in California during the 2020 primary (compared to 45.7% of all registered voters). The change in registered turnout from 2016 was nearly flat for Asian Americans, while at the same time Latinos saw a five and a half percentage point decrease in their state registered turnout rate from the 2016 primary.

Voter Representation of Latinos and Asian Americans

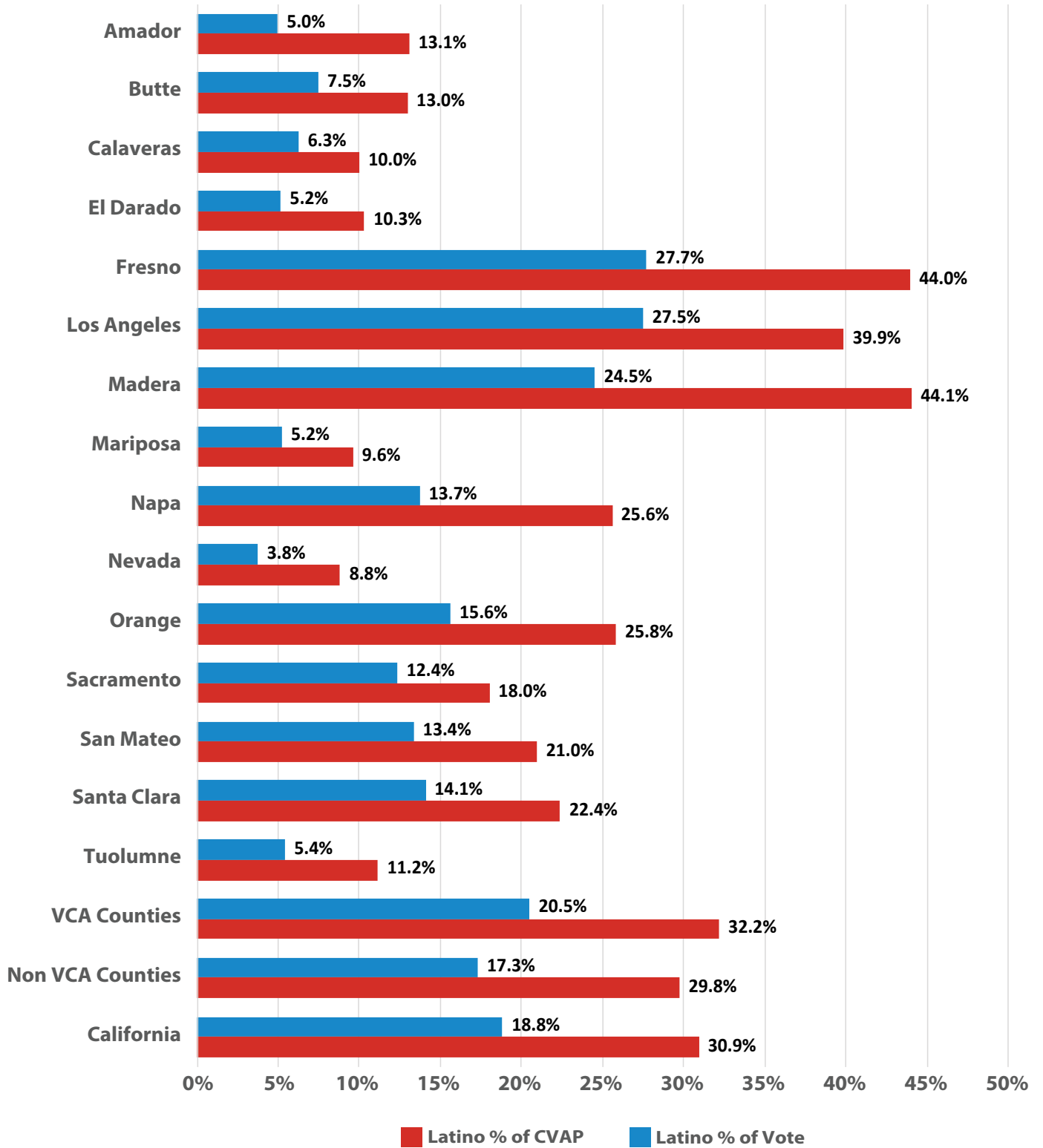
The degree of Latino representation in California's voting electorate decreased in the 2020 primary. Latinos were 18.8% of voters in 2020, while they were 30.9% of state's eligible voter population (adult citizens), a representation gap of over twelve percentage points (see Figure 21). In the 2016 primary, Latinos were 19.8% of voters and 28.5% of the eligible voter population, a gap of just under nine percentage points.

Asian Americans also saw a decrease in their representation in the California electorate in the 2020 primary. The Asian-American share of primary voters in the primary was 8.2%, while their share of the eligible voter population was 14.6%, a difference of 6.4 percentage points (see Figure 22). In 2016, this representation gap was smaller at 5.4 percentage points: Asian Americans were 7.1% of voters and 12.5% of eligible voters. Even though Asian Americans saw an increase in their share of the vote in 2020, they still lost ground in electoral representation because that increase did not keep pace with their increase in their share of the state's 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

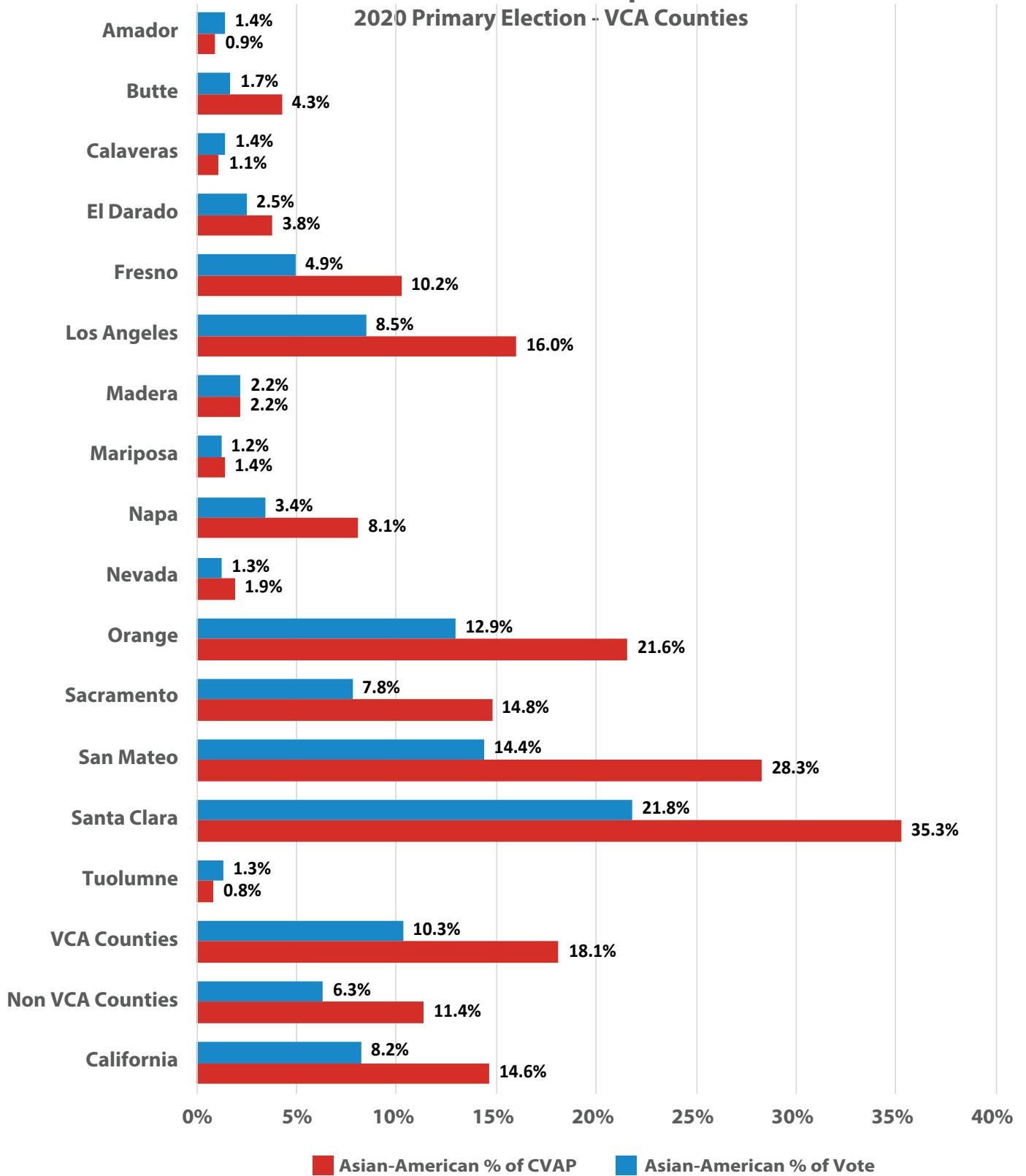
Latino Underrepresentation 2020 Primary Election - VCA Counties



Data Sources: California Department of Finance, Statewide Database.

FIGURE 22

Asian-American Underrepresentation 2020 Primary Election - VCA Counties



Data Sources: California Department of Finance, Statewide Database.

2016-2020 Primary Voter Turnout: Youth

Significant disparities in eligible voter turnout are consistently present by age in California.²¹ Table 8 shows that in the 2020 primary, the youth eligible voter turnout rate (citizens age 18-24 who voted) was 16.9%, compared to 53.0% for voters age 65 and older (eligible turnout for all voters was 36.4% calculated from the same Statewide Database source). Youth did not experience the same increase in eligible turnout that the general population saw in the primary. The youth eligible turnout rate in 2020 was slightly lower than the youth eligible turnout rate in the 2016 primary.

Table 8: Eligible Voter Turnout by Age Group: 2016-2020 Primary 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	12.6%	19.4%	20.6%	27.2%	47.7%	64.6%	13.6%	18.1%	29.6%	39.3%	66.2%	74.7%	1.0%	-1.3%	9.1%	12.1%	18.5%	10.1%
Butte County	12.0%	23.3%	27.8%	34.0%	50.0%	62.4%	12.9%	29.2%	36.2%	42.0%	54.5%	57.9%	0.9%	5.9%	8.4%	8.0%	4.4%	-4.4%
Calaveras County	12.1%	25.1%	22.1%	30.7%	47.4%	64.0%	16.6%	21.6%	39.5%	51.5%	66.6%	67.9%	4.4%	-3.5%	17.4%	20.8%	19.2%	3.9%
El Dorado County	13.6%	21.0%	28.6%	39.4%	52.5%	68.9%	19.5%	20.2%	49.4%	53.7%	59.8%	68.1%	6.0%	-0.8%	20.8%	14.3%	7.2%	-0.8%
Fresno County	12.6%	17.3%	20.1%	26.0%	39.8%	52.4%	12.2%	19.2%	25.0%	29.3%	40.9%	54.4%	-0.4%	1.9%	4.8%	3.3%	1.1%	2.0%
Los Angeles County	17.9%	24.5%	27.0%	31.9%	39.1%	45.7%	16.2%	31.0%	29.8%	31.7%	37.8%	42.3%	-1.7%	6.5%	2.8%	-0.3%	-1.3%	-3.4%
Madera County	12.4%	13.0%	15.2%	22.3%	40.9%	56.4%	14.3%	13.7%	21.7%	28.3%	47.6%	56.4%	1.9%	0.7%	6.5%	6.0%	6.7%	-0.1%
Mariposa County	12.9%	28.7%	24.2%	33.6%	47.1%	61.4%	14.2%	20.4%	39.3%	46.5%	61.3%	61.8%	1.4%	-8.4%	15.1%	12.9%	14.2%	0.3%
Napa County	20.3%	32.3%	36.6%	38.9%	54.6%	67.3%	23.3%	31.4%	44.1%	42.6%	59.6%	69.1%	3.0%	-0.9%	7.5%	3.8%	5.0%	1.7%
Nevada County	18.4%	39.5%	39.9%	42.6%	59.7%	74.8%	20.0%	26.0%	55.0%	54.6%	67.3%	74.5%	1.6%	-13.5%	15.1%	12.1%	7.6%	-0.3%
Orange County	21.7%	22.1%	24.7%	31.1%	42.7%	56.6%	22.5%	30.6%	31.8%	36.3%	47.2%	55.6%	0.9%	8.5%	7.2%	5.2%	4.5%	-1.0%
Sacramento County	16.7%	21.3%	24.6%	32.5%	44.1%	56.9%	16.4%	27.6%	29.6%	35.9%	47.8%	58.0%	-0.4%	6.2%	5.0%	3.5%	3.7%	1.1%
San Mateo County	22.1%	32.3%	29.7%	35.9%	45.4%	56.0%	31.3%	43.1%	40.8%	41.6%	46.8%	51.2%	9.2%	10.7%	11.1%	5.7%	1.4%	-4.9%
Santa Clara County	25.1%	29.4%	28.3%	35.4%	45.1%	57.4%	23.0%	38.0%	36.0%	39.1%	46.7%	51.3%	-2.1%	8.5%	7.7%	3.7%	1.7%	-6.1%
Tuolumne County	12.2%	16.3%	20.4%	26.5%	45.5%	63.5%	16.3%	20.6%	31.8%	45.2%	62.0%	68.8%	4.2%	4.3%	11.4%	18.6%	16.5%	5.3%
VCA Counties Combined	18.6%	24.0%	26.3%	32.2%	41.9%	51.9%	17.9%	30.4%	31.3%	34.6%	43.0%	49.4%	-0.7%	6.4%	4.9%	2.3%	1.1%	-2.5%
Non VCA Counties Combined	15.8%	21.8%	24.8%	31.9%	43.9%	56.7%	15.9%	24.7%	31.2%	37.3%	47.5%	56.5%	0.2%	2.9%	6.4%	5.4%	3.6%	-0.2%
State Total	17.1%	22.9%	25.5%	32.1%	42.9%	54.4%	16.9%	27.4%	31.3%	35.9%	45.3%	53.0%	-0.2%	4.5%	5.7%	3.9%	5.5%	-1.4%

Source: Statewide Database

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

When looking at registered voter turnout by age, we also see significant disparities. Table 9 shows that 28.2% of registered youth (age 18-24) voted in the 2020 primary. Youth registered voter turnout decreased significantly from the 2016 primary (32.6%) – by four percentage points.

Table 9: Registered Voter Turnout by Age Group: 2016-2020 Primary 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	28.0%	28.4%	37.6%	47.3%	63.8%	75.4%	28.5%	35.9%	49.2%	58.8%	70.6%	82.0%	0.5%	7.5%	11.5%	11.5%	6.8%	6.6%
Butte County	28.7%	31.9%	40.3%	48.2%	62.8%	74.2%	30.7%	37.0%	48.1%	55.3%	67.1%	78.6%	2.0%	5.1%	7.8%	7.1%	4.3%	4.5%
Calaveras County	31.4%	27.8%	32.7%	44.8%	62.0%	74.3%	32.7%	34.1%	43.7%	55.5%	70.4%	80.0%	1.3%	6.2%	11.0%	10.7%	8.4%	5.7%
El Dorado County	34.4%	31.4%	39.9%	50.9%	64.2%	76.9%	34.6%	33.6%	44.8%	54.8%	68.6%	79.1%	0.2%	2.2%	4.9%	4.0%	4.3%	2.2%
Fresno County	24.2%	21.7%	28.1%	38.0%	53.2%	64.8%	22.9%	22.9%	29.8%	40.6%	53.7%	65.7%	-1.4%	1.2%	1.7%	2.6%	0.5%	0.9%
Los Angeles County	31.4%	28.0%	31.7%	38.5%	47.0%	53.0%	26.3%	27.7%	31.8%	37.7%	44.8%	51.3%	-5.1%	-0.3%	0.1%	-0.8%	-2.2%	-1.7%
Madera County	27.0%	28.1%	32.6%	43.4%	60.8%	72.8%	22.6%	26.0%	36.8%	47.3%	62.9%	75.0%	-4.4%	-2.1%	4.2%	3.9%	2.1%	2.2%
Mariposa County	30.5%	36.6%	42.1%	50.8%	65.1%	76.8%	31.6%	35.9%	51.1%	55.5%	69.1%	78.6%	1.1%	-0.8%	8.9%	4.7%	4.0%	1.8%
Napa County	40.6%	38.9%	47.9%	53.3%	66.8%	76.2%	34.4%	36.9%	47.3%	56.4%	66.0%	75.8%	-6.2%	-1.9%	-0.6%	3.1%	-0.8%	-0.5%
Nevada County	41.3%	45.6%	55.0%	58.3%	72.0%	79.0%	37.1%	40.3%	51.6%	60.0%	73.3%	82.4%	-4.2%	-5.3%	-3.4%	1.8%	1.3%	3.4%
Orange County	36.5%	34.0%	36.4%	44.1%	56.3%	68.3%	32.5%	33.2%	38.9%	47.0%	59.3%	71.2%	-4.1%	-0.8%	2.5%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Sacramento County	32.8%	31.4%	37.0%	44.8%	58.7%	70.6%	28.9%	31.6%	39.6%	47.7%	60.3%	71.5%	-3.9%	0.2%	2.6%	2.9%	1.6%	1.0%
San Mateo County	39.1%	36.5%	41.5%	47.2%	57.9%	66.5%	36.5%	39.5%	46.9%	54.0%	61.4%	68.2%	-2.6%	3.0%	5.4%	6.8%	3.4%	1.8%
Santa Clara County	40.7%	42.0%	44.5%	51.3%	61.7%	71.6%	34.1%	37.2%	43.2%	50.2%	59.5%	67.8%	-6.6%	-4.7%	-1.3%	-1.1%	-2.2%	-3.8%
Tuolumne County	32.6%	29.5%	37.0%	48.1%	63.9%	76.3%	32.1%	37.9%	47.6%	58.1%	69.1%	79.8%	-0.5%	8.4%	10.6%	10.1%	5.1%	3.5%
VCA Counties Combined	33.1%	30.3%	34.5%	42.1%	52.8%	61.5%	28.7%	30.0%	35.6%	43.0%	52.5%	61.2%	-4.4%	-0.3%	1.0%	0.9%	-0.3%	-0.3%
Non VCA Counties Combined	32.1%	32.7%	38.0%	45.8%	58.7%	69.7%	27.8%	30.9%	39.2%	47.2%	58.6%	69.5%	-4.4%	-1.8%	1.1%	1.4%	-0.2%	-0.3%
State Total	32.6%	31.4%	36.2%	43.9%	55.8%	65.7%	28.2%	30.4%	37.3%	45.1%	55.5%	65.4%	-4.4%	-1.0%	1.1%	1.1%	-0.2%	-0.3%

Source: Statewide Database

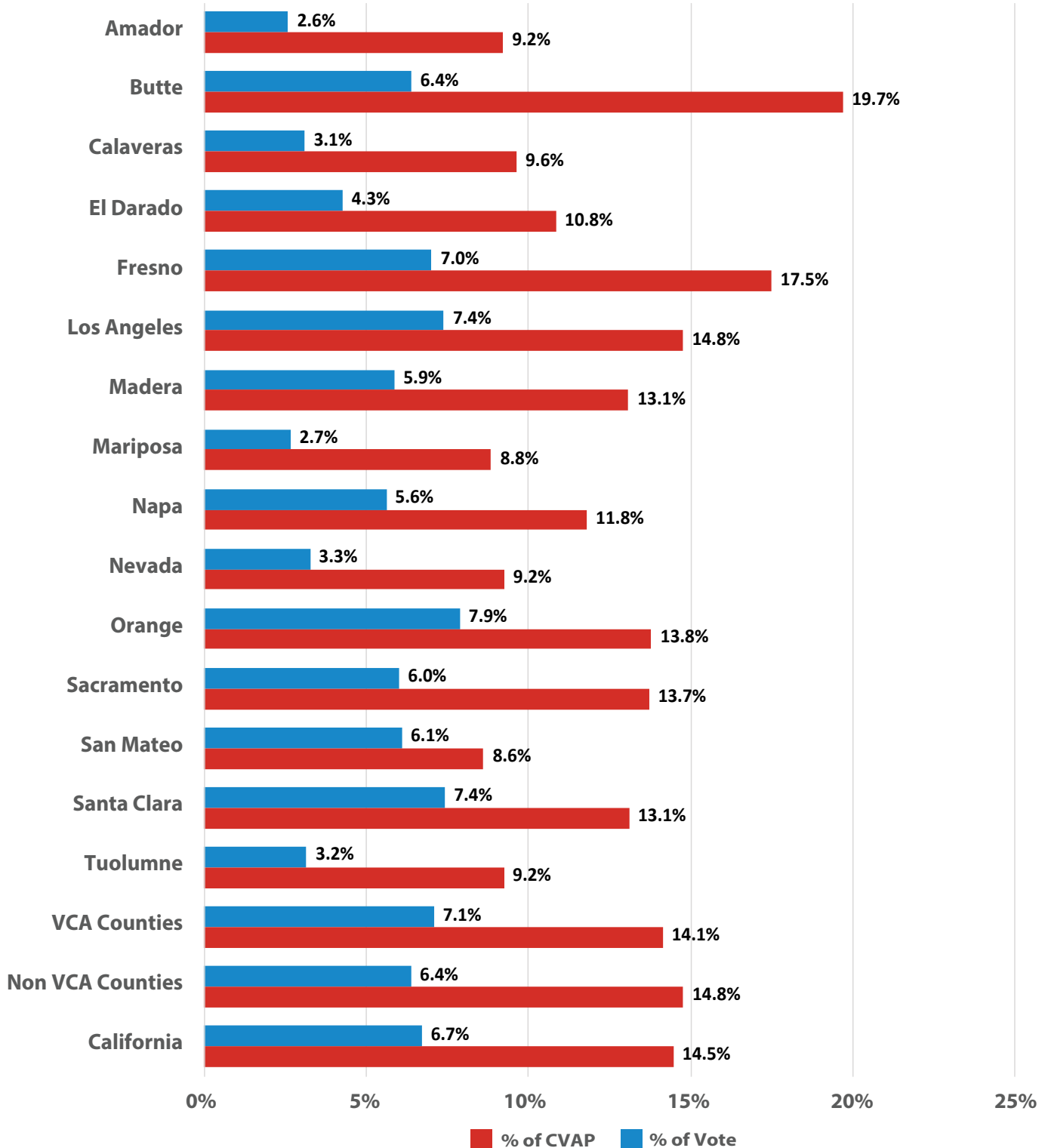
*Registered voter turnout defined as the percent of registered voters who voted.

Voter Representation of Youth

Youth (age 18-24) representation in California's voting electorate decreased slightly in the 2020 primary. Youth were 6.7% of voters in 2020, while they were 14.5% of state's eligible voter population (adult citizens), a representation gap of almost eight percentage points (see Figure 23). In the 2016 primary, youth were 7.2% of voters and 14.2% of the eligible voter population, a gap of seven percentage points.

FIGURE 23

Youth (Ages 18 to 24) Underrepresentation 2020 Primary Election - VCA Counties



Data Sources: California Department of Finance, Statewide Database.

2020 Detailed Turnout Analysis

In the remainder of this section, we provide a detailed examination of California's 2020 primary 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). 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:

- California saw a three percentage point increase in total eligible turnout in the 2020 primary over the 2016 primary.
- The increase in total eligible voter turnout from the 2016 primary to the 2020 primary was slightly smaller in VCA counties as a whole than in non-VCA counties. However, 11 of 15 individual VCA counties had a larger increase in eligible turnout in the 2020 primary over the 2016 primary than the state.
- Latinos and youth did not see an increase in eligible voter turnout over the 2016 primary.
- Latinos (33.5%), Asian Americans (39.3%), new voters (30.4%), and foreign-born voters (41.0%) had lower registered voter turnout rates than the general population (46.1%). Conversely, U.S.-born voters (50.0%) had higher turnout rates than the general population.
- Registered voter turnout rates varied by voting method and political affiliation: U.S.-born voters (50.0%), Democratic voters (53.0%), and Republican voters (53.2%) had stronger turnout than new voters (30.4%), previous polling place voters (42.5%), and No Party Preference voters (29.7%).
- Women had a higher registered voter turnout rate (48.0%) than men (45.5%) in California, as well as in every VCA county.

2020 Primary Voter Turnout

At 36.0%, eligible voter turnout was slightly lower in VCA counties than the state as a whole (36.4%, based on the analysis of our dataset). VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, however, had a higher eligible voter turnout of 39.4%. Figure 24 shows that among individual VCA counties, eligible voter turnout ranged from 31.1% (Fresno) to 56.8% (Nevada). Twelve of the fifteen VCA counties had higher eligible voter turnout rates than the California statewide rate, ranging from 37.6% (Sacramento) to 56.8% (Nevada). Fresno, Los Angeles, and Madera counties had eligible voter turnout rates below the state: 31.1% (Fresno), 32.6% (Los Angeles), and 32.3% (Madera).

In the 2020 primary election, registered voter turnout in VCA counties (43.7%) was lower than the California turnout (46.1%). Looking at VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, the registered voter turnout increased to 50.4%. For non-VCA counties, registered voter turnout was higher at 48.6%. For individual VCA counties, registered voter turnout ranged from 37.9% (Los Angeles) to 66.4% (Nevada). Thirteen of the fifteen VCA counties had higher registered voter turnout rates than the state rate, ranging from 49.2% (Sacramento) to 66.4% (Nevada). Fresno and Los Angeles counties had lower registered voter turnout at 41.4% and 37.9%, respectively.

As a group, smaller VCA counties containing under 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) had higher registered and eligible voter turnout rates than larger counties containing over 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles).

FIGURE 24

Registered and Eligible Voter Turnout

All Voters

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



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

FIGURE 25

Eligible Voter Turnout in the 2020 Primary by County

Total Population

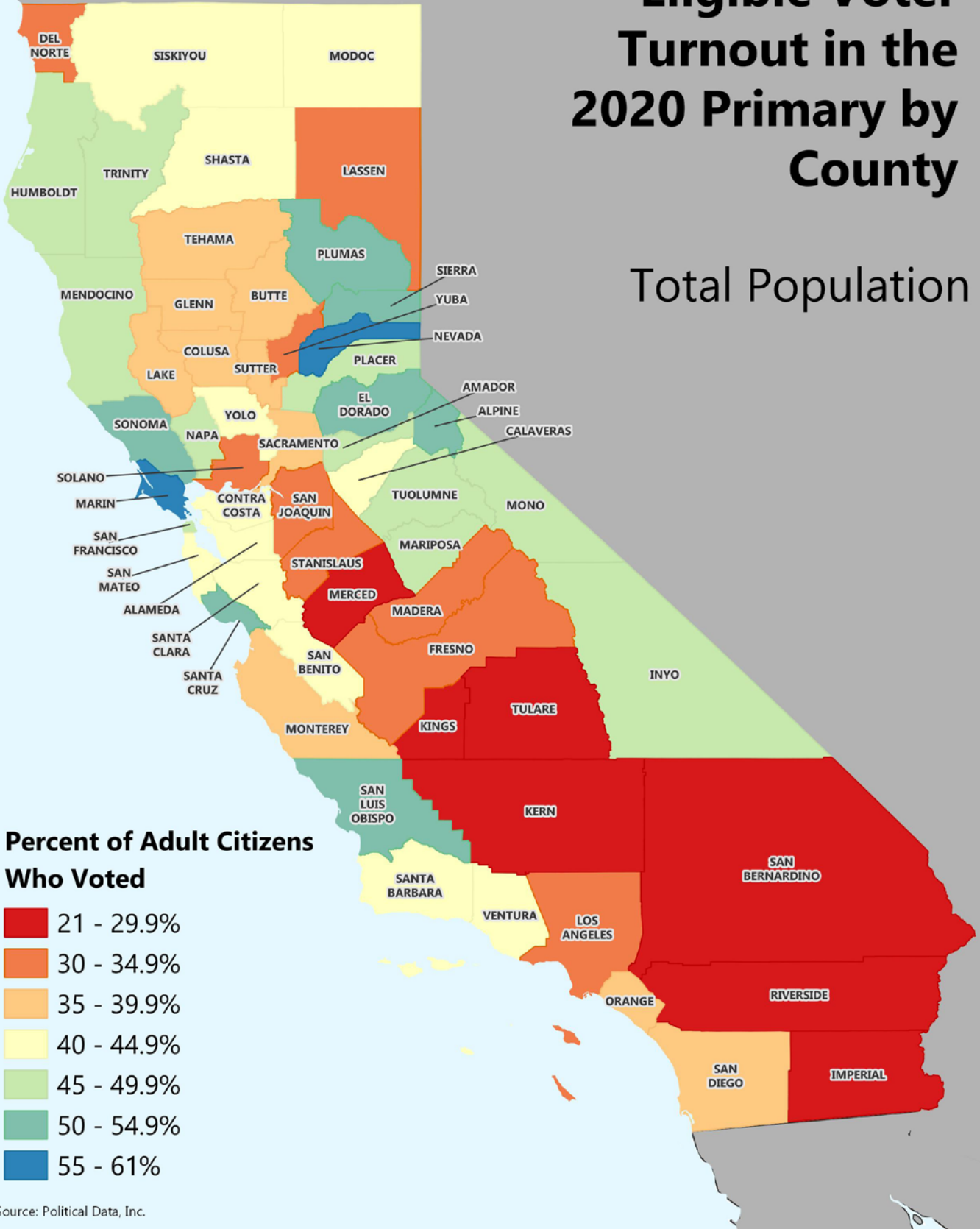
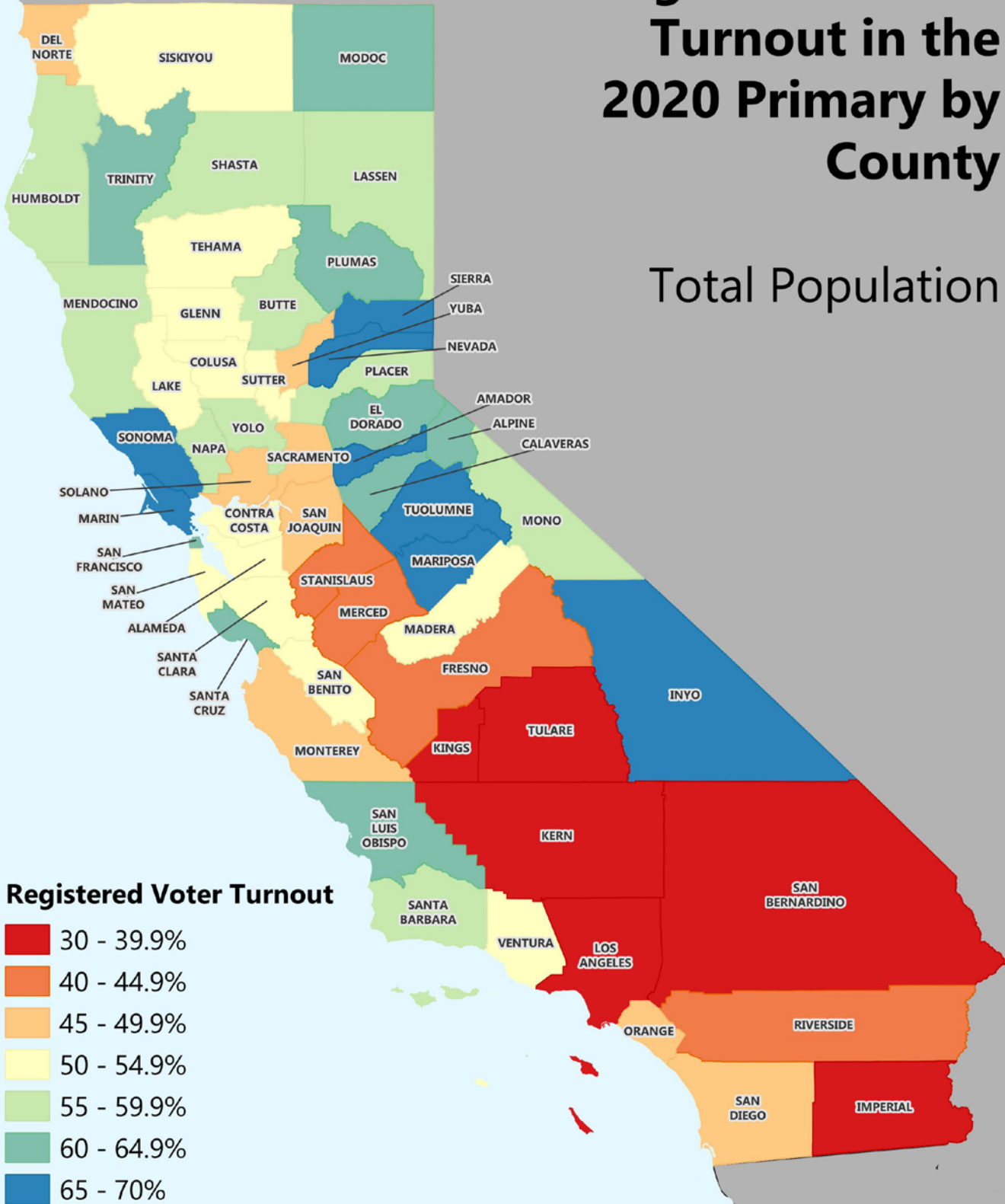


FIGURE 26

Registered Voter Turnout in the 2020 Primary by County

Total Population



Source: Political Data, Inc.

2020 Primary Voter Turnout: Latinos

In the 2020 primary, Latino voters had lower eligible and registered voter turnout rates than the general population. In California, 22.5% of eligible Latino voters cast a ballot. About a third of all registered Latino voters voted in the primary (see Appendix C for maps of Latino eligible voter turnout in all California counties).

In VCA counties, 23.2% of eligible Latino voters cast a ballot, compared to 36.0% of all eligible voters. Also in VCA counties, 32.9% of registered Latino voters voted, while 43.7% of all registered voters voted (see Appendix C for detailed data chart). In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 23.7% of eligible Latino voters cast a ballot and 37.9% of registered Latino voters cast a ballot.

Among individual VCA counties, Latino voters had lower eligible and registered voter turnout rates than the general population in all fifteen counties. Eligible voter turnout for Latino voters ranged from 18.3% (Madera) to 26.3% (San Mateo). Registered voter turnout for Latino voters ranged from 30.5% (Los Angeles) to 55.0% (Nevada).

2020 Primary Voter Turnout: Asian Americans

Asian-American voters had lower registered and eligible voter turnout rates in the 2020 primary than the general population. In California, 21.5% of eligible Asian-American voters voted in the election. About 40% of registered Asian-American voters voted in the election (see Appendix C for maps of Asian-American eligible voter turnout in all California counties).

In VCA counties, 21.8% of eligible Asian-American voters voted in the election and 38.4% of registered Asian-American voters cast a ballot in 2020. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 24.5% of eligible Asian-American voters cast a ballot and 42.4% of registered Asian-American voters cast a ballot. For individual VCA counties, eligible voter turnout for Asian-American voters ranged from 16.4% (Butte) to 44.3% (Tuolumne). Registered voter turnout for Asian-American voters ranged from 33.1% (Fresno) to 65.5% (Nevada). Asian-American voters had lower eligible and registered voter turnout rates than the general population in all fifteen VCA counties (see Appendix C for detailed data chart).

2020 Primary Voter Turnout: Youth

Young voters (citizens age 18 to 24) had significantly lower eligible and registered voter turnout than the general population. Just under 16% of eligible young voters (citizens age 18-24) in California voted in the 2020 primary. Nearly 30% of registered young voters voted in the primary (see Appendix C for detailed data chart).

Young voters in VCA counties had higher eligible and registered voter turnout than young voters in non-VCA counties. In VCA counties, 16.6% of young eligible voters voted and 29.6% of young registered voters voted. Looking at VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, young voters' eligible and registered turnout increased to 18.1% and 31.5% respectively. Among individual VCA counties, young voters had lower eligible and registered voter turnout than the general population in all fifteen counties. Young eligible voter turnout ranged from 7.9% (Calaveras) to 31.3% (San Mateo). Young registered voter turnout ranged from 22.4% (Madera) to 38.6% (Nevada).

2020 Primary Voter Turnout: Gender

In this section, comparable data to identify the eligible turnout by gender is not available; thus, we limit our analysis to registered voter turnout. Women had higher registered voter turnout rates than men in the 2020 primary election. In California, 48.0% of registered women voters voted, compared to 45.5% of registered men. In VCA counties, 45.8% of registered women voters voted, while 43.0% of registered men voters voted. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 52.7% of registered women voters voted and 50.0% of registered men voters voted. In non-VCA counties, 50.2% of women registered to vote voted, while 47.9% of men registered to vote voted (see Appendix C for detailed data chart).

Women had higher registered voter turnout rates than men in all fifteen VCA counties. Registered voter turnout for women ranged from 40.0% (Los Angeles) to 68.5% (Nevada). Registered voter turnout for men ranged from 36.9% (Los Angeles) to 65.2% (Amador). Fresno County had the smallest registered voter turnout gap between women and men with 41.9% for men and 43.4% for women. Napa County and San Mateo had the largest registered voter turnout gaps between men and women with 56.4% for men and 60.6% for women in Napa and 53.0% for men and 57.2% for women in San Mateo.

2020 Primary Voter Turnout: Nativity

In the 2020 primary, U.S.-born voters had higher registered voter turnout rates than foreign-born voters. In California, 50.0% of U.S.-born registered voters voted, while 41.0% of foreign-born registered voters voted (see Appendix C for detailed data chart). In VCA counties, 47.6% of U.S.-born registered voters voted and 39.2% of foreign-born registered voters voted. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, just under 54% of U.S.-born registered voters voted, compared to 46.5% of foreign-born registered voters. In non-VCA counties, 52.4% of U.S.-born registered voters voted and 43.9% of foreign-born registered voters voted.

U.S.-born voters also saw higher registered turnout rates than foreign-born voters in all fourteen VCA counties analyzed. (Calaveras County was excluded from the nativity analysis because of data unavailability.) U.S.-born registered voter turnout ranged from 41.5% (Los Angeles) to 68.9% (Nevada). Foreign-born registered voter turnout ranged from 34.0% (Los Angeles) to 67.5% (Tuolumne). Tuolumne County had the smallest registered voter turnout gap between U.S.- and foreign-born voters with 68.0% for U.S.-born voters and 67.5% for foreign-born voters. San Mateo County had the largest registered voter turnout gap between U.S.- and foreign-born voters at 59.1% for U.S.-born voters and 48.4% for foreign-born voters.

2020 Primary Voter Turnout: New Voters

In the 2020 primary, new voters (as defined earlier in this report) had significantly lower registered voter turnout rates than the general population. In California, 30.4% of registered new voters voted in the election, compared to 46.1% of all registered voters (see Figure 27). In VCA counties, 30.7% of registered new voters voted, while 43.7% of all registered voters voted. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 31.3% of registered new voters voted, while 50.4% of all registered voters voted. In non-VCA counties, 30.0% of registered new voters voted, compared to 48.6% of all registered voters.

In individual VCA counties, new voters continued to have lower registered voter turnout rates than the general population. New voter registered voter turnout ranged from 25.2% (Madera) to 45.6% (Nevada). Amador County had the largest registered voter turnout gap between new voters and the general population (35.5% and 66.3%).

2020 Primary Voter Turnout: Previous Voting Methods

Voters who used VBM in their last election (as defined earlier in this report) had significantly higher registered turnout rates in the 2020 primary than voters who previously voted in person at polling places (or vote center in counties adopting the VCA in 2018). From Figure 28, we can see that in California, registered turnout of those who previously voted by mail was 62.8%, while registered turnout was 42.5% of those who previously voted in person at a polling place.

In VCA counties as a group, 62.2% of registered voters who previously voted by mail voted in this election and 40.0% of registered voters who previously voted in person voted in this election. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 42.9% of registered voters who previously voted in person voted in this election, compared to 63.9% of registered voters who previously voted by mail. Among individual VCA counties, registered voter turnout rates for previous polling place voters varied greatly, while registered voter turnout rates for previous VBM voters were relatively consistent. Registered voter turnout for previous polling place voters ranged from 16.4% (Sacramento) to 63.2% (Calaveras). Registered voter turnout for previous VBM voters ranged from 59.4% (Los Angeles) to 77.5% (Calaveras).

2020 Primary Voter Turnout: Party Affiliation

Voters registered as Democrats and Republicans had higher registered voter turnout rates in the 2020 primary than those registered as No Party Preference (voters registered with third parties are consolidated as the “other” category). In California, registered voter turnout rates were 53.0% for registered Democrats, 53.2% for registered Republicans, and 29.7% for No Party Preference voters (see Figure 29). In VCA counties, registered voter turnout rates were 50.1% for Democratic voters, 50.8% for Republican voters, and 28.6% for No Party Preference voters. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, registered voter turnout rates were 57.5% for Democratic voters, 57.3% for Republican voters, and 34.0% for No Party Preference voters.

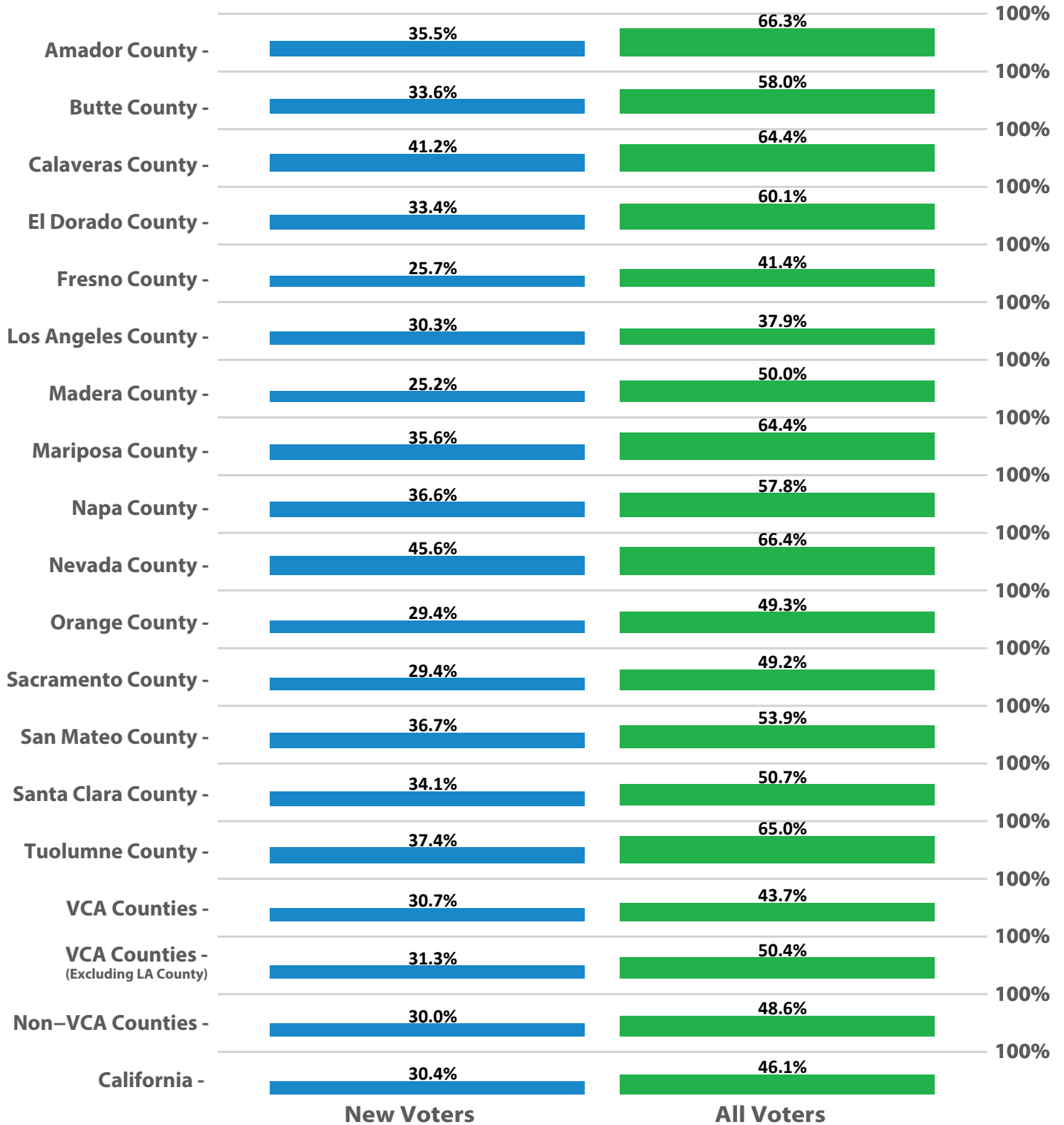
Among individual VCA counties, registered voter turnout rates varied significantly across party affiliation. Democratic registered voter turnout rates ranged from 44.6% (Fresno) to 76.6% (Nevada). Republican registered voter turnout rates ranged from 41.2% (Los Angeles) to 71.2% (Amador). Registered voter turnout rates of No Party Preference voters ranged from 21.8% (Fresno) to 47.7% (Nevada).

FIGURE 27

Registered Voter Turnout

New Voters

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election

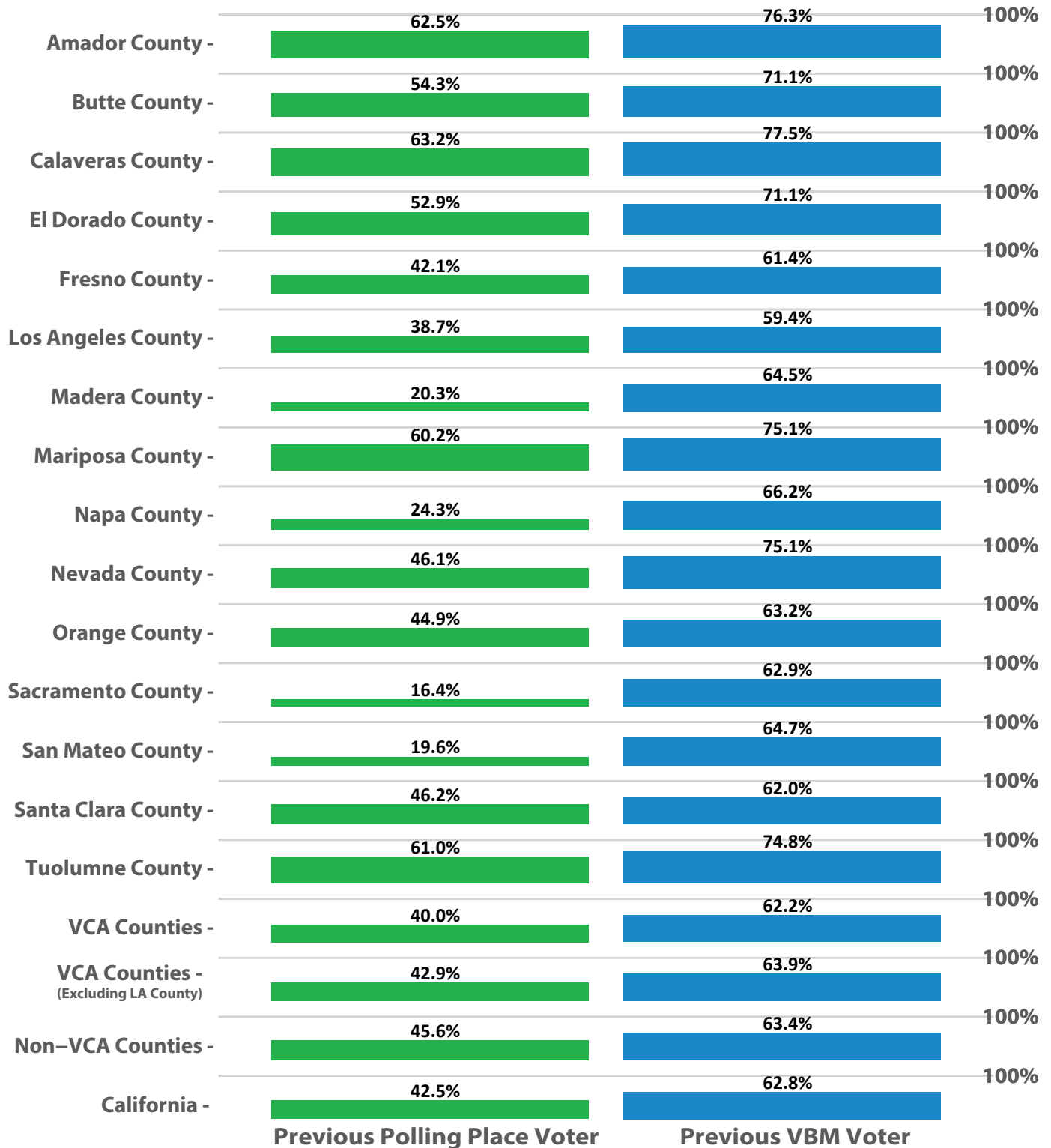


Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 28

Registered Voter Turnout by Previous Voting Method

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election

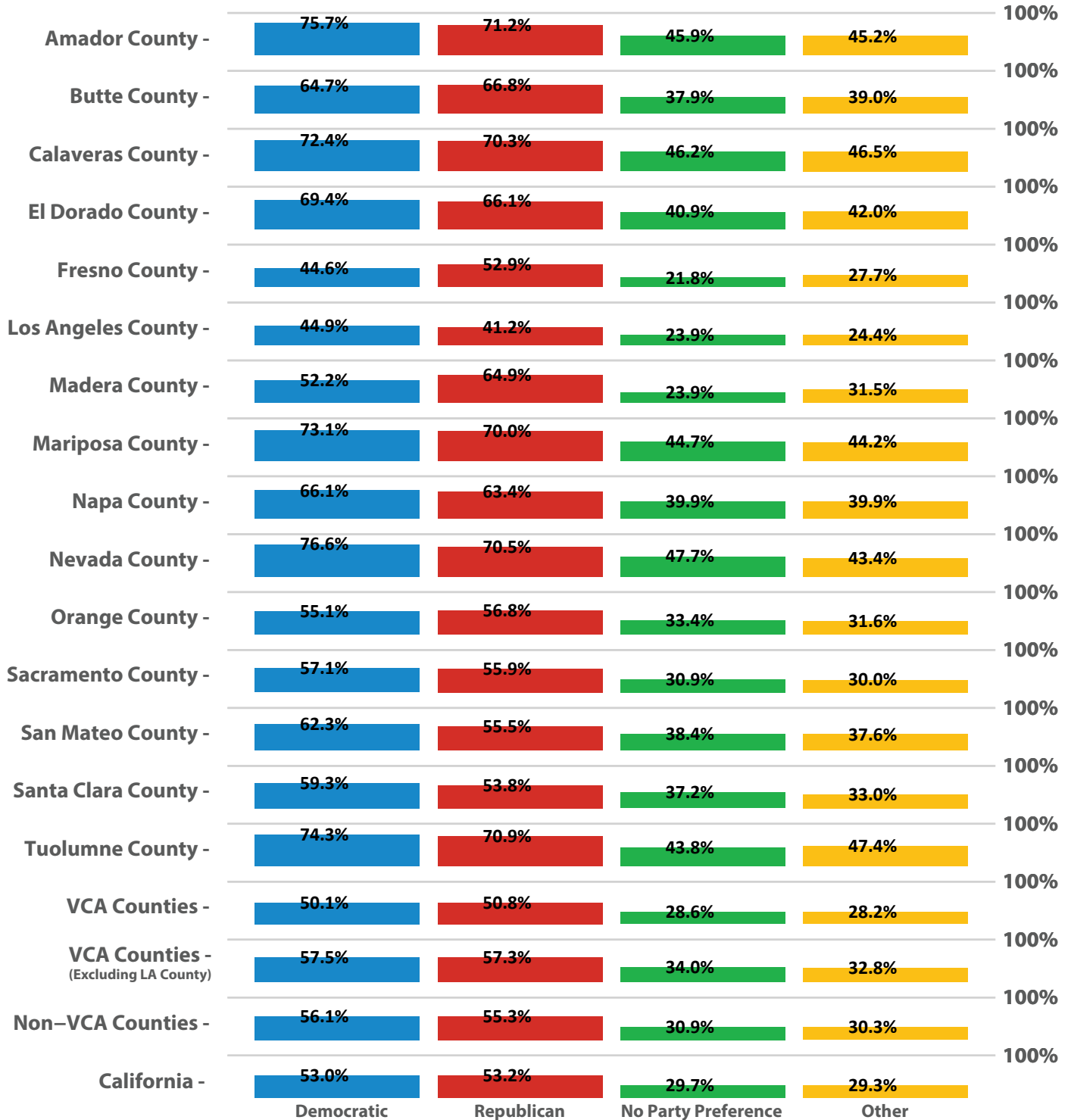


Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Registered Voter Turnout by Party Affiliation

FIGURE 29

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

6. Conditional Voter Registration

Key Takeaways:

- In the 2020 primary election, 1.5% of California voters used conditional voter registration (CVR).
- 13.6% of new voters in California used CVR, compared to 1.5% of all voters.
- VCA counties had a higher rate of CVR use (1.6%) than non-VCA counties (1.4%).
- Latino (2.4%), Asian-American (1.8%), youth voters (6.9%), and new voters (13.6%) had higher CVR rates than the general population.
- 2020 primary voters who previously voted at polling places had slightly lower rates of CVR use than the general population.
- Voters registered as Democrats had higher CVR use rates than registered Republicans and No Party Preference voters.

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.²² Figure 30 shows that in the 2020 Primary Election, 1.5% of voters in California conditionally registered to vote. VCA counties had a higher rate of CVR use with 1.6% of voters using the option. When excluding Los Angeles County, however, VCA counties had a lower CVR use rate of 1.4%. Non-VCA counties had a lower rate of CVR use with 1.4% of voters using the option.

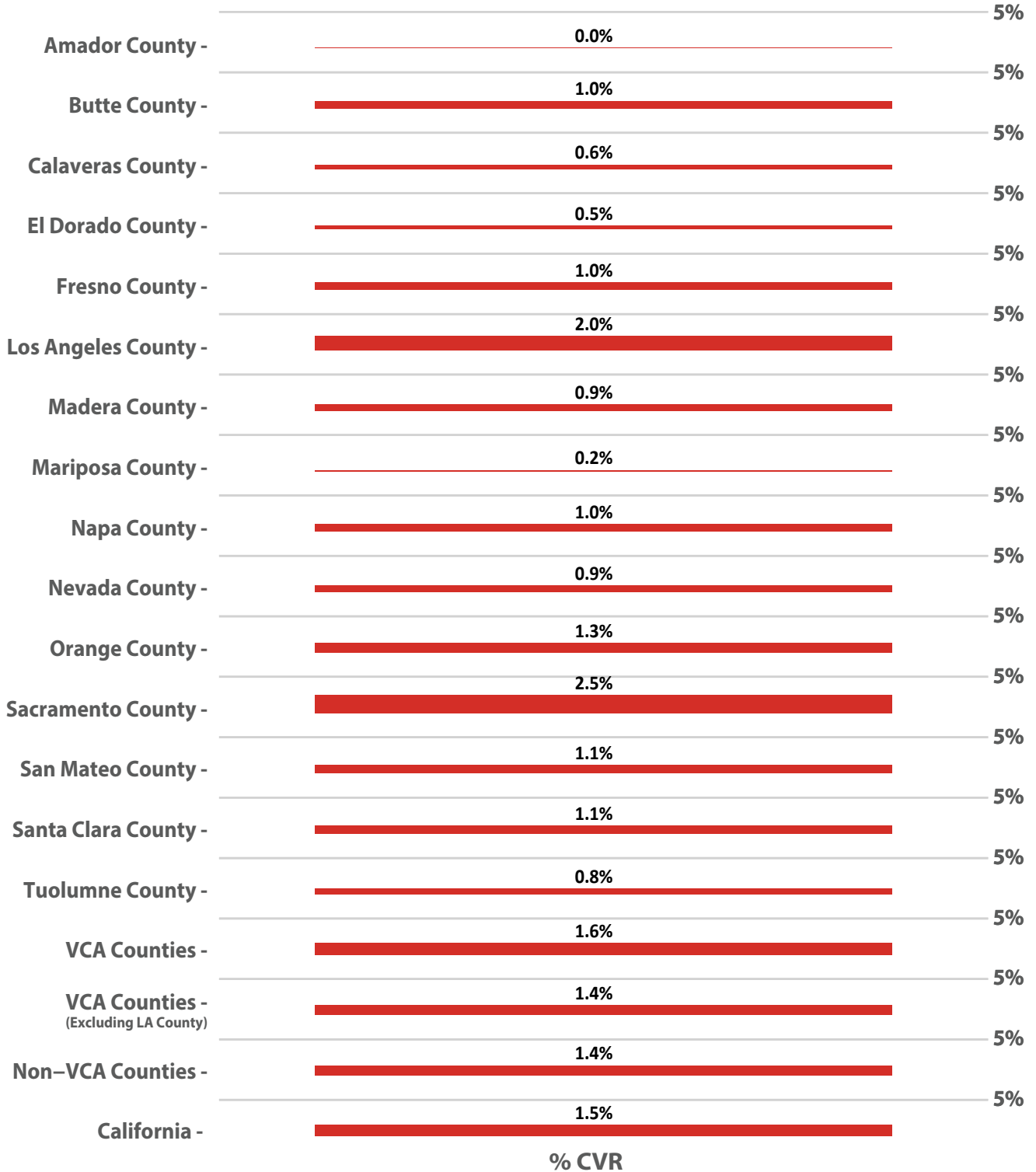
Among individual VCA counties, CVR use among voters ranged from 0.0% in Amador County to 2.5% in Sacramento County. Smaller counties containing under 35,000 registered voters (Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne) had lower rates of CVR use than larger counties containing over 800,000 registered voters (Sacramento, Santa Clara, Orange, and Los Angeles). In smaller counties, CVR use ranged from 0.0% (Amador) to 0.8% (Tuolumne) of voters. In larger counties, CVR use ranged from 1.1% (Santa Clara) to 2.5% (Sacramento) of voters.

FIGURE 30

Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) Use Rates

All Voters

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

CVR: Latinos

Latino voters used CVR in the 2020 Primary at higher rates than the general population. In California, 2.4% of Latino voters used CVR, compared to 1.5% of all voters. In VCA counties, 2.6% of Latino voters used CVR, while 1.6% of all voters in these counties used CVR (see Appendix D for detailed data chart). In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 2.4% of Latino voters used CVR, compared to 1.4% of all voters in those counties.

Among individual VCA counties, Latino voters' CVR use ranged from 0.0% (Amador and Mariposa) to 4.2% (Sacramento). In comparison, the general population's CVR use ranged from 0.0% (Amador) to 2.5% (Sacramento).

CVR: Asian Americans

In the California primary, Asian-American voters used CVR at a higher rate (1.8%) than the general population (1.5%, see Appendix D for detailed data chart). In contrast, Asian-American voters in VCA counties had the same rate of CVR use (1.6%) than the general population (1.6%). When excluding Los Angeles County, Asian-American voters in VCA counties also had the same rate of CVR use (1.4%) than the general population (1.4%). In individual VCA counties, the percent of Asian-American voters using CVR ranged from 0.0% (Amador, Calaveras, and Mariposa) to 2.4% (Sacramento).

Asian-American voters had higher rates of CVR than the general population in six VCA counties (Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Napa, Orange, and San Mateo) ranging from 0.7% (El Dorado) to 1.6% (Napa and Orange). Asian-American voters had lower rates of CVR than the general population in seven counties (Calaveras, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Nevada, Sacramento, and Tuolumne), ranging from 0.0% (Calaveras and Mariposa) to 2.4% (Sacramento).

CVR: Youth

In the 2020 Primary, young voters (aged 18 to 24) had considerably higher CVR use rates than the general population. In California, 6.9% of young voters used CVR, compared to 1.5% of all voters. In VCA counties, 7.0% of young voters used CVR, while 1.6% of all voters used CVR (see Appendix D for detailed data chart). In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 6.1% of young voters used CVR, compared to 1.4% of all voters in those counties.

Among individual VCA counties, young voters used CVR at higher rates than the general population in all but one county (Calaveras). The CVR rate for young voters ranged from 0.3% (Amador) to 9.2% (Butte). Calaveras was the only VCA county where young voters used CVR at a lower rate than the general population (0.4% of young voters compared to 0.6% of all voters).

CVR: Gender

CVR use was similar for men and women in the California primary: 1.5% of men and 1.4% of women used CVR (see Appendix D for detailed data chart). In VCA counties, 1.6% of men used CVR, while 1.5% of women used CVR. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 1.4% of men used CVR, compared to 1.3% of women. For individual VCA counties, CVR use among men ranged from 0.0% (Amador) to 2.5% (Sacramento) of voters. CVR use among women ranged from 0.0% (Amador) to 2.4% (Sacramento).

CVR: Nativity

CVR use was similar between foreign-born and U.S.-born voters in the 2020 California primary (see Appendix D for detailed data chart). In California, 1.6% of foreign-born voters used CVR and 1.4% of U.S.-born voters used CVR. In VCA counties, both foreign-born and U.S.-born voters used CVR at 1.6%. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 1.2% of both foreign-born and U.S.-born voters used CVR.

Looking at individual counties, foreign-born voters used CVR at higher rates than U.S.-born voters in ten of the fourteen counties analyzed (Calaveras County was omitted from nativity analysis due to data unavailability). U.S.-born voters used CVR at higher rates than foreign-born voters in two counties (Santa Clara and Los Angeles).

CVR use among foreign-born voters ranged from 0.0% (Amador) to 2.9% (Sacramento). CVR use among U.S.-born voters ranged from 0.0% (Amador) to 2.6% (Sacramento). Mariposa County had the largest CVR use difference between foreign-born and U.S.-born voters, with 0.9% foreign-born voters using CVR and 0.1% of U.S.-born voters using CVR. Foreign-born and U.S.-born voters used CVR at equal rates in two counties (Amador and El Dorado).

CVR: New Voters

New voters (as defined earlier in this report) in the 2020 Primary used CVR at much higher rates than the general population. Figure 31 shows that in California, 13.6% of new voters used CVR, compared to 1.5% of all voters. New voters used CVR at higher rates in VCA counties - at 15.9% compared to 1.6% of all voters. When excluding Los Angeles County, 13.6% new voters in VCA counties used CVR, compared to 1.4% of all voters. In all fifteen individual VCA counties, new voters also used CVR at much higher rates than the general population. New voter CVR use ranged from 0.2% (Amador) to 19.2% (Sacramento).

CVR: Previous Polling Place Voters

In the 2020 California primary, voters who previously voted at polling places or vote centers in the last election (as defined earlier in this report) had slightly lower rates of CVR use (1.4%) than the general population (see Figure 32). In VCA counties, 1.3% of previous polling place voters used CVR. When excluding Los Angeles County, 1.2% of previous polling place voters in VCA counties used CVR.

Among individual VCA counties, CVR use by previous polling place voters varied greatly, ranging from 0.0% (Amador) to 8.8% (Napa). Four counties had considerably higher CVR rates than the other eleven counties; Madera County at 4.3%, Sacramento County at 5.5%, San Mateo County at 5.5%, and Napa County at 8.8%.

CVR: Party Affiliation

2020 primary voters registered as Democrats had higher CVR use rates than registered Republicans and No Party Preference voters (voters registered with third parties are consolidated as the “other” category). In California, 2.0% of Democratic voters used CVR, while 0.7% of Republican voters and 1.1% of No Party Preference voters used CVR (see Figure 33). In VCA counties, 2.1% of Democratic voters used CVR, compared to 0.8% of Republican voters and 1.1% of No Party Preference voters. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 1.9% of Democratic voters used CVR, while 0.7% of Republican voters and 1.0% of No Party Preference voters used the option.

As noted earlier in this report, the California Democratic Party allowed voters registered as No Party Preference voters to vote in its presidential primary. These voters would need to request a democratic ballot in advance in order to do so. Voters can also change their party affiliation to Democratic to be able to participate in the Democratic presidential primary. CVR is available to voters who want to register but missed the state’s registration deadline. In 2020, unlike with the Republican Party’s primary, California’s Democratic presidential primary was competitive with many candidates on the ballot still seeking to gain the party’s nomination.

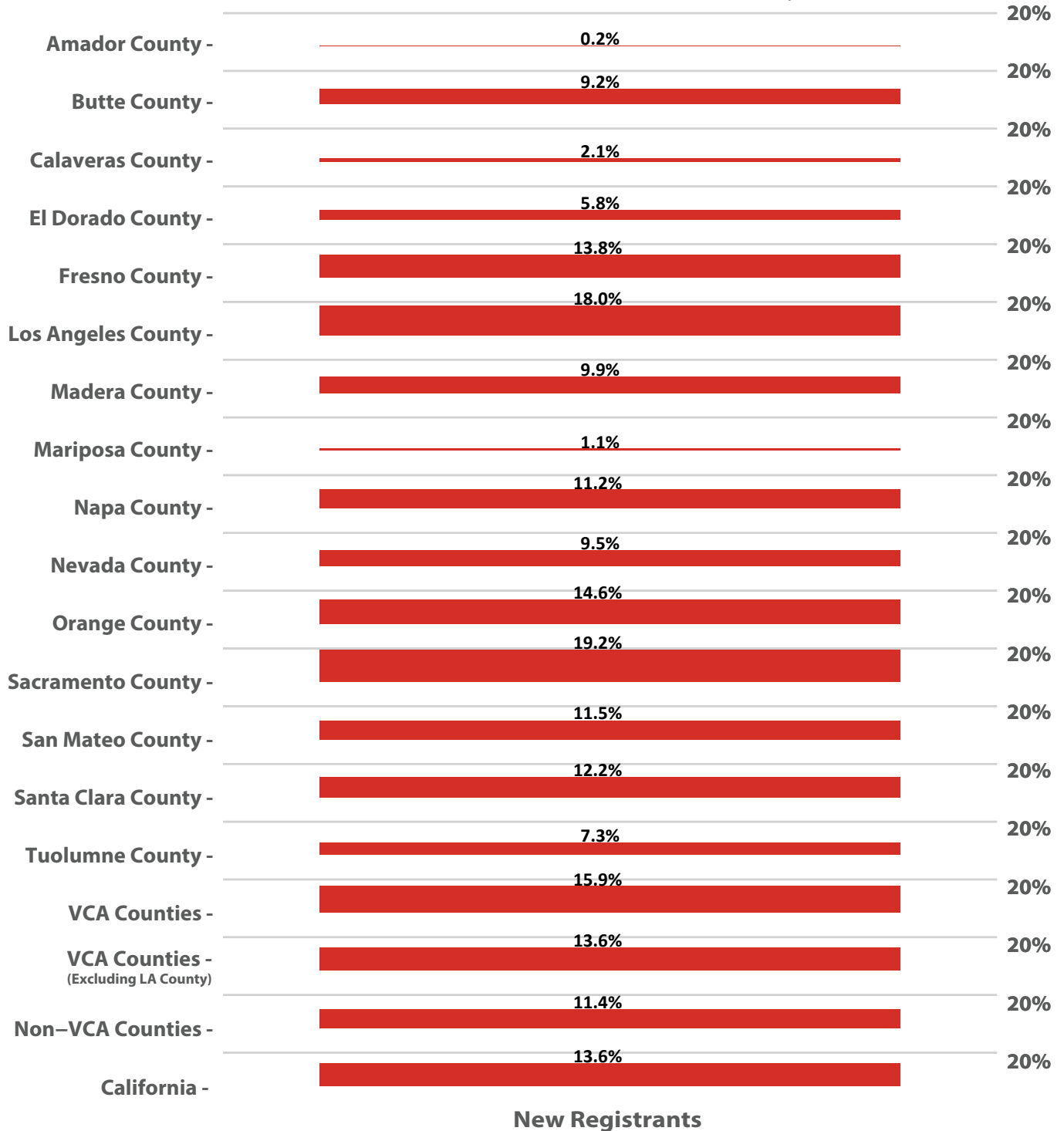
Among individual VCA counties, voters who registered Democratic had higher rates of CVR use than Republican and No Party Preference voters. Democratic voters’ use of CVR ranged from 0.0% (Amador) to 3.3% (Sacramento). Use of CVR by Republican voters ranged from 0.0% (Amador) to 1.7% (Sacramento). No Party Preference voters use of CVR ranged from 0.0% (Amador) to 1.4% (Sacramento).

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 (CVR) Use Rates New Voters

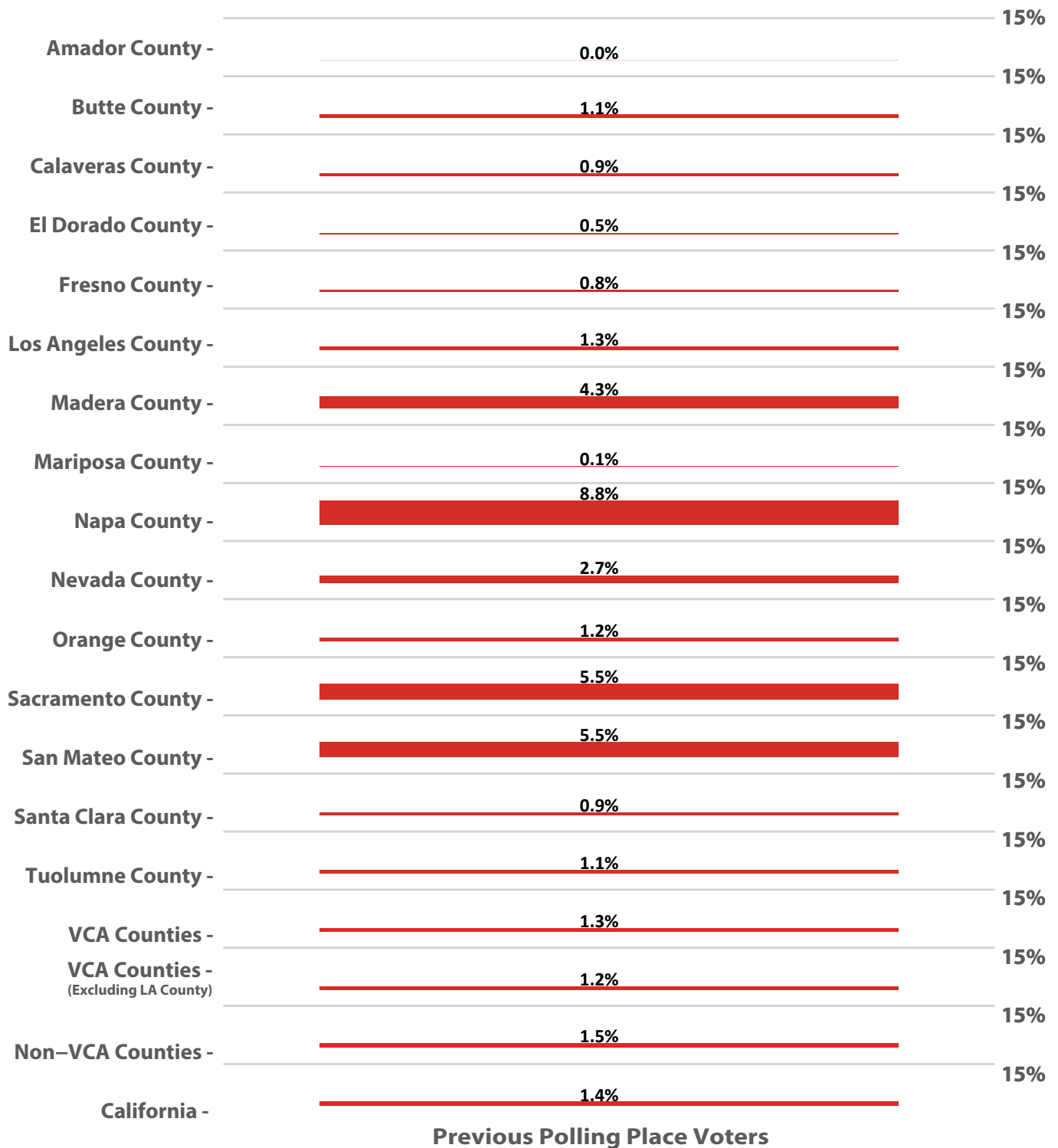
Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 32

Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) Use Rates
Previous Polling Place Voters
 Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election

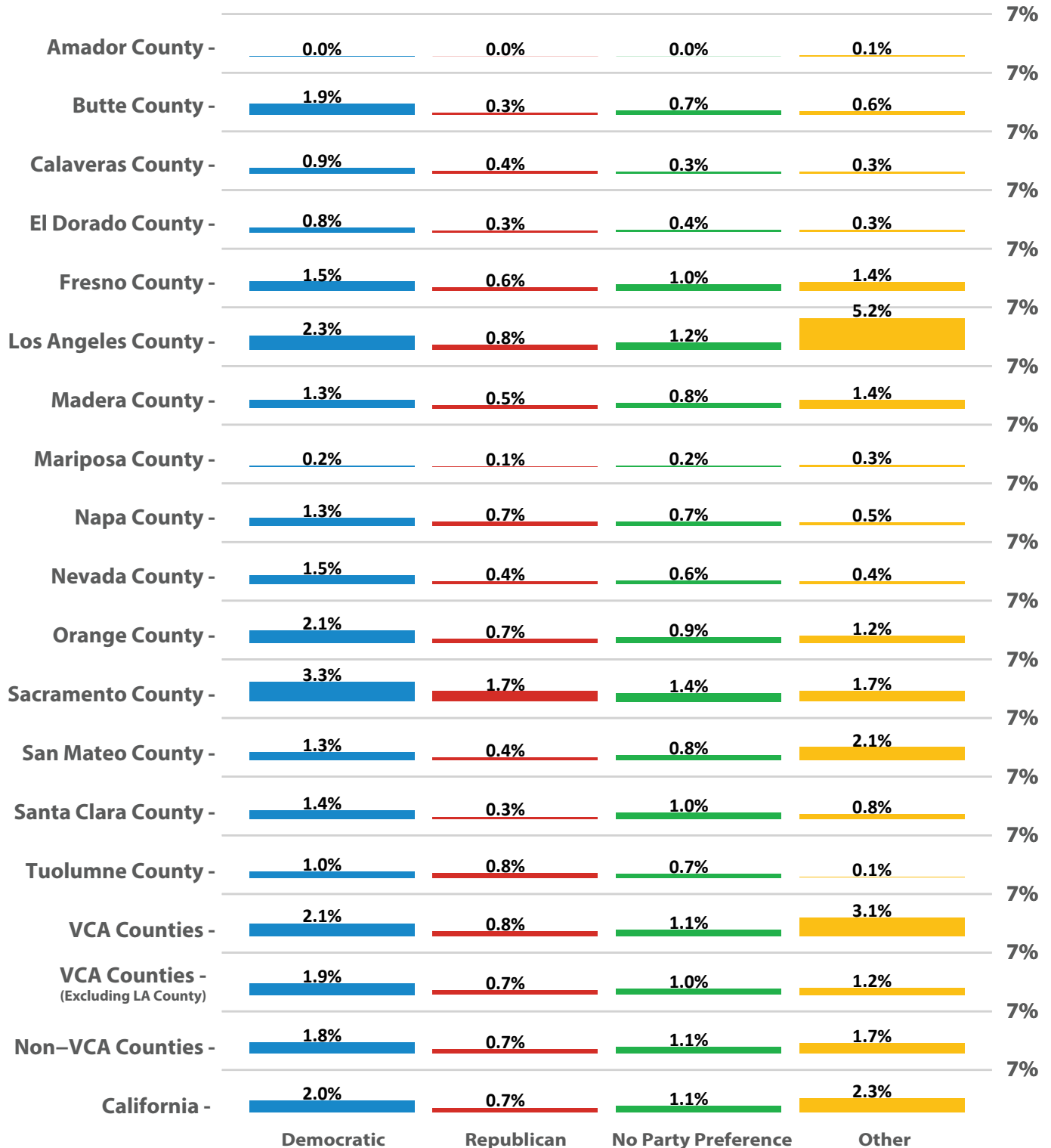


Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

FIGURE 33

Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) Use Rates Party Affiliation

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary 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.²³

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, or
- Want to vote at their polling place or a vote center, but did not receive their ballot or do not have their expected 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 elections 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 typically 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 primary. In the following section, we examine the percentage of 2020 primary 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) was to reduce the number of provisional ballots cast in a county.

Note: The numbers of provisional and conditional registration ballots in Table 10 were retrieved from original voter files from the Secretary of State. The methods differs slightly from the merged file used in the Conditional Voter Registration section.

Table 10: Conditional Voter Registration and Provisional Ballots Rejection Rates: VCA Counties 2020 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	2	2	0	0.0%	10	5	5	50.0%
Butte County	957	734	223	23.3%	551	503	48	8.7%
Calaveras County	92	90	2	2.2%	166	159	7	4.2%
El Dorado County	384	373	11	2.9%	27	15	12	44.4%
Fresno County	2,194	2,157	37	1.7%	200	176	24	12.0%
Los Angeles County	43,203	42,744	459	1.1%	25,810	23,637	2,173	8.4%
Madera County	273	272	1	0.4%	14	7	7	50.0%
Mariposa County	15	15	0	0.0%	14	14	0	0.0%
Napa County	501	490	11	2.2%	8	6	2	25.0%
Nevada County	441	437	4	0.9%	32	0	32	100.0%
Orange County	11,732	11,366	366	3.1%	2	1	1	50.0%
Sacramento County	10,406	10,406	0	0.0%	37	8	29	78.4%
San Mateo County	2,771	2,593	178	6.4%	0	0	0	NA
Santa Clara County	5,763	5,549	214	3.7%	1,127	838	289	25.6%
Tuolumne County	199	187	12	6.0%	0	0	0	NA
VCA Counties	78,931	77,413	1,518	1.9%	27,998	25,369	2,629	9.4%
Non-VCA Counties	76,148	75,379	769	1.0%	293,253	288,536	4,717	1.6%
California	155,079	152,792	2,287	1.5%	321,251	313,905	7,346	2.3%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Provisional Ballots

VCA counties had significantly lower rates of provisional ballots cast than in California as a whole. Figure 34 shows that 3.2% of ballots cast and counted in the state were provisional. In VCA counties, 0.5% of counted ballots were provisional. When excluding Los Angeles County, provisional ballot use in VCA counties drops to 0.1%. In non-VCA counties, 5.6% of counted ballots were provisional. Among individual VCA counties, the majority of counties had a 0.0% rate of provisional ballots.

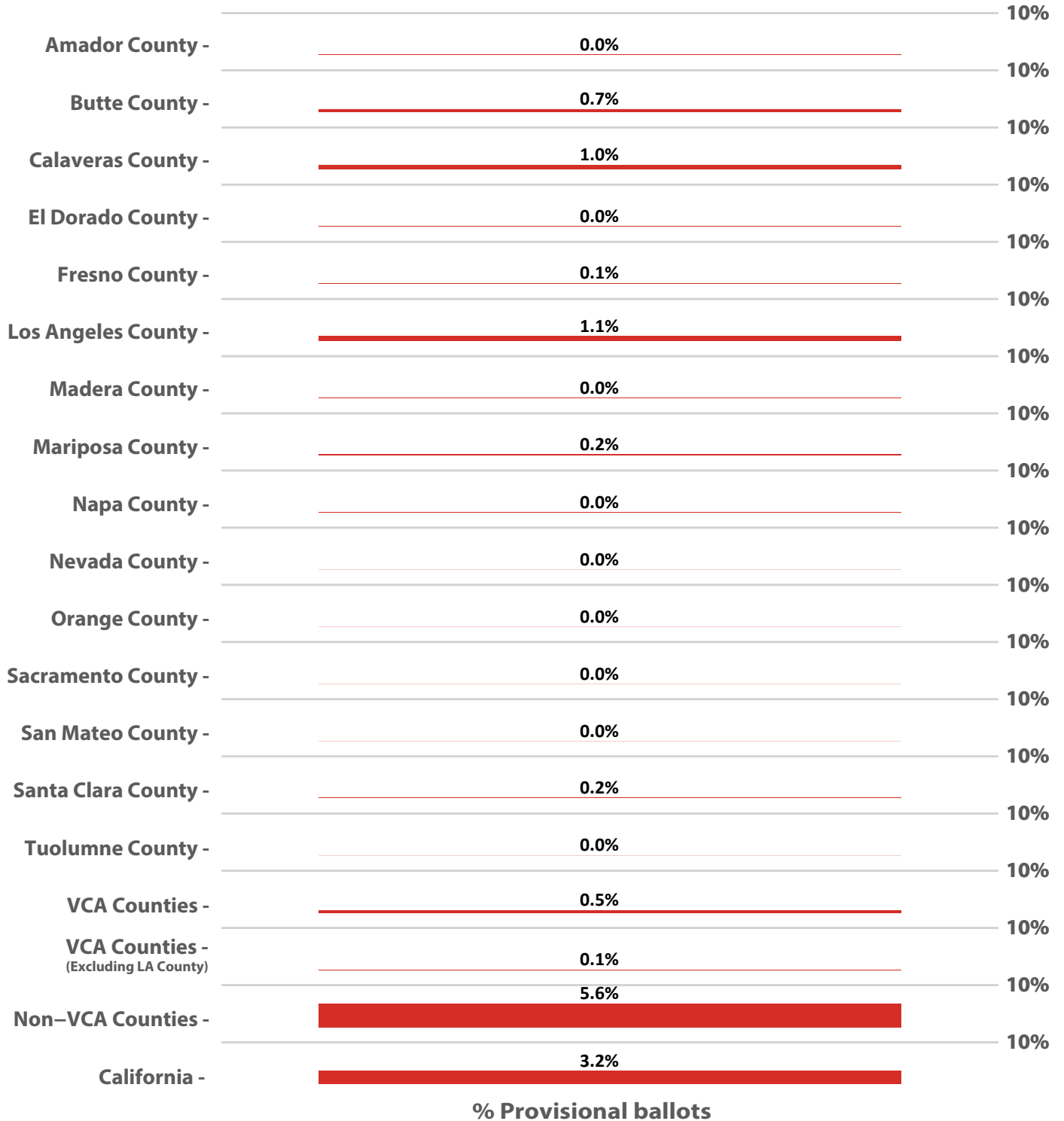
VCA counties had significantly lower rates of provisional ballots than non-VCA counties. Only 24,433 counted ballots in VCA counties were cast with provisional ballots, compared to 276,478 ballots in non-VCA counties. While VCA counties as a whole had a 0.5% provisional ballot rate (compared to non-VCA counties' 5.6% rate), many individual VCA counties had provisional ballot rates of zero percent. Among the VCA counties with provisional ballot use rates above 0%, provisional ballot use ranged from 0.1% (Fresno) to 1.1% (Los Angeles).

Some VCA counties had low numbers of provisional ballots in the 2020 primary 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 register 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: Amador (5 provisional ballots), El Dorado (15 provisional ballots), Madera (7 provisional ballots), Napa (3 provisional ballots), Orange (1 provisional ballot), and Sacramento (8 provisional ballots).

FIGURE 34

Provisional Ballots - All Voters
Percent of Votes Counted that were Cast with Provisional Ballots
Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Provisional Ballots: Latinos

In the 2020 primary, Latino voters had higher rates of provisional ballot use than the general California voter population. 4.5% of Latino voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, compared to 3.2% of the general voter population (see Appendix E for detailed data chart). In VCA counties, 0.9% of Latino voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, compared to 0.5% of the general population. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 0.1% of Latino voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, matching the general population rate. In non-VCA counties, 8.4% of Latino voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, compared to 5.6% of the general population.

Among individual VCA counties, Latino voters continued to have higher rates of provisional ballot use than the general voter population. Latino voters' provisional ballot use ranged from 0.0% (Amador, El Dorado, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, and Tuolumne) to 1.6% (Butte).

Provisional Ballots: Asian Americans

Asian-American voters in the 2020 primary had lower provisional ballot use rates than the general voter population. In California, 2.5% of the counted ballots of Asian-American voters in California were provisional ballots, compared to 3.2% of the general voter population (see Appendix E for detailed data chart). In VCA counties, as a group, 0.4% of Asian-American voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, compared to 0.5% of the general voter population. When excluding Los Angeles County, 0.1% of Asian-Americans in VCA counties used provisional ballots, matching the general population rate. In non-VCA counties, 5.9% of Asian-American voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, compared to 5.6% of the general population.

Among individual VCA counties, Asian-American voters' provisional ballot use ranged from 0.0% (Calaveras, El Dorado, Madera, Mariposa, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, and Tuolumne) to 0.8% (Amador and Los Angeles). In ten counties, Asian-American voters and the general population had the same rates of provisional ballot use. Asian-American voters in Amador had higher rates of provisional ballots than the general population. In contrast, Asian-American voters had lower rates of provisional ballots than the general population in four counties (Calaveras, Los Angeles, Mariposa, and Santa Clara).

Provisional Ballots: Youth

Young voters, age 18 to 24, had significantly higher rates of provisional ballot use than the general voter population in the 2020 primary. In California, 6.6% of young voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, compared to 3.2% of the general voter population. In VCA counties, 1.4% of young voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, compared to 0.5% of the general population. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 0.2% of young voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, compared to 0.1% of the general population. In non-VCA counties, 11.8% of young voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, compared to 5.6% of the general population (see Appendix E for detailed data chart).

Among individual VCA counties, young voters' provisional ballot use ranged from 0.0% (Amador, El Dorado, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, and Tuolumne) to 2.9% (Butte). Butte and Los Angeles counties had particularly high provisional use among young voters, at 2.9% and 2.7% respectively.

Provisional Ballots: Gender

Men and women had very similar provisional ballot use rates in the 2020 primary. In California, 3.2% of men's counted ballots were provisional ballots and 3.1% of women's counted ballots were provisional ballots. In VCA counties, 0.5% of both men's and women's counted ballots were provisional ballots. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 0.1% of both men's and women's counted ballots were provisional ballots. In non-VCA counties, 5.6% of men's counted ballots

were provisional ballots and 5.5% of women's counted ballots were provisional ballots.

Among individual VCA counties, men and women had identical provisional ballot use rates in fourteen of the fifteen counties. Calaveras County was the only county in which men and women had different provisional ballot rates (1.2% for men and 0.9% for women).

Provisional Ballot: Nativity

U.S.-born voters had higher rates of provisional ballot use than foreign-born voters. In California, 3.2% of U.S.-born voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, while 3.1% of foreign-born voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots. In VCA and non-VCA counties, however, foreign-born voters had higher rates of higher rates of provisional ballot use than U.S.-born voters. In VCA counties, 0.6% of foreign-born voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots and 0.5% of U.S.-born voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots (Calaveras County was omitted from nativity analysis due to data unavailability). When excluding Los Angeles County, foreign-born and U.S.-born voters in VCA counties had the same provisional ballot use rate of 0.1%. In non-VCA counties, 6.5% of foreign-born voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots and 5.4% of U.S.-born voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots (see Appendix E for detailed data chart).

Provisional Ballots: New Voters

New voters (as defined earlier in this report) had significantly higher rates of provisional ballot use in the 2020 primary than the general voter population. In California, 7.8% of new voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, compared to 3.2% of the general population (see Figure 35). In VCA counties, 2.4% of new voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, compared to 0.5% of the general population. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 0.3% of new voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, compared to 0.1% of all voters in those counties. In non-VCA counties, 13.0% of new voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, compared to 5.6% of the general population.

Among individual VCA counties, provisional ballot use among new voters ranged from 0.0% (Amador, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, and Tuolumne) to 4.3% (Los Angeles). Butte and Los Angeles had by far the highest provisional ballot use among new voters, with 3.8% and 4.3% respectively.

Provisional Ballots: Previous Polling Place Voters

Voters who voted at a polling place in their last election (as defined earlier in this report) had higher rates of provisional ballot use than the general voter population. In California, 5.2% of previous polling place voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, compared to 3.2% of the general population (see Figure 36). In VCA counties, 1.0% of previous polling place voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, compared to 0.5% of the general population. When excluding Los Angeles County, 0.1% of previous polling place voters in VCA counties used provisional ballots. In non-VCA counties, 9.7% of previous polling place voters' counted ballots were provisional ballots, compared to 5.6% of the general population.

Among individual counties, previous polling place voters had consistently higher rates of provisional ballot use than the general voter population. Previous polling place voters' provisional ballot use ranged from 0.0% (El Dorado, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, and Tuolumne) to 2.8% (Calaveras), compared to the general populations' range of 0.0% (Amador, El Dorado, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, and Tuolumne) to 1.4% in (Los Angeles).

Provisional Ballots: Party Affiliation

Voters registered with the Democratic Party had higher rates of provisional use than registered Republican and No Party Preference voters (voters registered with third parties are consolidated as the “other” category). In California, 3.8% of Democratic voters’ counted ballots were provisional ballots, 2.2% of registered Republican voters’ counted ballots were provisional ballots, and 2.8% of No Party Preference voters’ counted ballots were provisional ballots (Figure 37).

In VCA counties, 0.7% of the counted ballots from Democratic voters were provisional ballots, 0.3% of Republican voters’ counted ballots were provisional ballots, and 0.3% of No Party Preference voters’ counted ballots were provisional ballots. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County, 0.1% of Democratic, Republican, and No Party Preference voters’ counted ballots were provisional ballots. In non-VCA counties, 6.8% of registered Democratic voters’ counted ballots were provisional ballots, 3.6% of Republican voters’ counted ballots were provisional ballots, and 5.4% of No Party Preference voters’ counted ballots were provisional ballots.

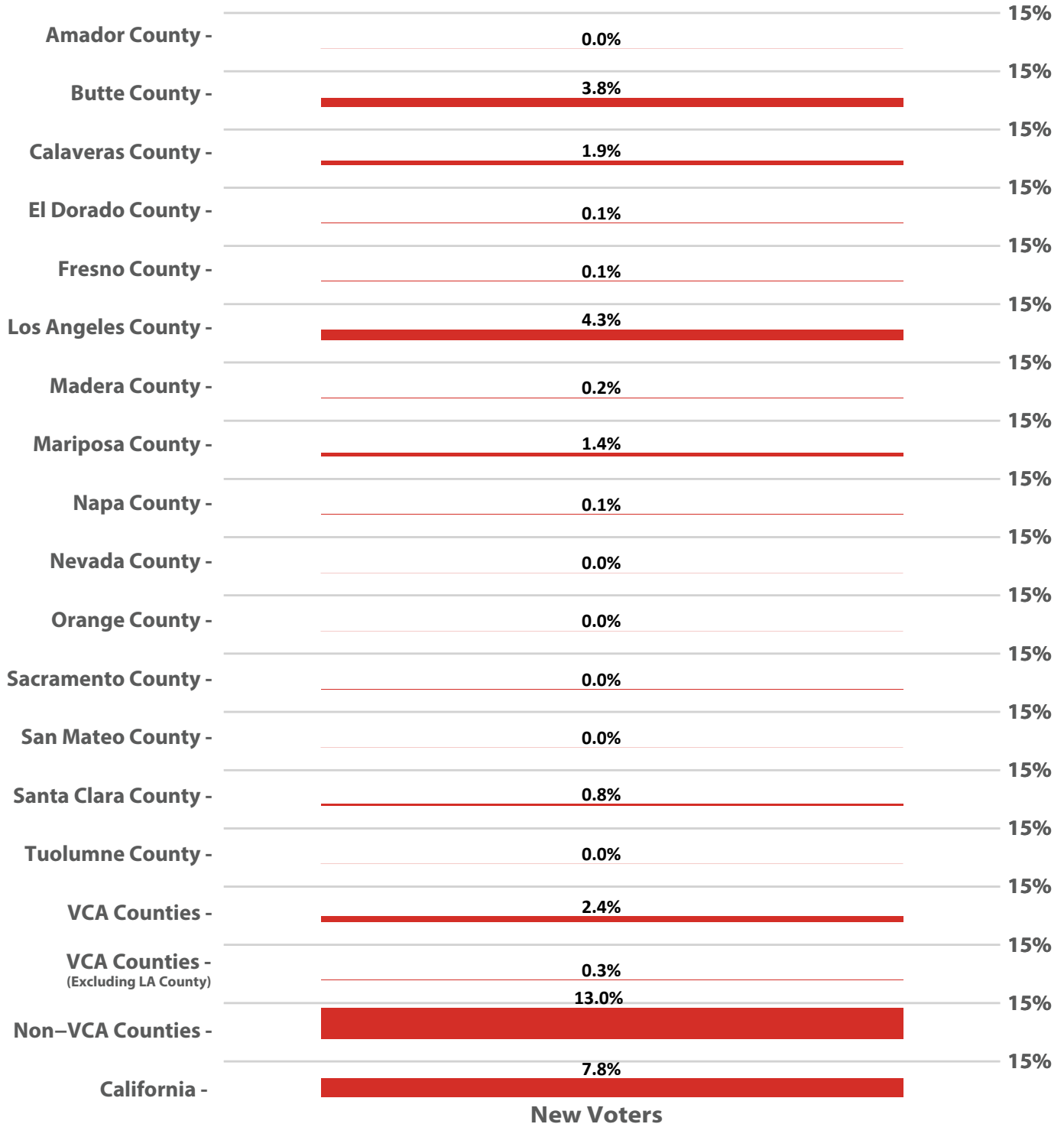
Among individual VCA counties, there were no clear differences among party affiliations. For Democratic voters, provisional ballot use ranged from 0.0% (Amador, El Dorado, Madera, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, and Tuolumne) to 1.3% (Los Angeles). For Republican voters, provisional ballot use ranged from 0.0% (El Dorado, Madera, Mariposa, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, and Tuolumne) to 1.0% (Calaveras). For No Party Preference voters, provisional ballot use ranged from 0.0% (Amador, El Dorado, Madera, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, and Tuolumne) to 1.4% (Calaveras).

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.

Provisional Ballots - New Voters

Percent of Votes Counted that were Cast with Provisional Ballots
Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election

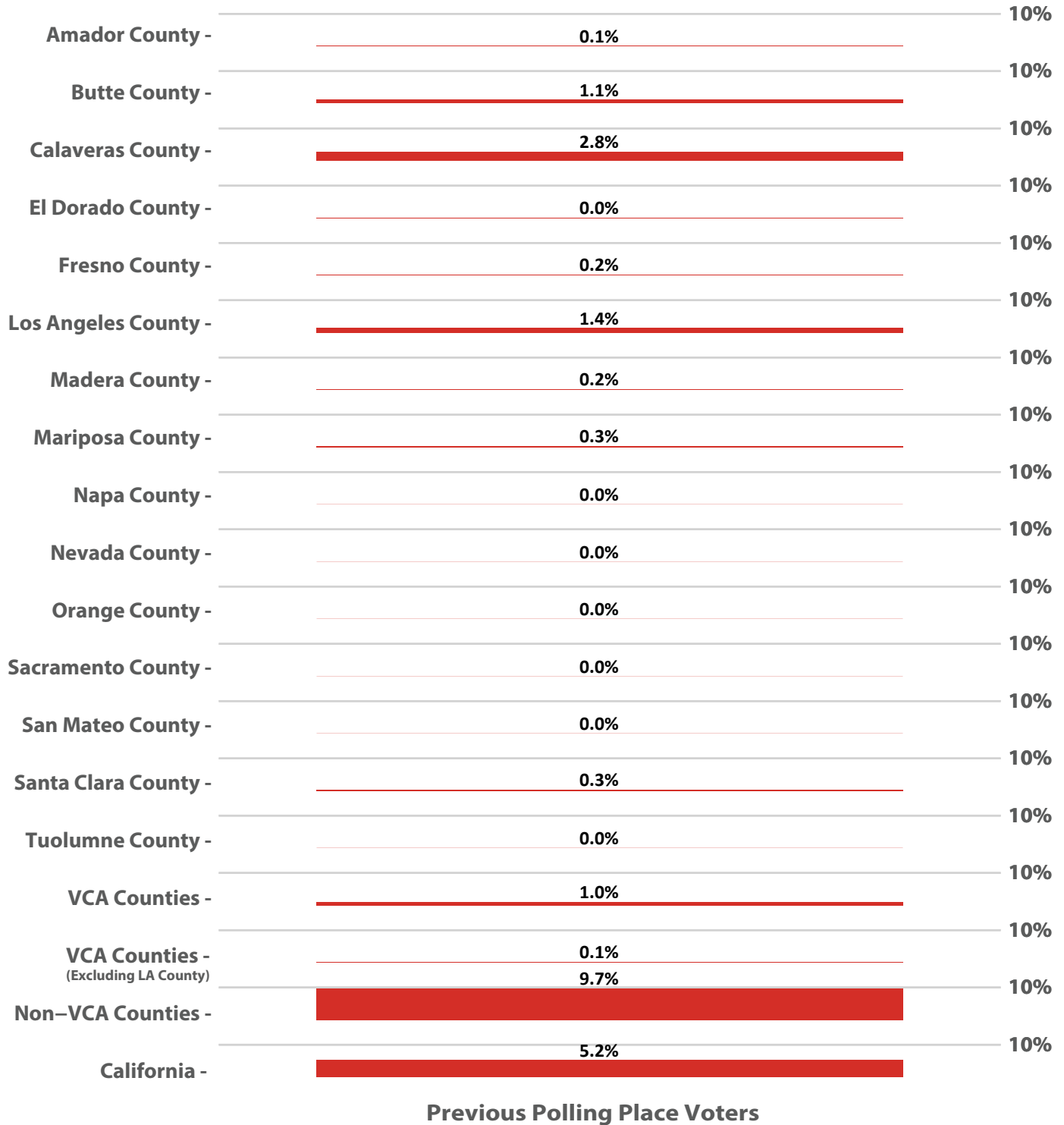
FIGURE 35



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Provisional Ballots - Previous Polling Place Voters Percent of Votes Counted that were Cast with Provisional Ballots Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election

FIGURE 36

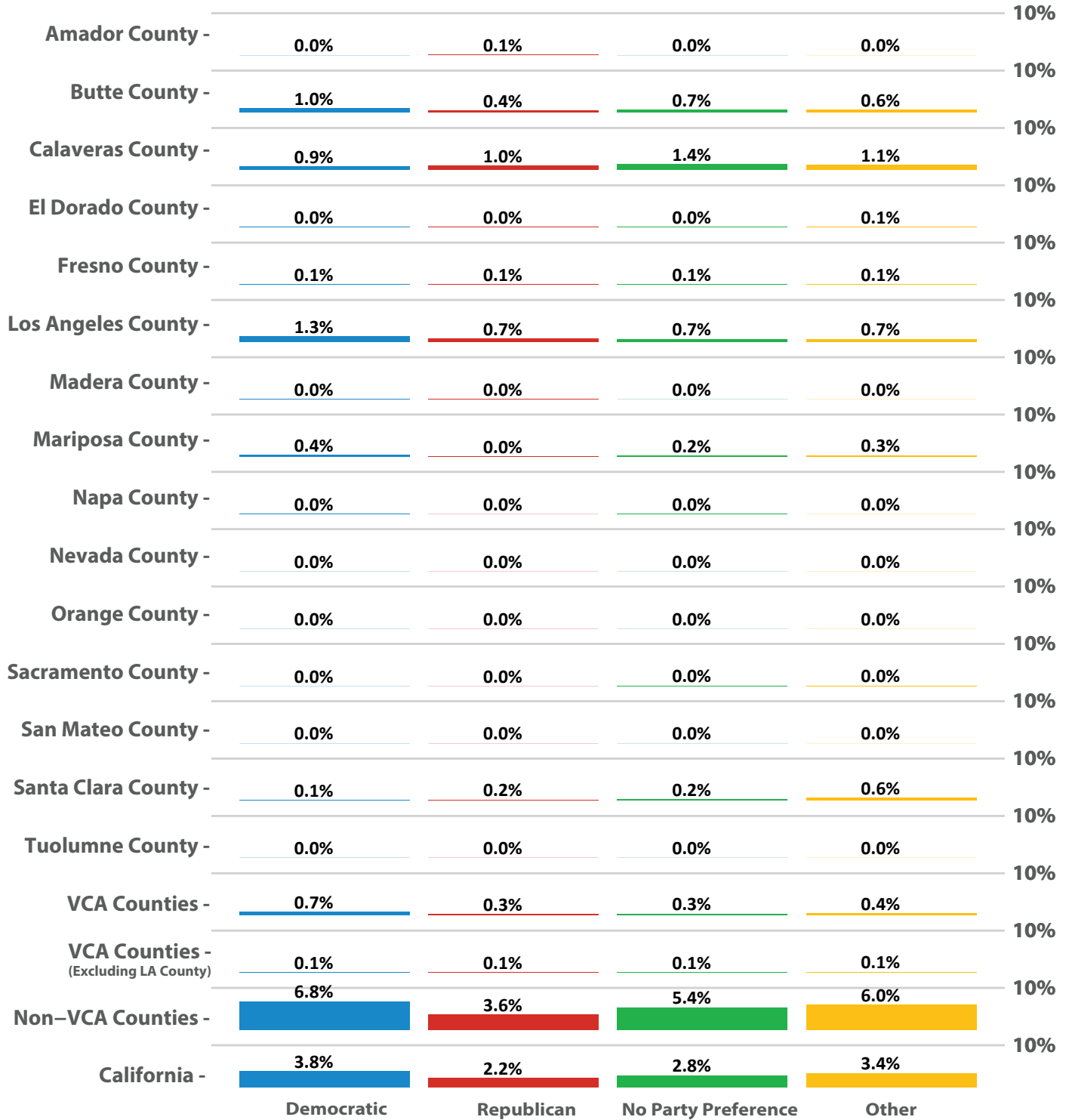


Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Provisional Ballots - Party Affiliation

Percent of Votes Counted that were Cast with Provisional Ballots*
 Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election

FIGURE 37



*Counties with blank results are counties with no provisional ballots in the category
 Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Conclusion

Our analysis reveals several notable differences in voter behavior in VCA counties compared to the state as a whole. Voters in VCA counties used the range of voting options available to them under the new model. While voters in VCA counties voted in person at slightly higher rates, they mailed their VBM ballots at much lower rates than voters statewide, with a significant number opting to drop off their VBM ballot at a vote center or drop box available to them under the VCA. Due to its population size, Los Angeles County is a significant contributor to analysis of VCA counties as a whole. When excluding Los Angeles County, in-person voting is well below the statewide and non-VCA counties rates for the other fourteen VCA counties, while the use of mail and drop boxes was higher.

Our findings also underscore the significant variation in the use of in-person voting by demographic group. Latino voters, youth voters (age 18 to 24), new voters, and previous polling place voters cast their ballots in person at higher rates in VCA counties (as well as the rest of the state) compared to the general population. Conversely, Asian-American voters cast ballots in person at lower rates compared to Latinos and youth.

Additionally, VBM ballot rejection rates were lower for the general population and for many demographic groups in VCA counties, while higher proportions of voters in VCA counties were able to utilize conditional voter registration, ensuring their ability to cast a conditional ballot in the primary.

While voter turnout was high in VCA counties and across California, data from the 2020 primary reveal the persistence of disparities in voter registration, turnout, and ballot rejection among demographic groups including Latino, Asian American, youth, and new voters in VCA counties as well as statewide. The findings also point to differences in smaller VCA counties versus larger counties. Counties with fewer than 35,000 registered voters generally had lower registration rates, were more likely to vote by mail, had fewer voters using CVR, and had a larger range of VBM rejection than larger counties containing over 800,000 registered voters.

Two 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.

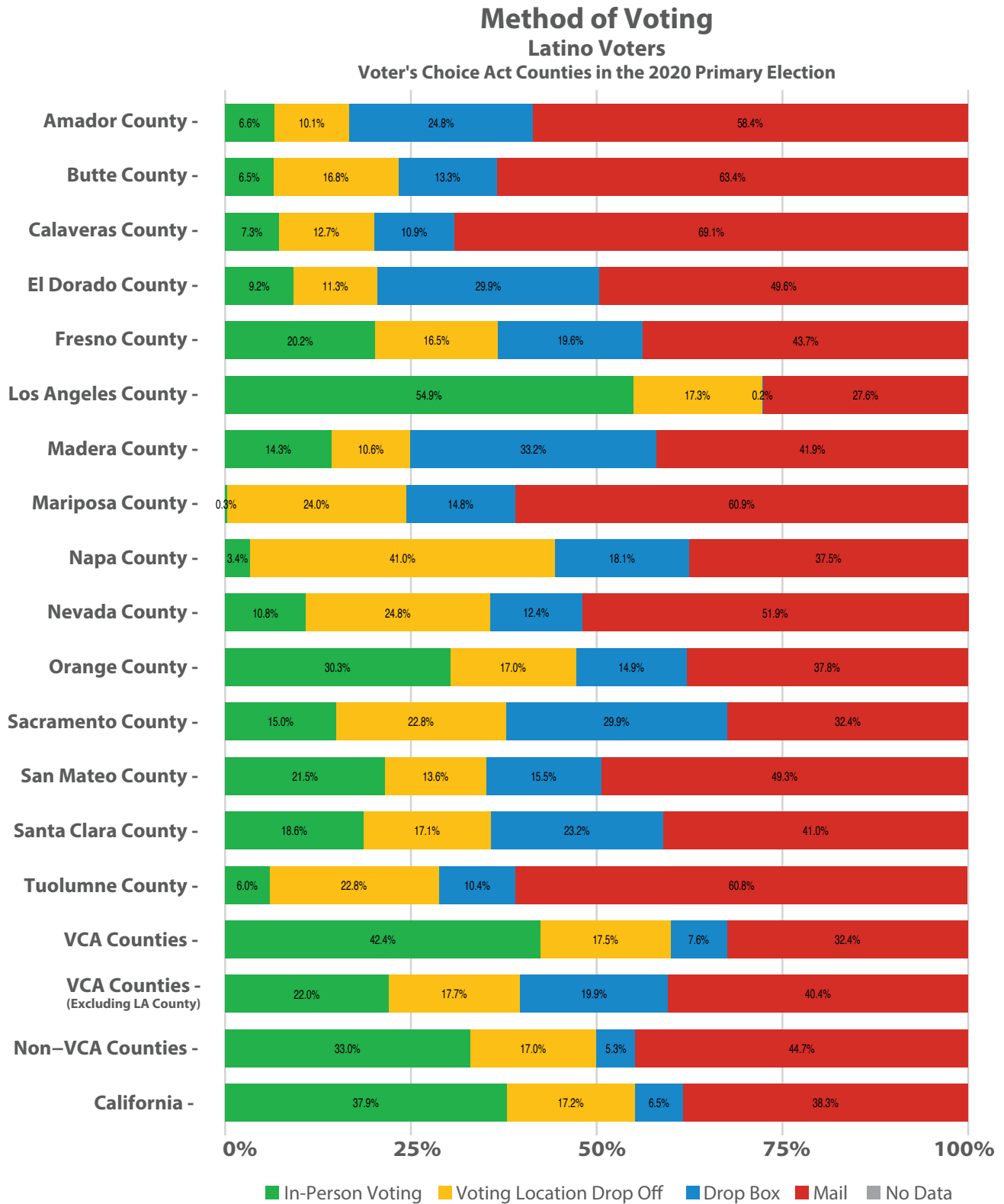
There are significant concerns about equity in election administration. It is clear that county and state voter files, with their limited demographic information, are not up to the challenge of addressing these concerns. Going forward, we encourage election officials, policymakers, and stakeholders to 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.

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. For more information on this exception for Los Angeles County in the California Voter's Choice Act, see: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB450
3. 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.
4. For information on the VoteCal system, see <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/votecal-project>
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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>
9. 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>
10. 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>
11. Total population and citizen voting-age population data from the American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates, 2015-2019.
12. 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".
13. The Voter's Choice Act requires counties to offer the option of Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail (RAVBM). Voters with disabilities are sent a ballot electronically that they can download. They then can read and mark the ballot on their computer using their own accessible technology. They then print and mail in the ballot. For more information see California Senate Bill 450: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB450
15. For more information on the California Voter's Choice Act, see: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB450
15. California voters who registered to vote without affiliating with a political party are known as No Party Preference (NPP) voters. See: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/political-parties/no-party-preference>
16. According to California law, Vote-by-Mail ballots that are returned by mail must be postmarked on or before Election Day, and received by county election officials no later than three days after the election. See Senate Bill 29: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB29
17. See the California Secretary of State's Report of Registration as of February 18, 2020: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/report-registration/15daypresprim-20>
18. 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>
19. See the California Secretary of State's Voter Participation Statistics by County: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/report-registration/15day-presprim-2020>. See the Center for Inclusive Democracy's report on historical disparities by race and ethnicity in California electorate at: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57b8c7ce15d5dbf599fb46ab/t/57fffb92579fb3fe718dcf8c/1476393876813/ucdavisceppolicybrief10.pdf>
21. See the Center for Inclusive Democracy's report on historical disparities by age in California electorate at: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57b8c7ce15d5dbf599fb46ab/t/57fffc482e69cfe207ed89e4/1476394059592/UCDavisCCEPPolicyBrief92014YouthVote.pdf>
22. For more information on the California Voter's Choice Act, see: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB450
23. 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>

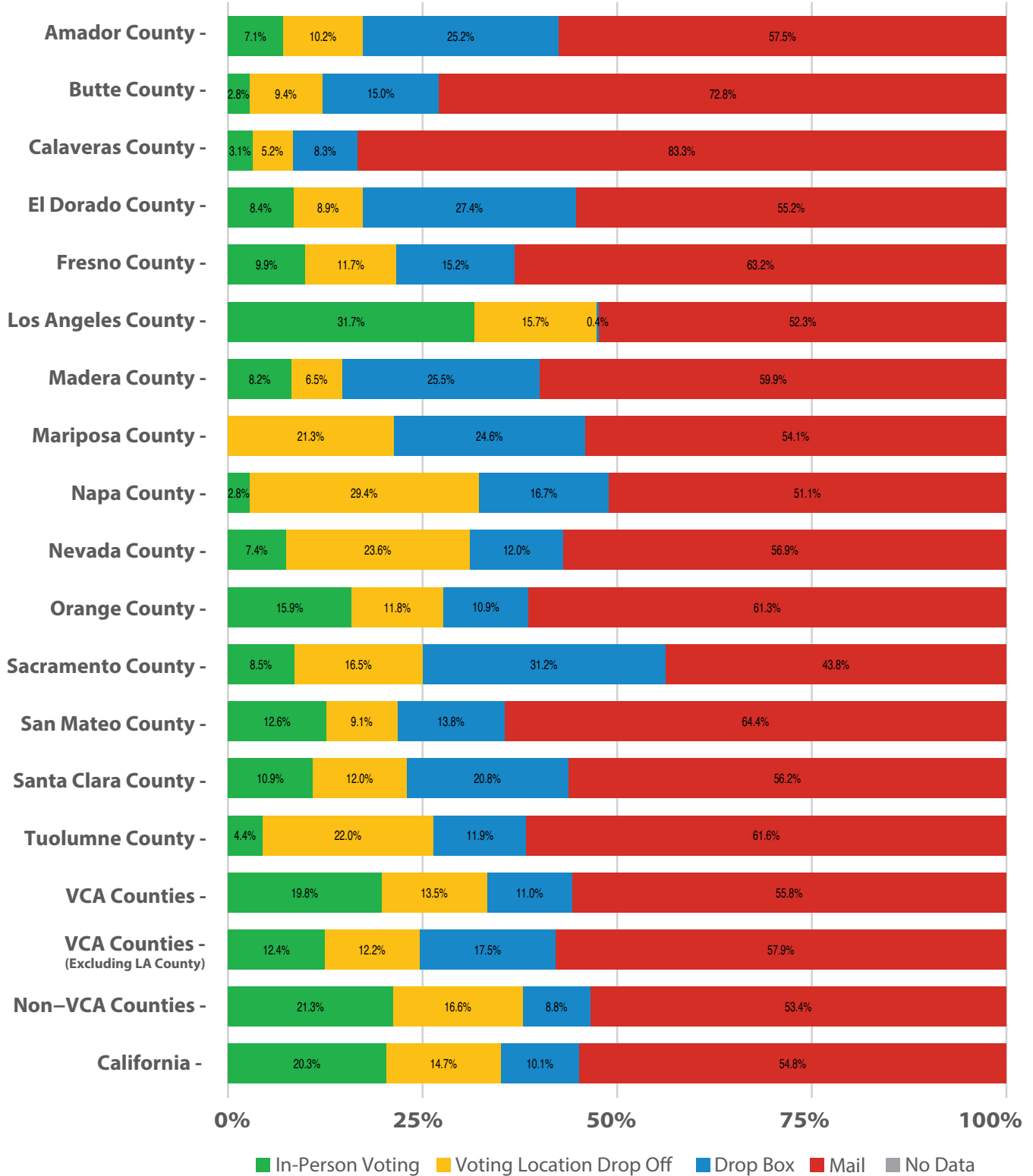
Appendix

Appendix A: Method of Voting



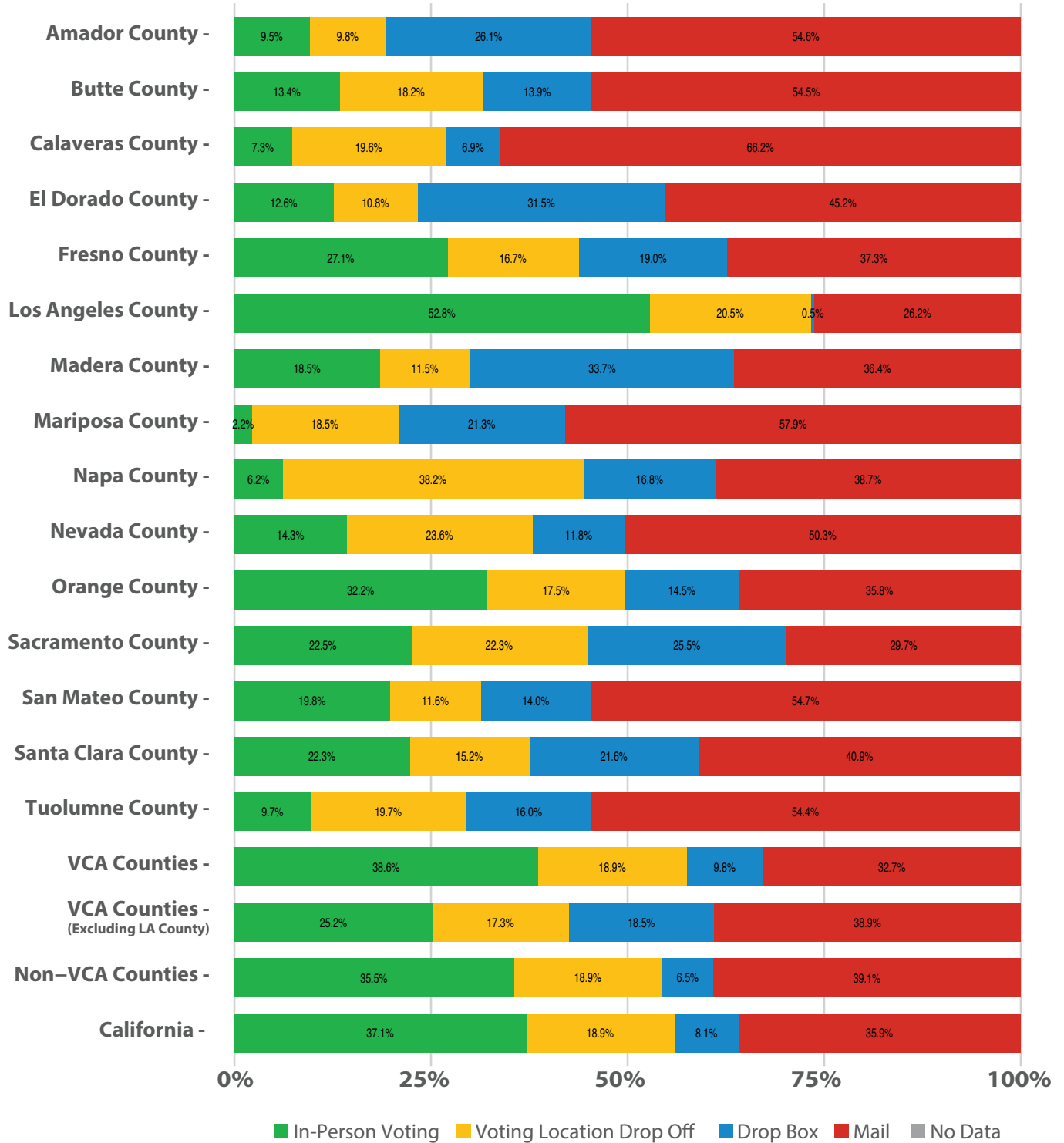
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Method of Voting Asian-American Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Method of Voting Youth (Age 18 to 24) Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Method of Voting by Race and Ethnicity: 2020 Primary Election Voter's Choice Act Counties - Black Voters				
	Mail	Drop Box	VC Drop Off	Vote Center
Amador County	60.2%	30.9%	8.1%	0.8%
Butte County	73.6%	13.7%	11.9%	0.7%
Calaveras County	72.0%	7.3%	17.1%	3.7%
El Dorado County	49.3%	33.6%	9.3%	7.8%
Fresno County	53.1%	18.6%	12.0%	16.3%
Los Angeles County	31.8%	0.1%	14.5%	53.6%
Madera County	49.7%	32.2%	10.0%	8.1%
Mariposa County	60.5%	18.6%	20.9%	0.0%
Napa County	42.9%	22.2%	31.9%	3.1%
Nevada County	56.1%	14.5%	22.0%	7.4%
Orange County	45.1%	14.0%	14.6%	26.3%
Sacramento County	35.4%	30.0%	22.7%	11.9%
San Mateo County	54.0%	14.4%	14.2%	17.5%
Santa Clara County	51.3%	21.4%	15.5%	11.7%
Tuolumne County	65.7%	12.8%	16.9%	4.7%
VCA Counties	34.6%	4.4%	15.0%	45.9%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	46.4%	22.1%	17.1%	14.4%
Non-VCA Counties	38.7%	8.5%	20.3%	32.5%
California	36.3%	6.1%	17.2%	40.4%

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 Primary Election Voter's Choice Act Counties - White and No Ethnicity Identified Voters*				
	Mail	Drop Box	VC Drop Off	Vote Center
Amador County	64.7%	23.1%	8.0%	4.1%
Butte County	74.8%	13.7%	9.5%	1.9%
Calaveras County	72.1%	8.5%	12.2%	7.3%
El Dorado County	53.8%	31.0%	8.9%	6.3%
Fresno County	58.3%	17.7%	12.5%	11.5%
Los Angeles County	40.4%	0.2%	16.2%	43.2%
Madera County	56.8%	25.0%	10.7%	7.5%
Mariposa County	56.1%	20.4%	23.1%	0.4%
Napa County	52.4%	18.5%	26.9%	2.1%
Nevada County	57.8%	13.0%	21.8%	7.4%
Orange County	50.4%	14.6%	13.6%	21.3%
Sacramento County	40.3%	30.9%	19.0%	9.8%
San Mateo County	59.8%	14.9%	11.9%	13.3%
Santa Clara County	51.5%	21.6%	14.7%	12.2%
Tuolumne County	64.1%	12.1%	18.7%	5.0%
VCA Counties	47.5%	12.3%	15.3%	24.9%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	51.9%	19.8%	14.7%	13.5%
Non-VCA Counties	54.1%	6.7%	13.8%	25.3%
California	51.3%	9.2%	14.5%	25.1%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

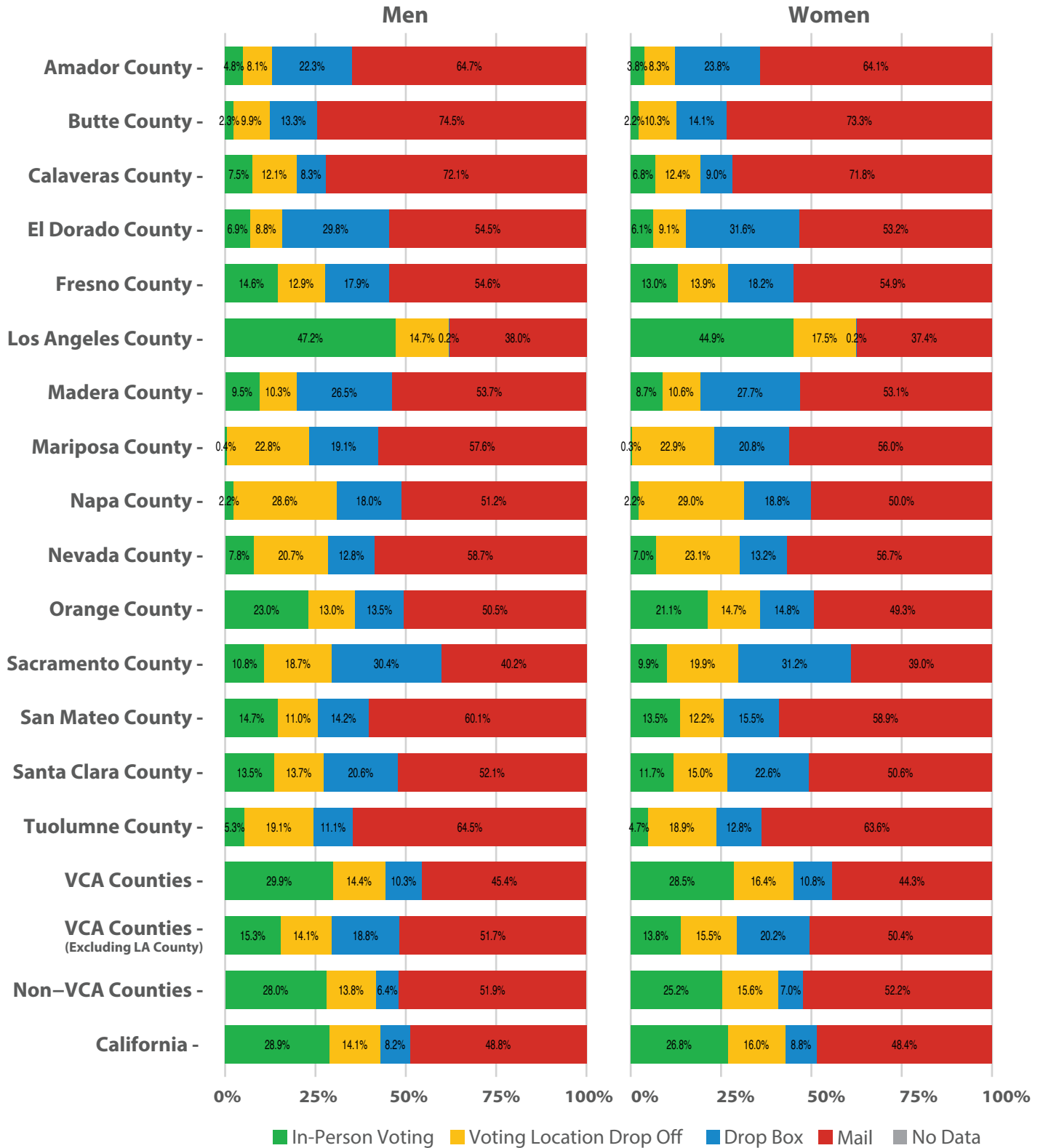
*PDI combines voters identified as white (non-Latino) and voters with no identified ethnicity in the same category.

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.

Method of Voting

Gender

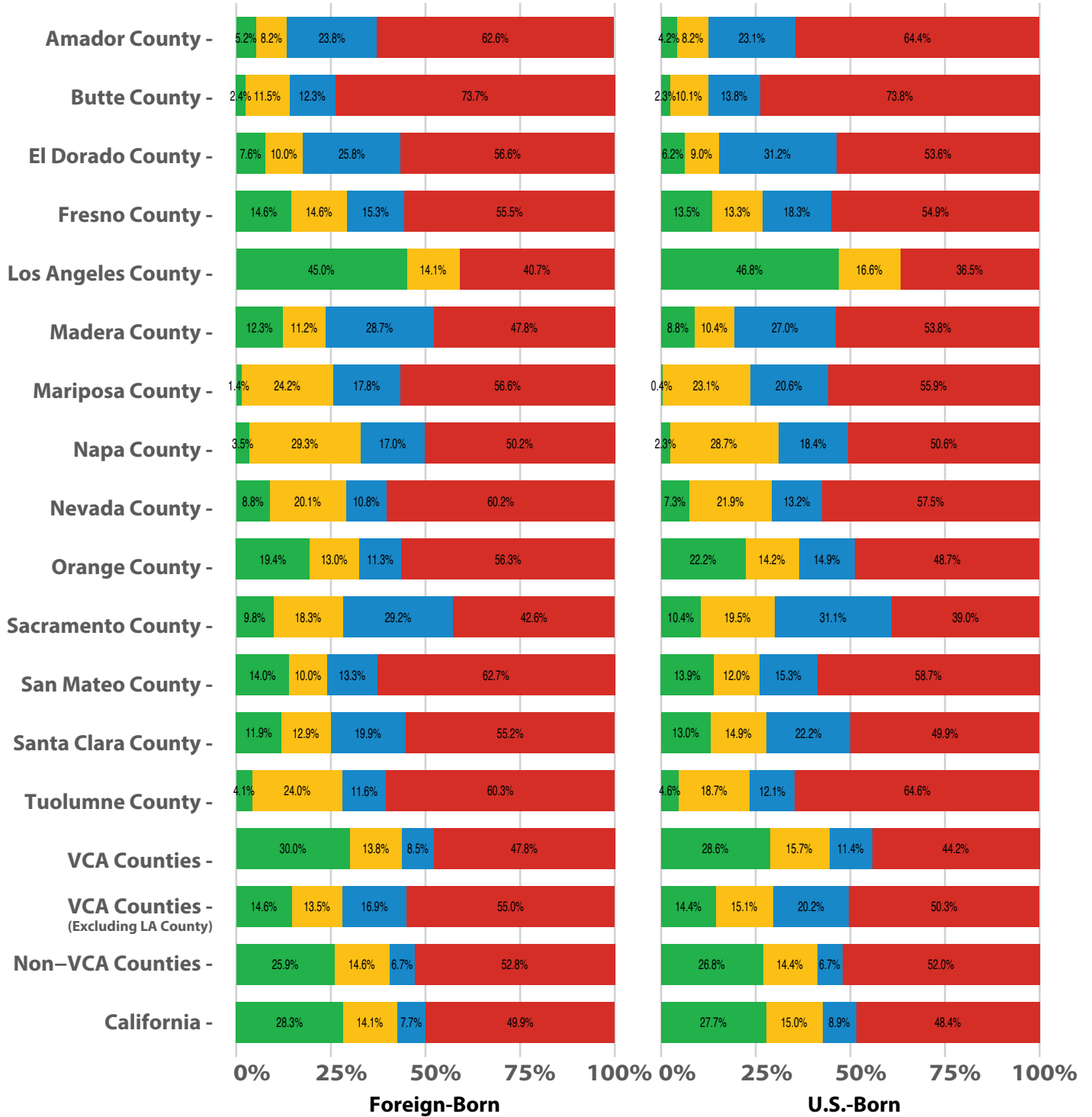
Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Method of Voting Nativity*

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



■ In-Person Voting ■ Voting Location Drop Off ■ Drop Box ■ Mail ■ No Data

*Calaveras County excluded due to county coding error
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 Primary 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	1,759	1.0%	1,870	1.1%	1,572	1.1%	3,636	1.4%	1,335	0.5%	1,142	0.3%
Alpine	7	1.4%	16	3.3%	6	1.1%	3	0.6%	3	0.7%	11	2.1%
Amador	21	0.3%	64	0.8%	38	0.6%	396	4.4%	1	0.0%	56	0.4%
Butte	402	1.1%	242	0.6%	534	1.6%	966	2.0%	613	1.4%	1,133	1.7%
Calaveras	549	5.3%	153	1.5%	147	1.6%	33	0.3%	71	0.6%	282	1.6%
Colusa	no report	n/a	29	1.3%	26	1.1%	1	0.0%	16	0.7%	45	1.2%
Contra Costa	2,048	1.4%	6,931	4.9%	1,816	1.6%	2,531	1.4%	960	0.6%	3,621	1.4%
Del Norte	no report	n/a	180	5.0%	261	6.7%	55	1.4%	19	0.5%	67	1.3%
El Dorado	1,007	2.4%	483	1.2%	669	1.9%	582	1.1%	475	1.0%	816	1.1%
Fresno	1,282	1.6%	669	0.9%	894	1.2%	909	0.9%	1,349	1.5%	1,706	1.0%
Glenn	26	0.4%	34	0.8%	49	1.1%	55	1.1%	52	1.2%	90	1.5%
Humboldt	139	0.7%	195	1.0%	331	1.8%	163	0.8%	83	0.4%	146	0.5%
Imperial	245	3.2%	248	2.3%	260	2.3%	219	1.5%	222	1.7%	259	1.5%
Inyo	61	2.0%	97	2.7%	47	1.5%	26	0.7%	29	0.7%	40	0.8%
Kern	6,258	9.6%	7,867	10.3%	1,662	3.0%	1,429	1.5%	1,668	2.0%	2,210	1.9%
Kings	256	1.9%	408	3.3%	481	3.8%	360	2.2%	183	1.3%	369	2.1%
Lake	265	2.7%	329	3.3%	357	3.3%	200	1.7%	158	1.5%	110	0.8%
Lassen	16	0.6%	2	0.0%	37	0.8%	77	2.4%	24	0.8%	10	0.2%
Los Angeles	17,172	4.4%	4,570	1.0%	43,989	9.9%	11,490	1.6%	11,695	1.7%	17,743	1.5%
Madera	1,280	7.3%	162	1.1%	149	1.1%	220	1.2%	598	2.6%	586	2.0%
Marin	666	1.3%	984	1.8%	917	1.9%	1,175	1.6%	1,150	1.8%	1,836	2.1%
Mariposa	103	2.5%	275	6.3%	78	2.1%	48	1.0%	33	0.7%	105	1.5%
Mendocino	712	3.8%	450	2.6%	207	1.5%	139	0.6%	207	1.0%	343	1.4%
Merced	27	0.2%	164	1.0%	472	2.9%	267	1.3%	392	2.0%	869	2.6%
Modoc	no report	n/a	44	2.2%	0	0.0%	193	9.1%	22	1.0%	19	0.8%
Mono	20	1.0%	100	5.1%	29	1.4%	27	1.2%	33	1.5%	31	1.0%
Monterey	598	1.4%	430	0.9%	1,342	3.0%	533	0.8%	991	1.9%	421	0.6%
Napa	2,806	8.6%	314	1.2%	472	1.7%	353	0.8%	407	1.1%	525	1.1%
Nevada	362	1.5%	308	1.2%	411	1.8%	212	0.6%	219	0.6%	246	0.6%
Orange	3,952	1.3%	3,724	1.3%	4,161	1.7%	5,628	1.4%	3,712	0.9%	9,506	1.5%
Placer	703	1.1%	952	1.4%	862	1.5%	1,393	1.6%	110	0.1%	1,358	1.2%
Plumas	45	0.9%	123	2.4%	0	0.0%	70	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Riverside	4,547	2.7%	1,504	0.9%	1,366	0.9%	3,816	1.4%	4,182	1.6%	7,111	1.9%
Sacramento	3,444	2.2%	1,991	1.2%	3,190	2.1%	3,148	1.4%	2,965	1.0%	4,603	1.2%
San Benito	103	1.3%	116	1.7%	110	1.9%	263	2.7%	149	1.4%	293	1.9%
San Bernardino	4,269	3.2%	712	0.6%	3,022	2.6%	2,572	1.3%	1,107	0.6%	4,482	1.7%
San Diego	5,102	1.4%	3,743	1.0%	3,170	1.0%	3,057	0.6%	2,890	0.6%	6,243	0.9%
San Francisco	1,649	1.7%	2,016	2.1%	1,774	1.9%	4,642	2.8%	3,679	2.2%	9,407	4.5%
San Joaquin	1,261	1.9%	1,360	1.9%	1,758	2.6%	2,010	2.2%	1,185	1.4%	1,849	1.6%
San Luis Obispo	801	1.7%	254	0.5%	425	0.9%	953	1.4%	188	0.3%	666	0.8%
San Mateo	852	1.0%	1,237	1.4%	765	1.0%	2,130	1.6%	2,986	1.8%	4,220	2.1%
Santa Barbara	1,217	2.1%	1,117	1.8%	713	1.3%	857	1.0%	1,009	1.4%	1,542	1.6%
Santa Clara	14,070	4.8%	3,313	1.4%	5,309	2.4%	4,274	1.3%	3,201	1.1%	6,136	1.4%
Santa Cruz	57	0.2%	225	0.6%	857	2.7%	338	0.6%	742	1.5%	852	1.2%
Shasta	147	0.5%	228	0.7%	165	0.7%	210	0.6%	296	0.9%	442	0.9%
Sierra	13	0.8%	2	0.2%	2	0.1%	12	0.8%	11	0.7%	9	0.6%
Siskiyou	250	2.7%	216	2.4%	32	0.4%	223	1.8%	112	1.3%	223	1.8%
Solano	89	0.2%	122	0.2%	171	0.4%	1,911	2.7%	62	0.1%	446	0.6%
Sonoma	1,463	1.6%	821	0.9%	1,106	1.4%	1,046	0.8%	1,313	1.2%	2,454	1.6%
Stanislaus	2,338	4.2%	1,037	1.8%	1,926	4.0%	1,369	1.8%	433	0.6%	1,655	1.8%
Sutter	176	1.3%	195	1.5%	105	0.9%	278	1.8%	235	1.4%	140	0.7%
Tehama	135	1.4%	109	1.0%	153	1.6%	142	1.2%	138	1.2%	167	1.1%
Trinity	299	8.8%	254	7.9%	78	2.7%	46	1.3%	35	1.1%	56	1.5%
Tulare	639	2.1%	676	2.3%	913	2.8%	837	1.8%	428	1.0%	923	1.6%
Tuolumne	655	5.2%	29	0.2%	97	0.9%	80	0.6%	1,342	9.1%	116	0.6%
Ventura	2,281	2.6%	671	0.8%	1,371	1.9%	1,525	1.1%	1,187	1.0%	1,508	0.9%
Yolo	33	0.2%	36	0.2%	41	0.2%	140	0.5%	94	0.3%	901	1.9%
Yuba	199	2.9%	219	3.1%	111	1.8%	250	2.5%	225	2.5%	283	2.2%
California**	88,876	2.5%	54,620	1.5%	91,006	2.9%	69,518	1.4%	57,024	1.2%	102,428	1.5%

Data Source: California Secretary of State

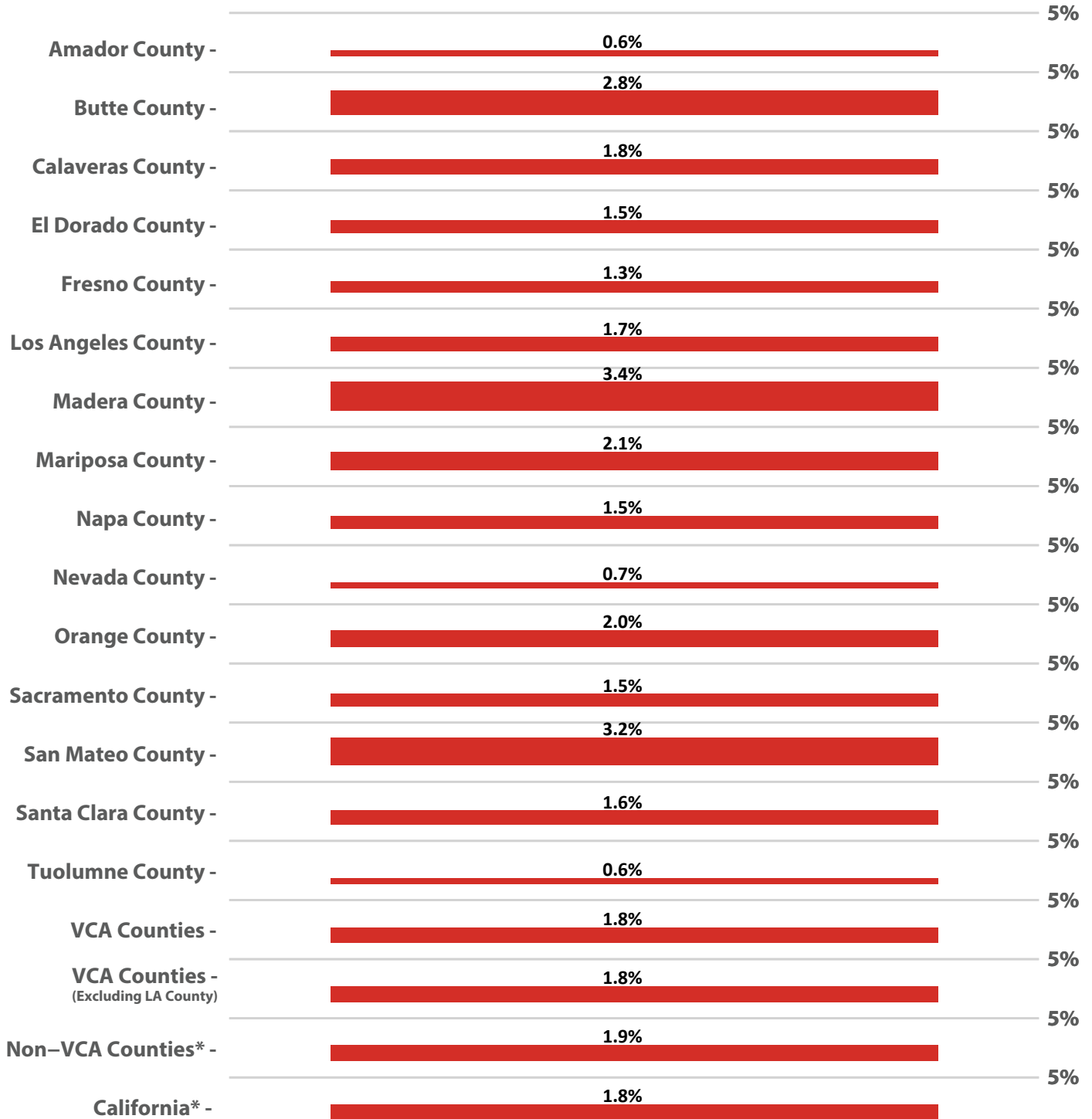
*Percent of cast VBM ballots that were rejected and uncounted.

**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 Voters

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



VBM Rejection Rate

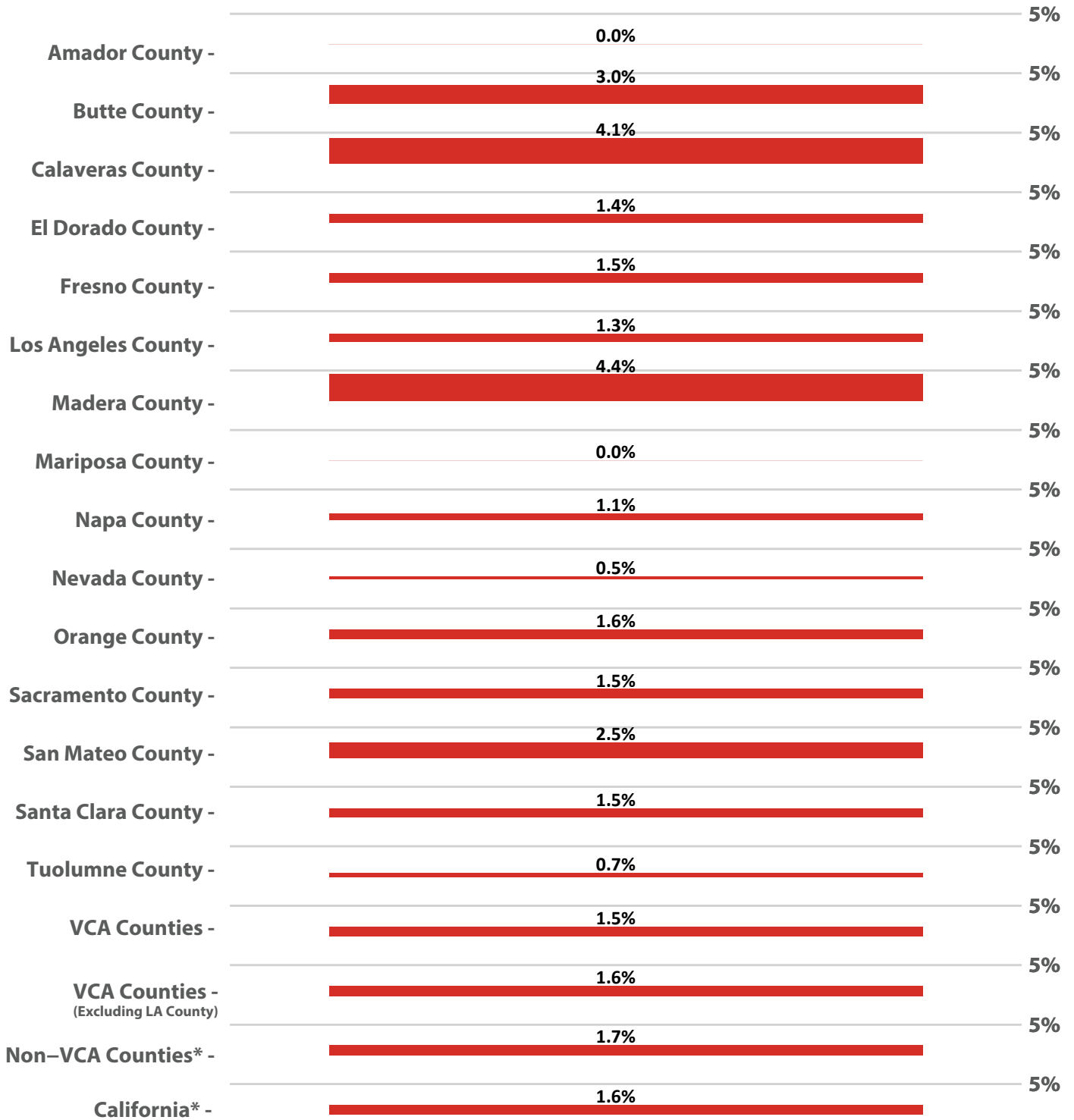
*Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA counties analysis

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rate

Asian-American Voters

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



VBM Rejection Rate

*Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA counties analysis
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Vote-By-Mail Rejection Rates by Race and Ethnicity: 2020 Primary Election Voter's Choice Act Counties					
County	All	Black	Asian-American	Latino	White and No Ethnicity Identified**
Amador County	0.4%	0.8%	0.0%	0.6%	0.3%
Butte County	1.7%	1.3%	3.0%	2.8%	1.5%
Calaveras County	1.3%	0.0%	4.1%	1.8%	1.3%
El Dorado County	1.1%	1.6%	1.4%	1.5%	1.0%
Fresno County	1.0%	0.7%	1.5%	1.3%	0.8%
Los Angeles County	1.5%	1.3%	1.3%	1.7%	1.4%
Madera County	1.9%	1.7%	4.4%	3.4%	1.4%
Mariposa County	1.5%	2.3%	0.0%	2.1%	1.4%
Napa County	1.1%	0.5%	1.1%	1.5%	1.0%
Nevada County	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%
Orange County	1.5%	1.4%	1.6%	2.0%	1.3%
Sacramento County	1.2%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	1.1%
San Mateo County	2.3%	3.0%	2.5%	3.2%	2.0%
Santa Clara County	1.4%	1.2%	1.5%	1.6%	1.3%
Tuolumne County	0.3%	0.0%	0.7%	0.6%	0.3%
VCA Counties	1.4%	1.3%	1.5%	1.8%	1.3%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	1.4%	1.4%	1.6%	1.8%	1.2%
Non-VCA Counties	1.4%	1.0%	1.7%	1.9%	1.2%
California	1.4%	1.2%	1.6%	1.8%	1.2%

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.

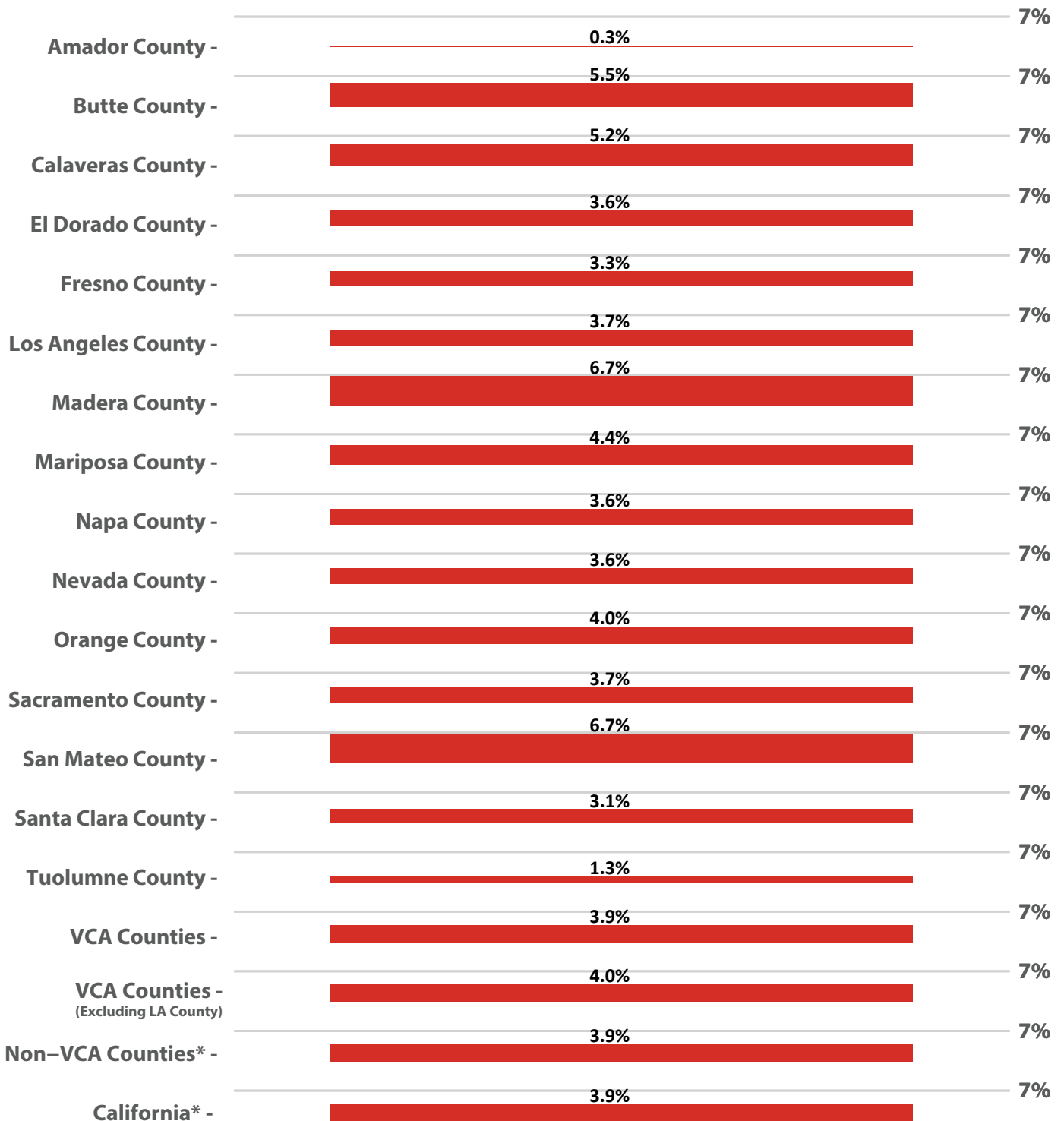
Note: These data identifying white and Black voters in the California voter file are not reliable for research purposes. Exercise strong caution when reviewing this data table.

Data excludes Solano County

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rate

Youth (age 18-24)

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



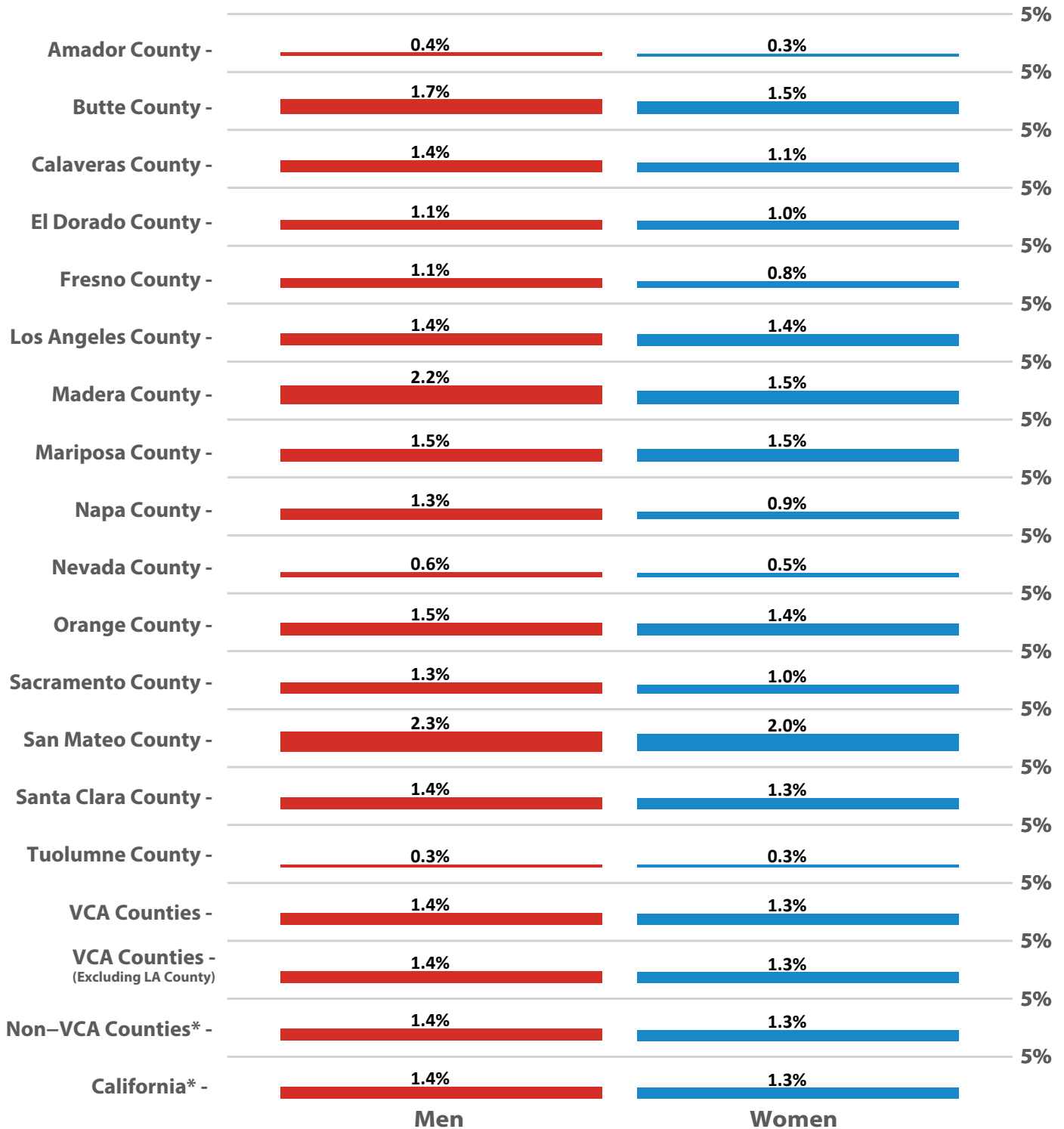
Youth (age 18 to 24)

*Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA counties analysis
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Vote-by-Mail Rejection Rate

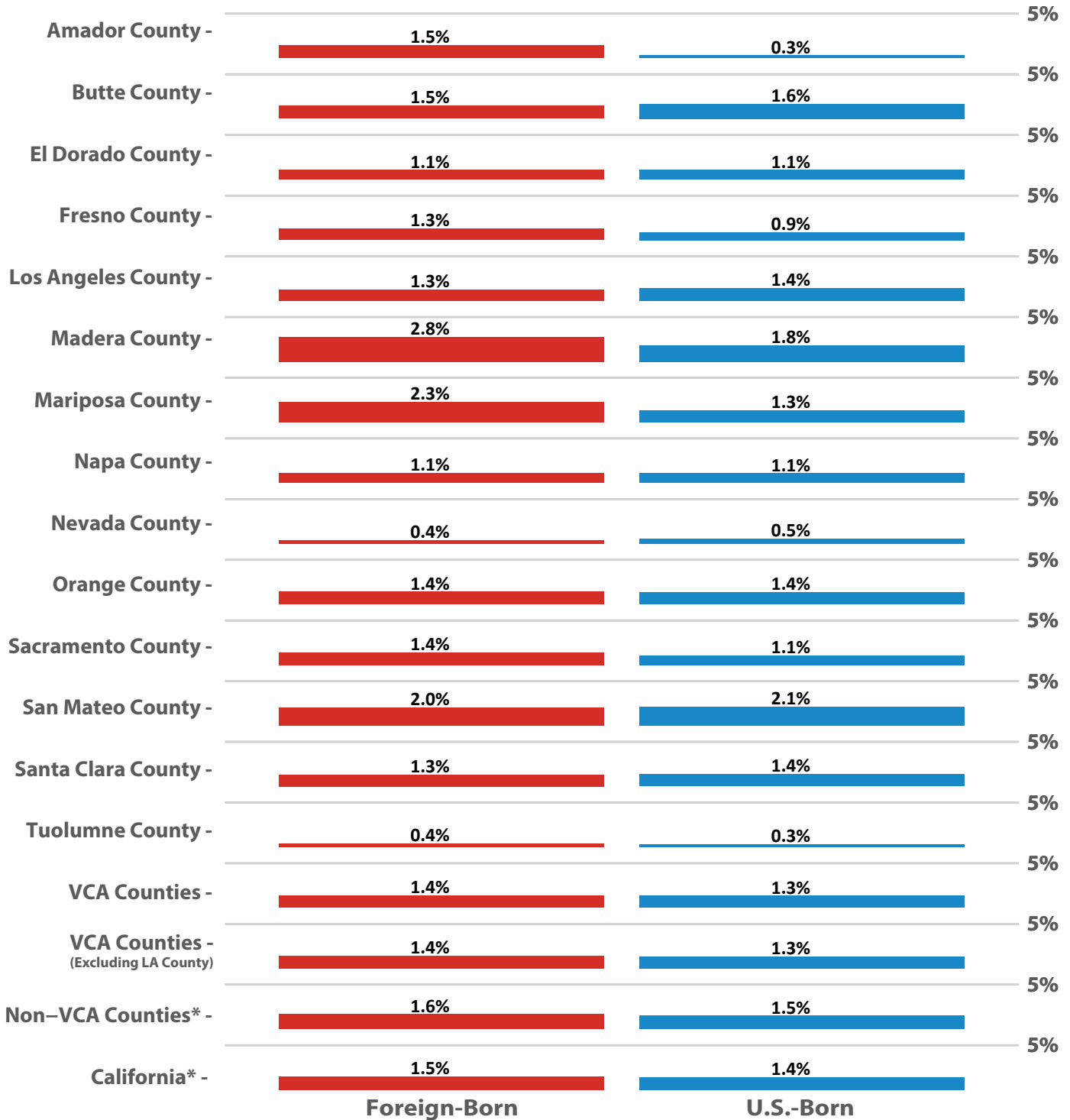
Gender

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



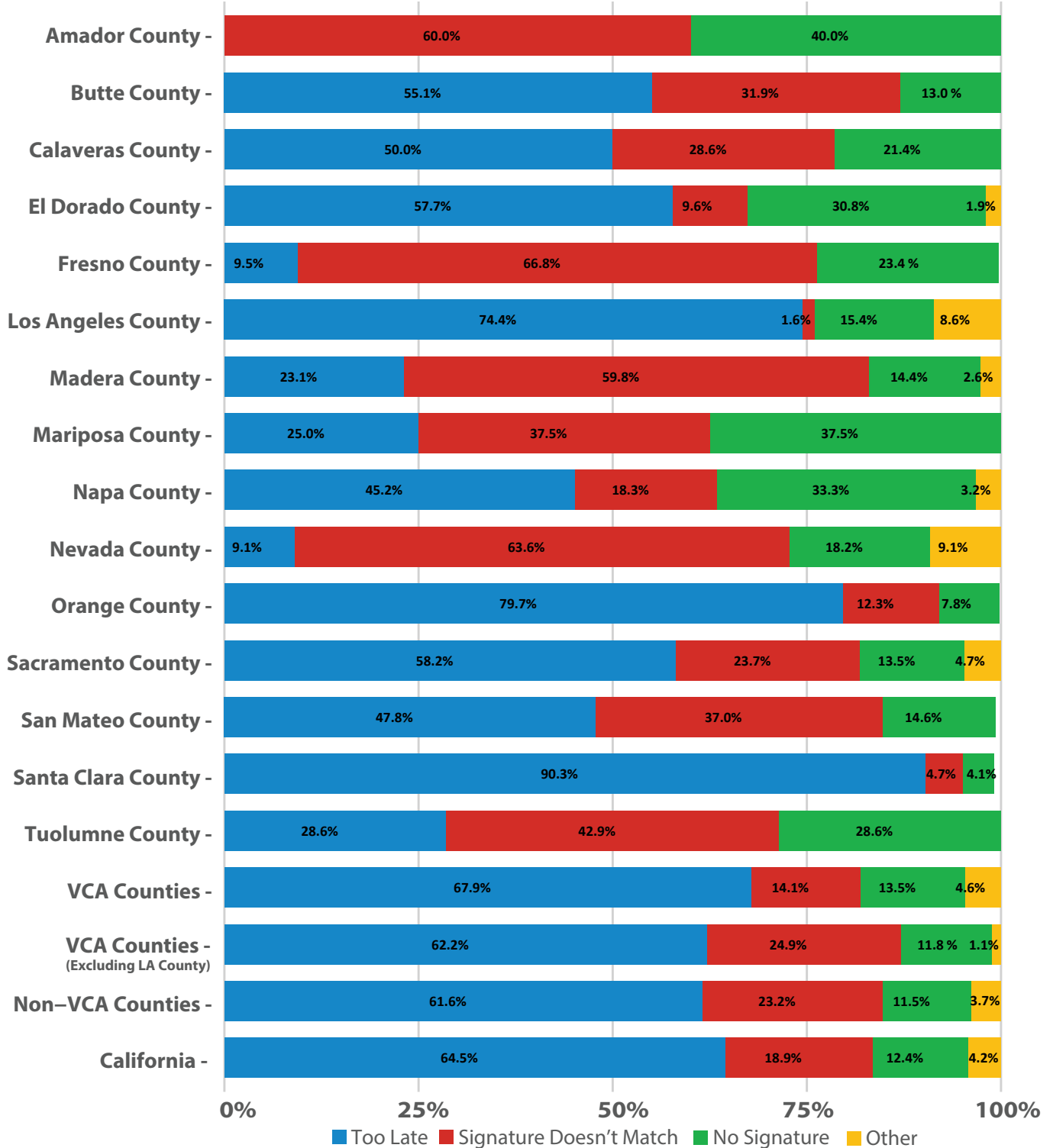
*Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA counties analysis
 Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

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



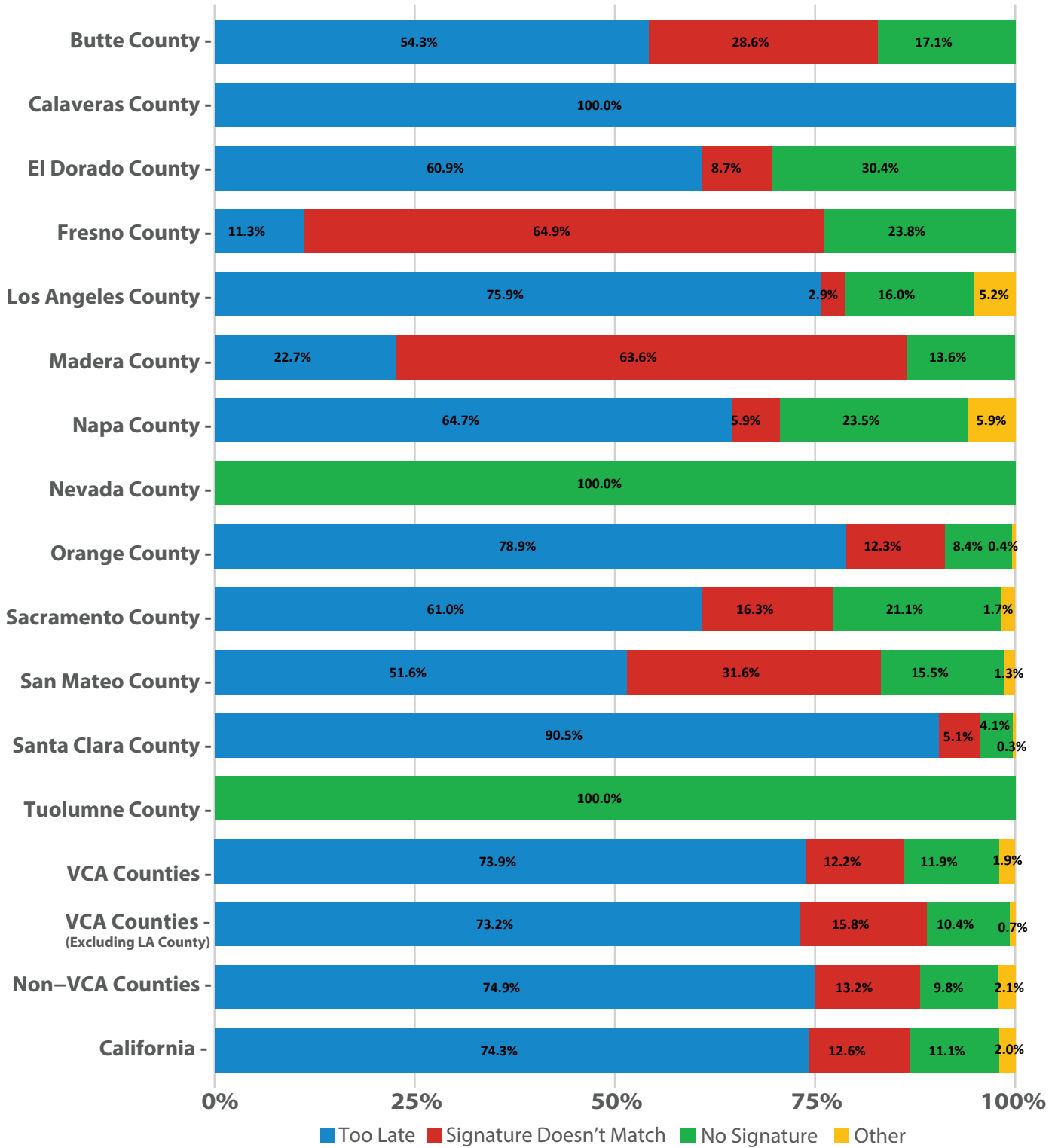
*Calaveras County excluded due to county coding error
 **Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA counties analysis
 Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

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



*Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA Counties Analysis
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

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



* Amador and Mariposa County had zero Asian-American Voter VBM ballot rejections and are not included.

**Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA Counties Analysis

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Vote-By-Mail Rejection Reasons by Race and Ethnicity: 2020 Primary Election Voter's Choice Act Counties - Black Voters				
County	No Signature	Signature Doesn't Match	Too Late	Other
Amador County	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Butte County	42.9%	0.0%	57.1%	0.0%
Calaveras County	NA	NA	NA	NA
El Dorado County	42.9%	0.0%	57.1%	0.0%
Fresno County	26.3%	63.2%	5.3%	5.3%
Los Angeles County	24.4%	1.2%	66.7%	7.7%
Madera County	60.0%	20.0%	20.0%	0.0%
Mariposa County	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Napa County	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Nevada County	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Orange County	6.6%	4.9%	88.5%	0.0%
Sacramento County	18.2%	19.5%	57.9%	4.4%
San Mateo County	16.7%	25.0%	58.3%	0.0%
Santa Clara County	4.1%	3.3%	92.7%	0.0%
Tuolumne County	NA	NA	NA	NA
VCA Counties	21.0%	5.9%	67.5%	5.7%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	14.0%	15.3%	69.0%	1.7%
Non-VCA Counties	18.4%	15.9%	60.4%	5.3%
California	20.0%	9.8%	64.7%	5.5%

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.

Data excludes Solano County

Vote-By-Mail Rejection Reasons by Race and Ethnicity: 2020 Primary Election Voter's Choice Act Counties: White and Ethnicity Not Identified Voters				
County	No Signature	Signature Doesn't Match	Too Late	Other
Amador County	72.7%	11.4%	15.9%	0.0%
Butte County	12.9%	22.0%	64.9%	0.2%
Calaveras County	23.4%	23.4%	46.1%	7.1%
El Dorado County	28.0%	5.8%	65.3%	0.8%
Fresno County	30.6%	55.6%	11.8%	2.1%
Los Angeles County	14.6%	1.2%	78.1%	6.1%
Madera County	26.5%	33.8%	36.5%	3.1%
Mariposa County	29.2%	19.1%	51.7%	0.0%
Napa County	35.3%	13.2%	47.7%	3.7%
Nevada County	21.5%	58.9%	4.3%	15.3%
Orange County	9.2%	8.1%	82.3%	0.4%
Sacramento County	16.3%	15.9%	63.9%	3.9%
San Mateo County	21.7%	30.8%	46.5%	1.0%
Santa Clara County	3.7%	3.0%	92.2%	1.1%
Tuolumne County	38.0%	32.0%	20.0%	10.0%
VCA Counties	14.6%	11.3%	71.0%	3.1%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	14.6%	16.0%	67.7%	1.7%
Non-VCA Counties	12.4%	16.0%	68.7%	2.9%
California	13.4%	13.9%	69.7%	3.0%

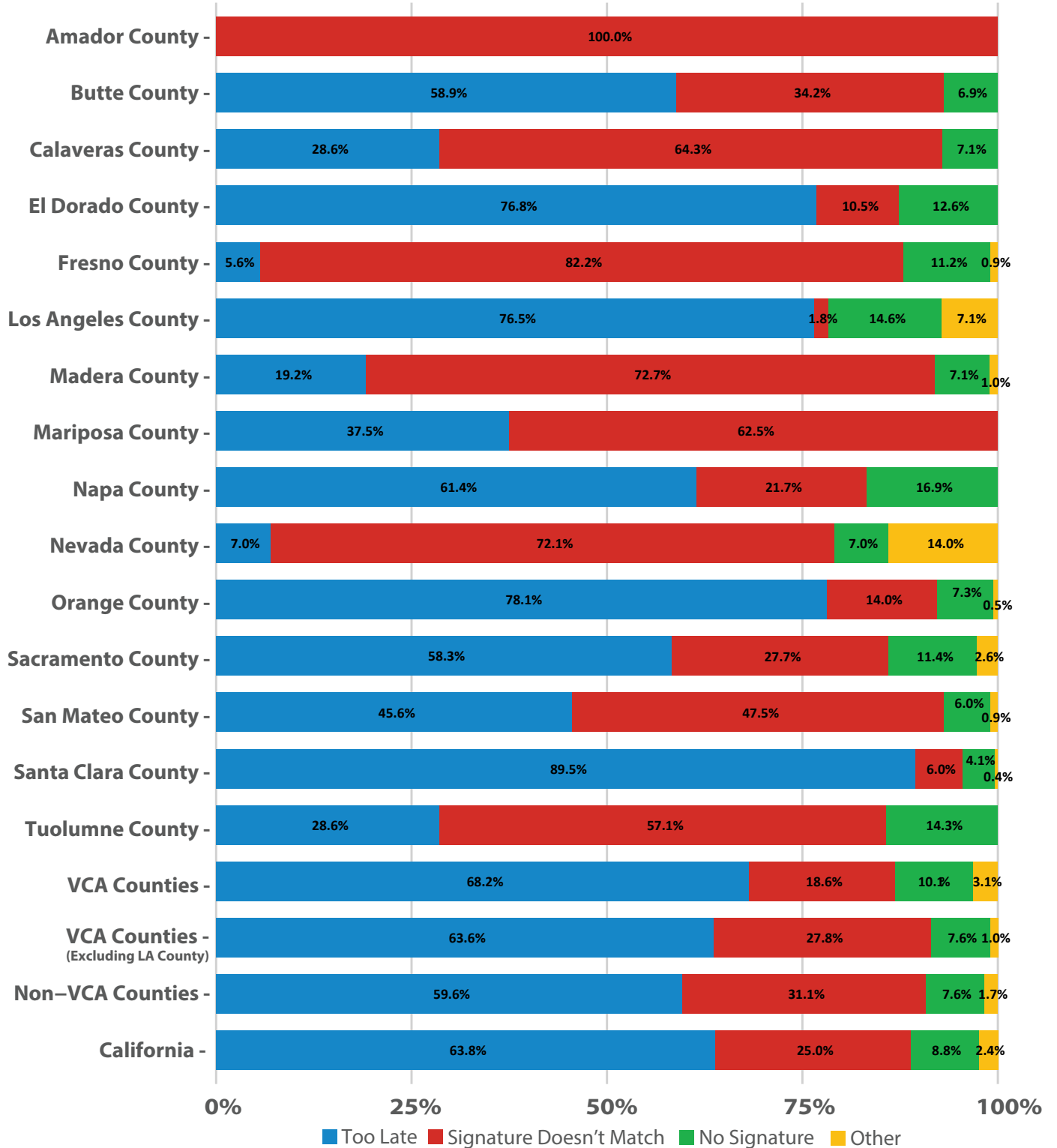
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

*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.

Data excludes Solano County

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



*Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA Counties Analysis
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

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



*Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA Counties Analysis
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

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



*Calaveras County excluded due to county coding error.

**Solano County excluded from California and non-VCA Counties Analysis
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

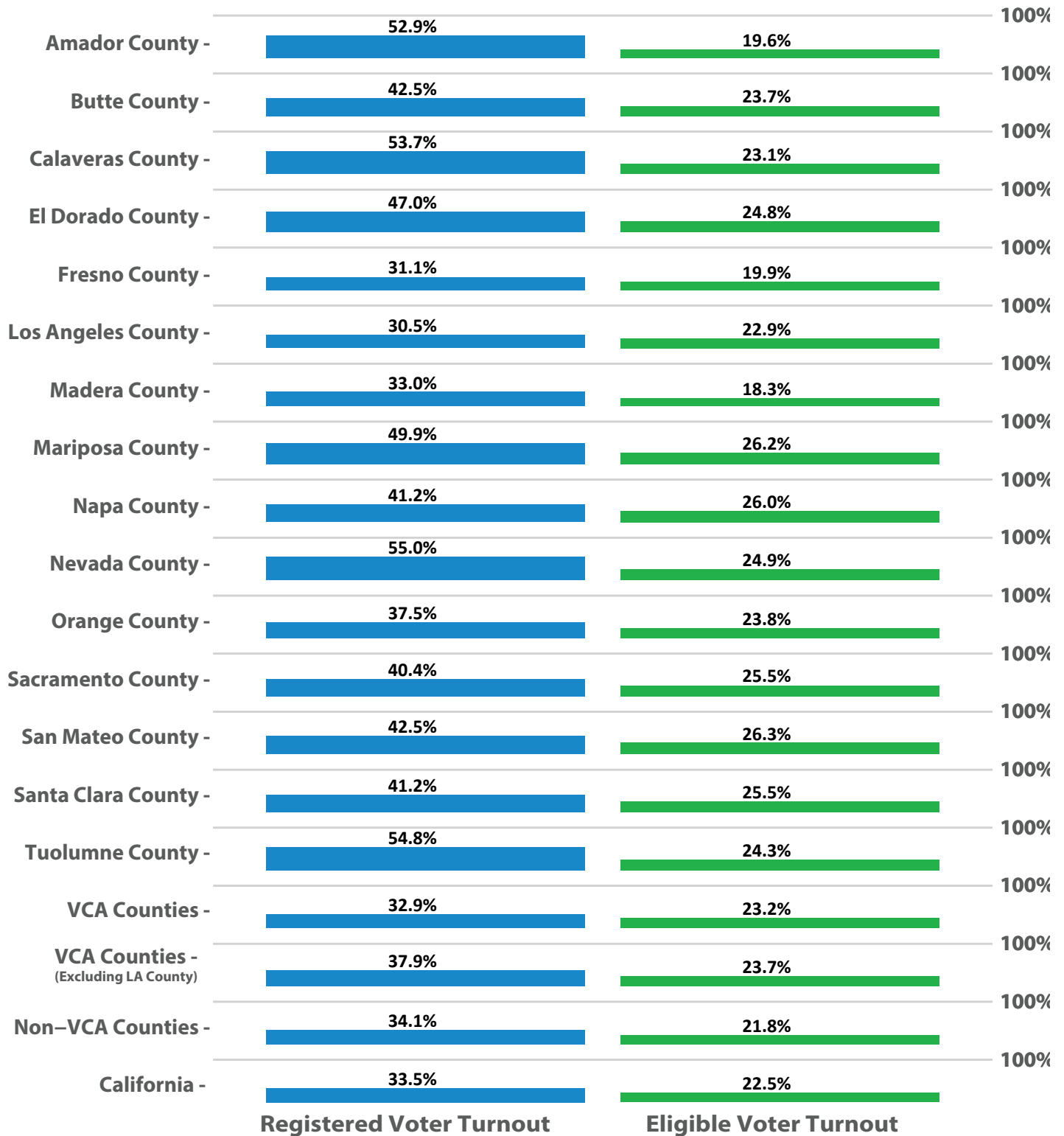
Appendix C: Voter Turnout and Registration

Voter Turnout: 2016 and 2020 Primary Elections							
	2016 Registered Turnout	2020 Registered Turnout	2016 Eligible Turnout	2020 Eligible Turnout	2020 Registered Voters	2020 Eligible Voters	2020 Actual Voters
Amador County	60.4%	66.2%	45.7%	56.2%	23,717	27,959	15,703
Butte County	53.4%	58.1%	39.4%	40.0%	116,182	169,009	67,539
Calaveras County	56.8%	63.9%	43.3%	53.0%	29,889	36,048	19,089
El Dorado County	58.7%	60.6%	47.0%	52.4%	124,979	144,429	75,708
Fresno County	40.8%	42.2%	29.2%	32.9%	471,384	605,557	199,118
Los Angeles County	41.3%	38.3%	32.7%	34.3%	5,546,785	6,184,428	2,122,469
Madera County	49.9%	50.7%	30.9%	34.5%	61,851	90,838	31,373
Mariposa County	61.1%	66.1%	43.0%	48.6%	10,916	14,850	7,214
Napa County	60.0%	58.7%	46.6%	51.3%	80,667	92,164	47,314
Nevada County	68.3%	67.9%	58.3%	59.4%	68,151	77,963	46,275
Orange County	59.0%	50.1%	34.6%	40.4%	1,634,407	2,024,656	818,021
Sacramento County	47.5%	50.0%	34.6%	39.9%	818,656	1,026,609	409,351
San Mateo County	51.8%	54.7%	37.9%	45.0%	417,299	507,291	228,291
Santa Clara County	54.7%	52.1%	36.3%	41.2%	951,292	1,202,250	495,791
Tuolumne County	59.5%	66.0%	42.7%	52.8%	32,562	40,693	21,486
VCA Counties Combined	45.5%	44.3%	34.2%	37.6%	10,388,737	12,244,744	4,604,742
Non-VCA Counties Combined	50.0%	49.3%	34.8%	39.1%	10,315,589	13,006,472	5,082,334
State Total	47.7%	46.9%	34.5%	38.4%	20,704,326	25,251,216	9,687,076

Data Source: California Secretary of State Statement of the Vote.

Registered and Eligible Voter Turnout Latino Voters

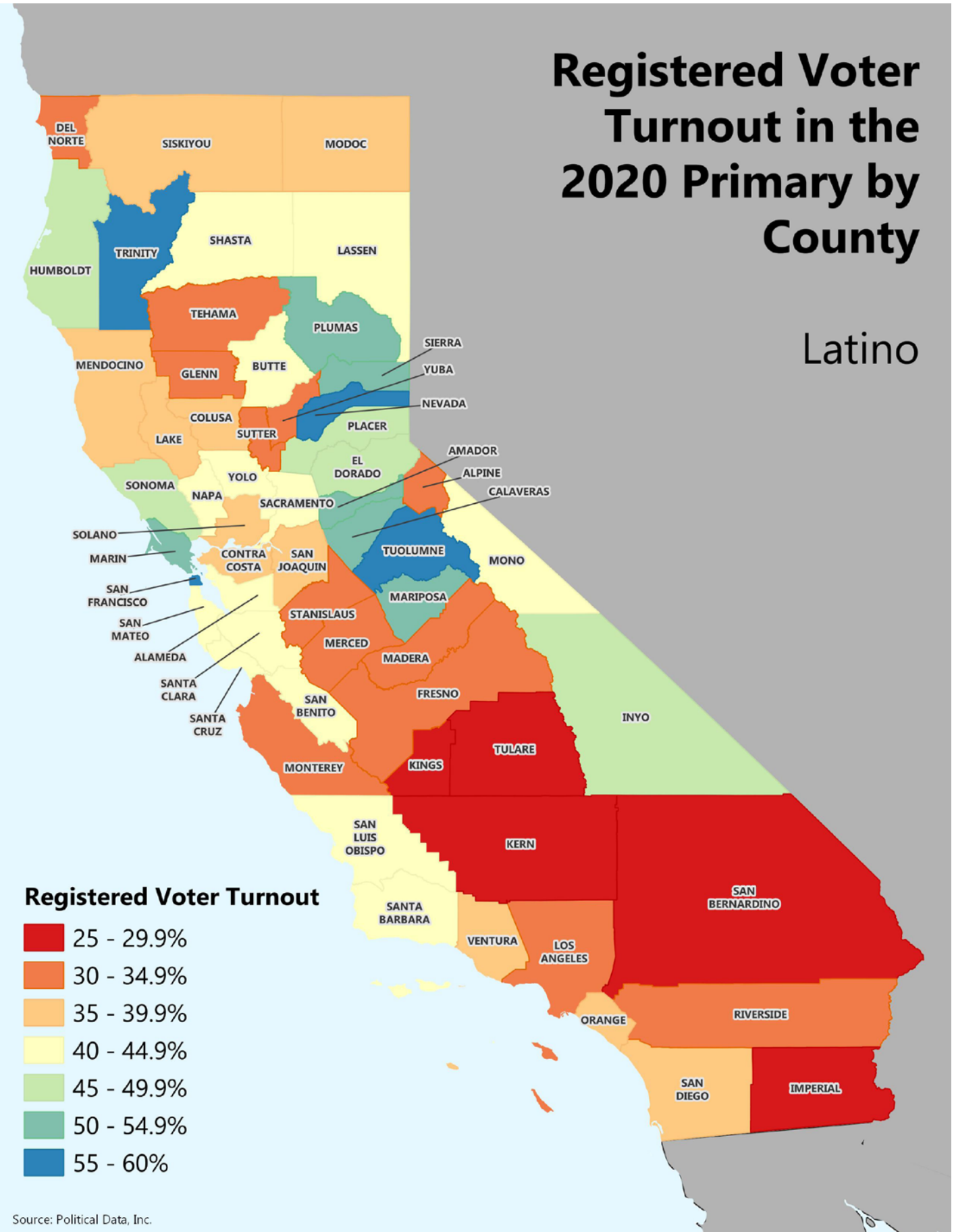
Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



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

Registered Voter Turnout in the 2020 Primary by County

Latino



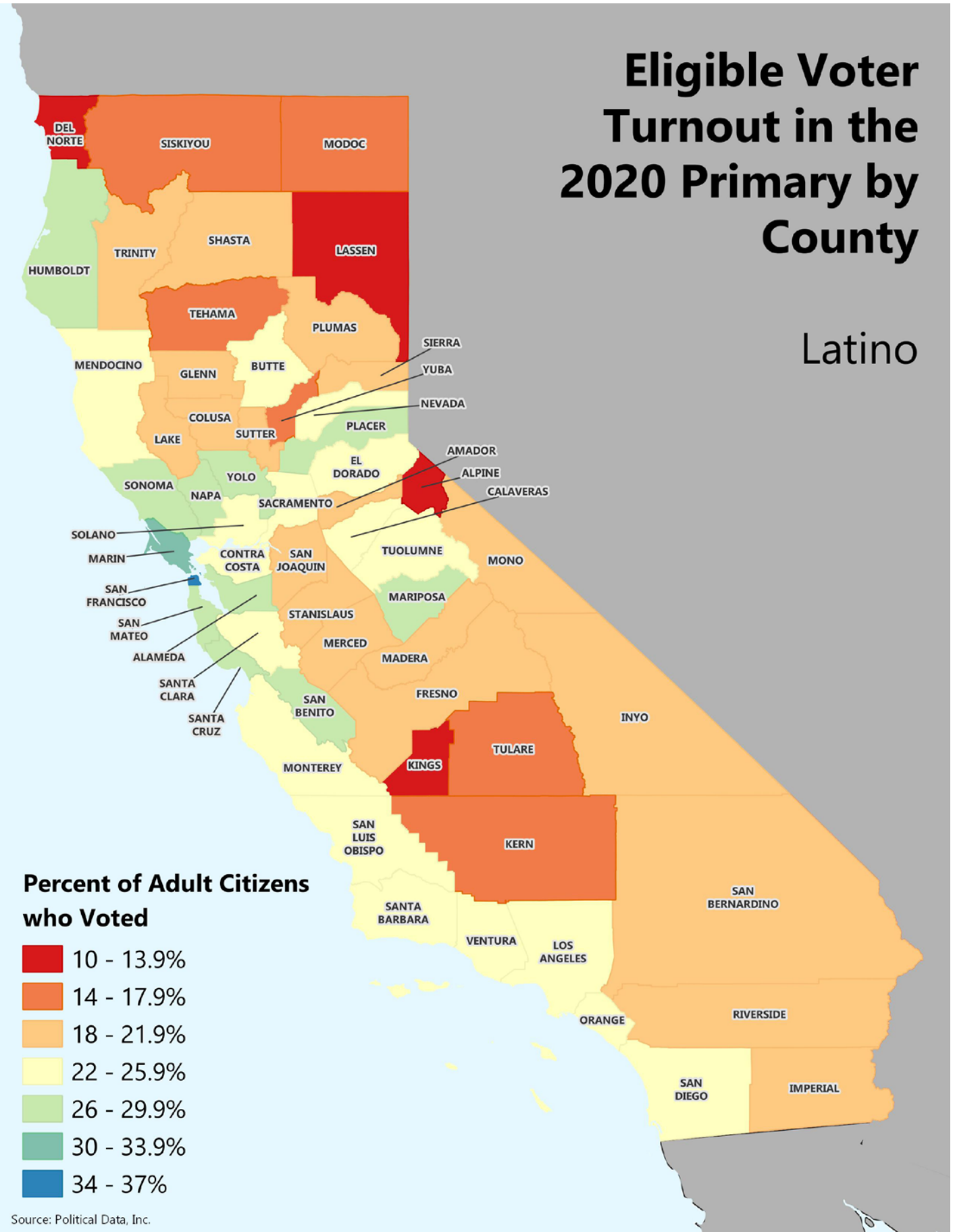
Registered Voter Turnout

- 25 - 29.9%
- 30 - 34.9%
- 35 - 39.9%
- 40 - 44.9%
- 45 - 49.9%
- 50 - 54.9%
- 55 - 60%

Source: Political Data, Inc.

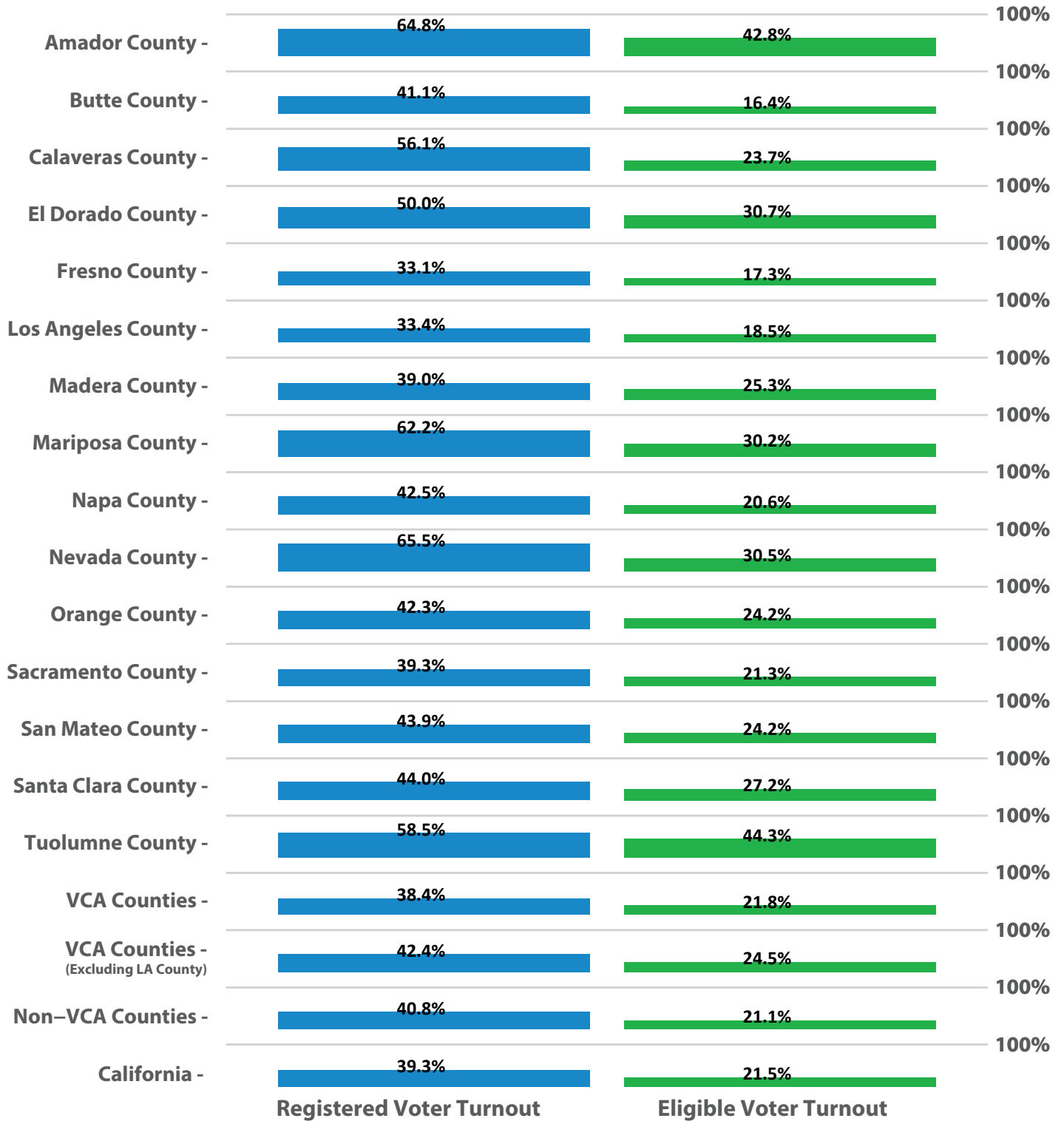
Eligible Voter Turnout in the 2020 Primary by County

Latino



Registered and Eligible Voter Turnout Asian-American Voters

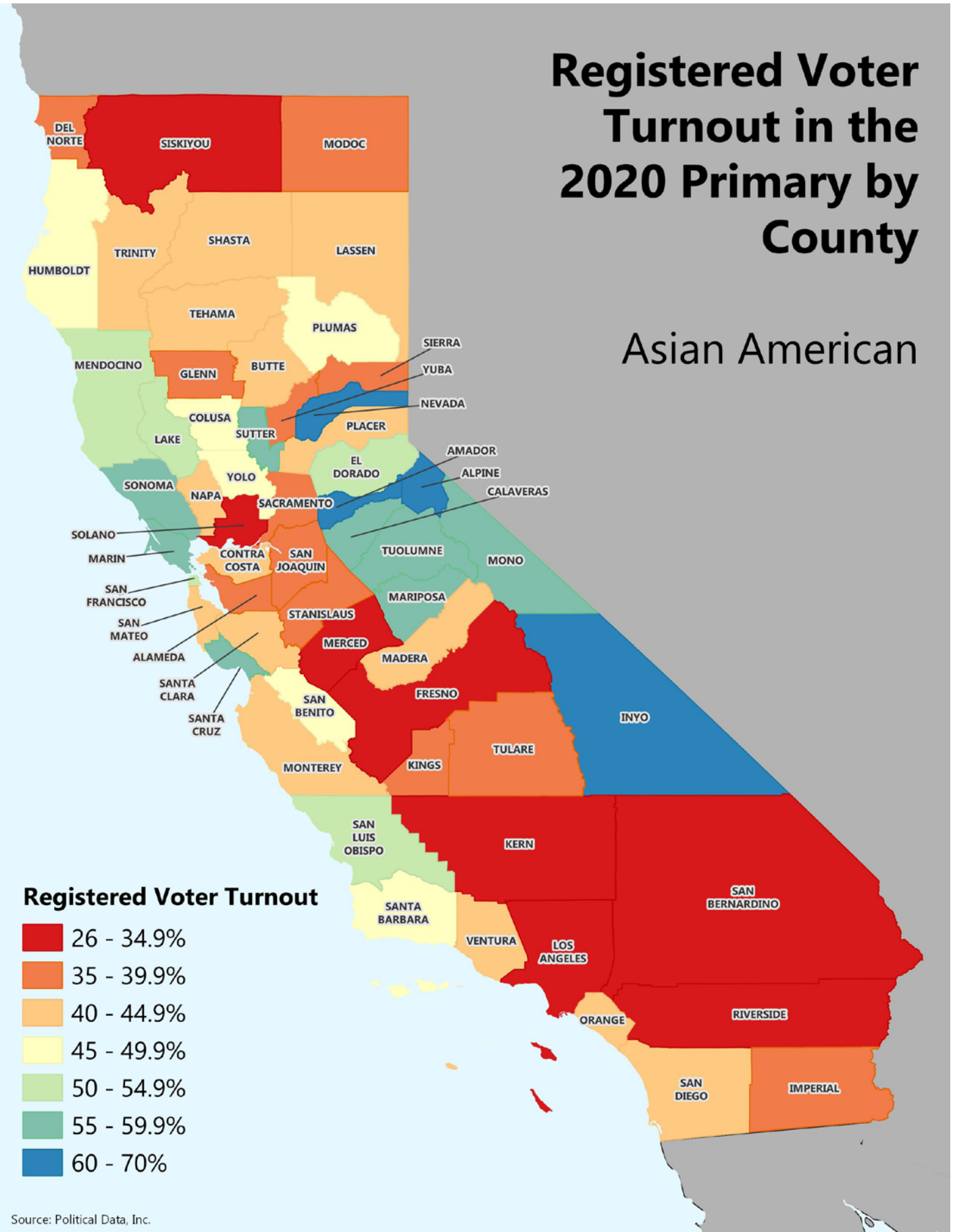
Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



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

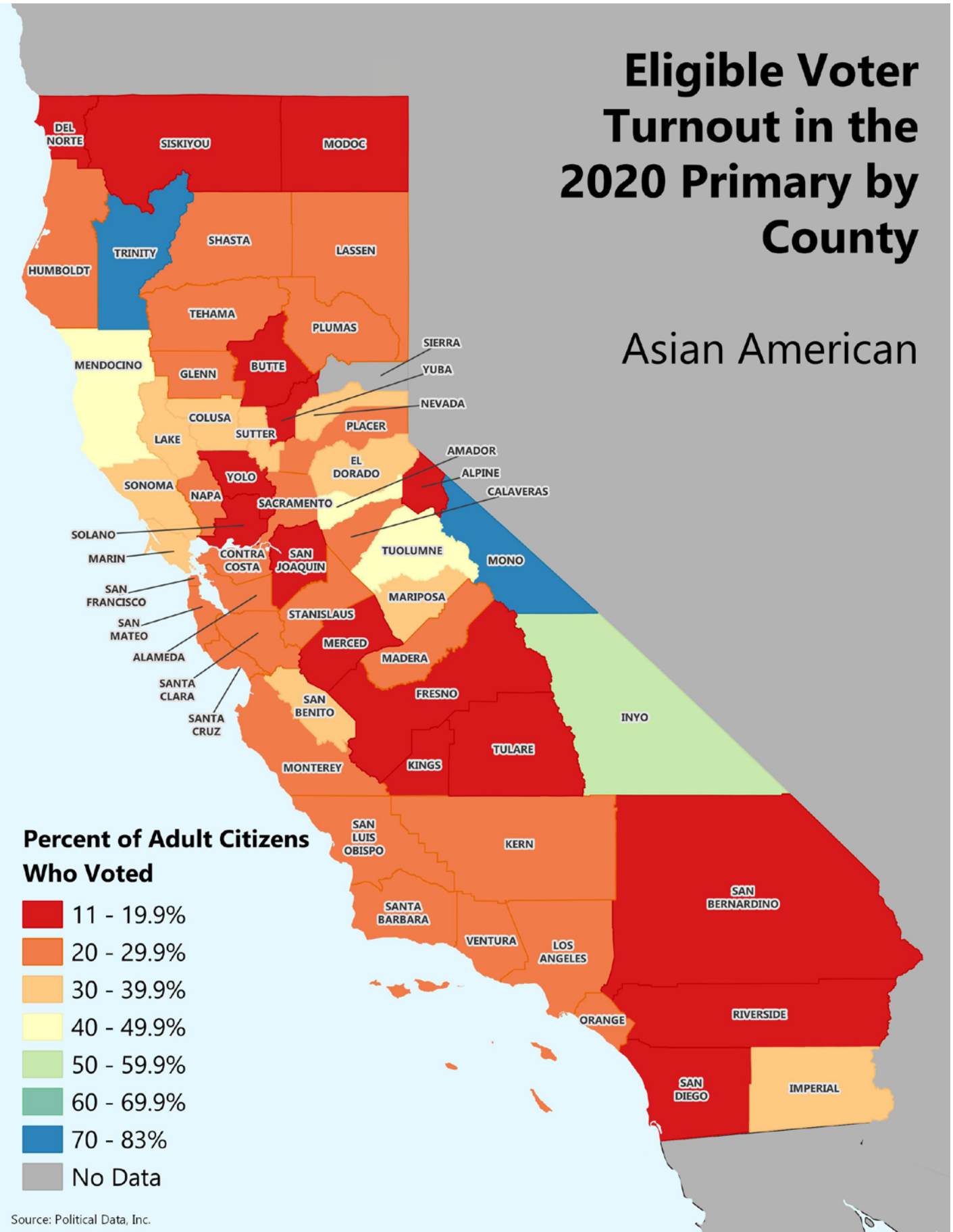
Registered Voter Turnout in the 2020 Primary by County

Asian American



Eligible Voter Turnout in the 2020 Primary by County

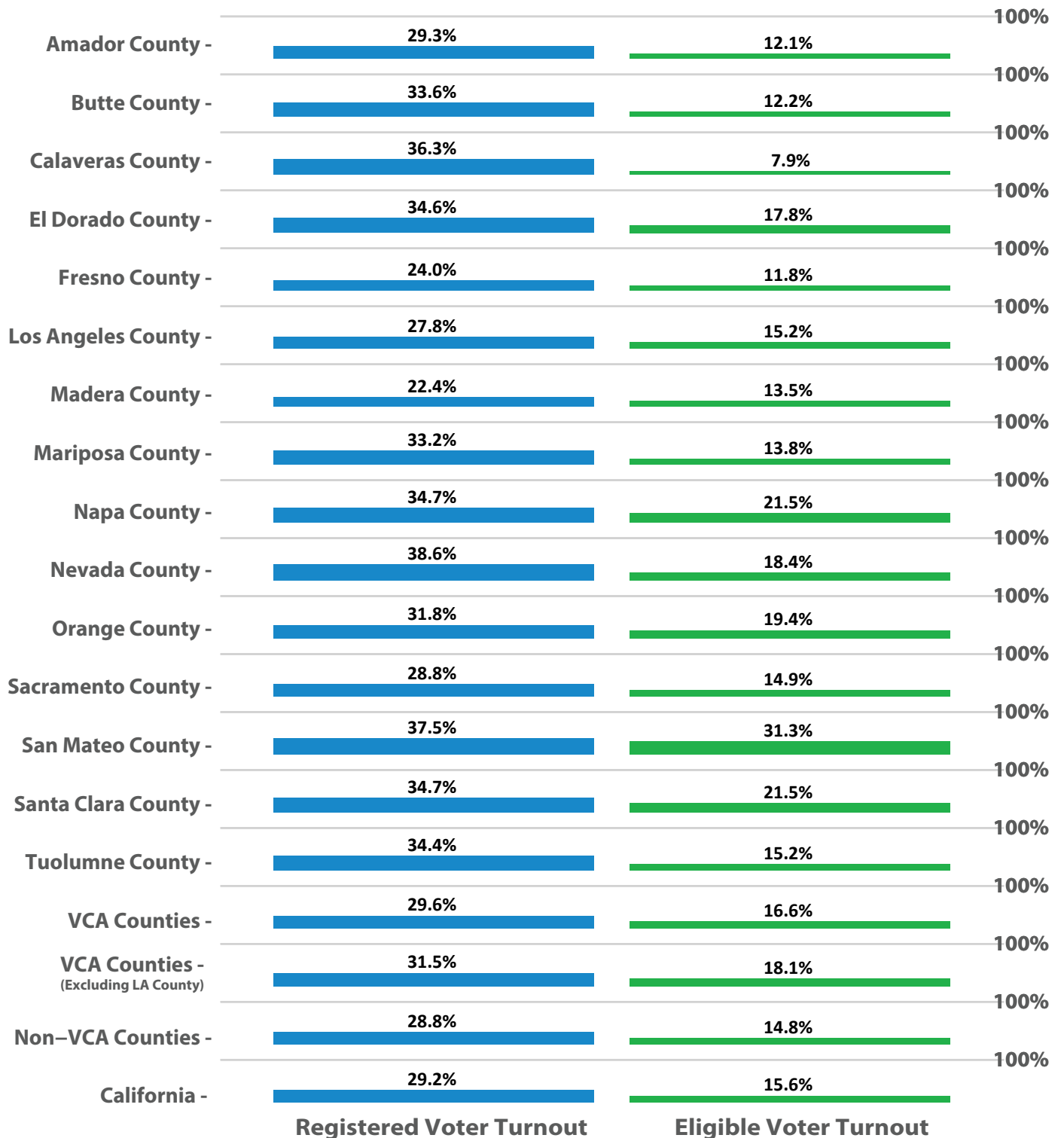
Asian American



Registered and Eligible Voter Turnout

Youth (age 18 to 24)

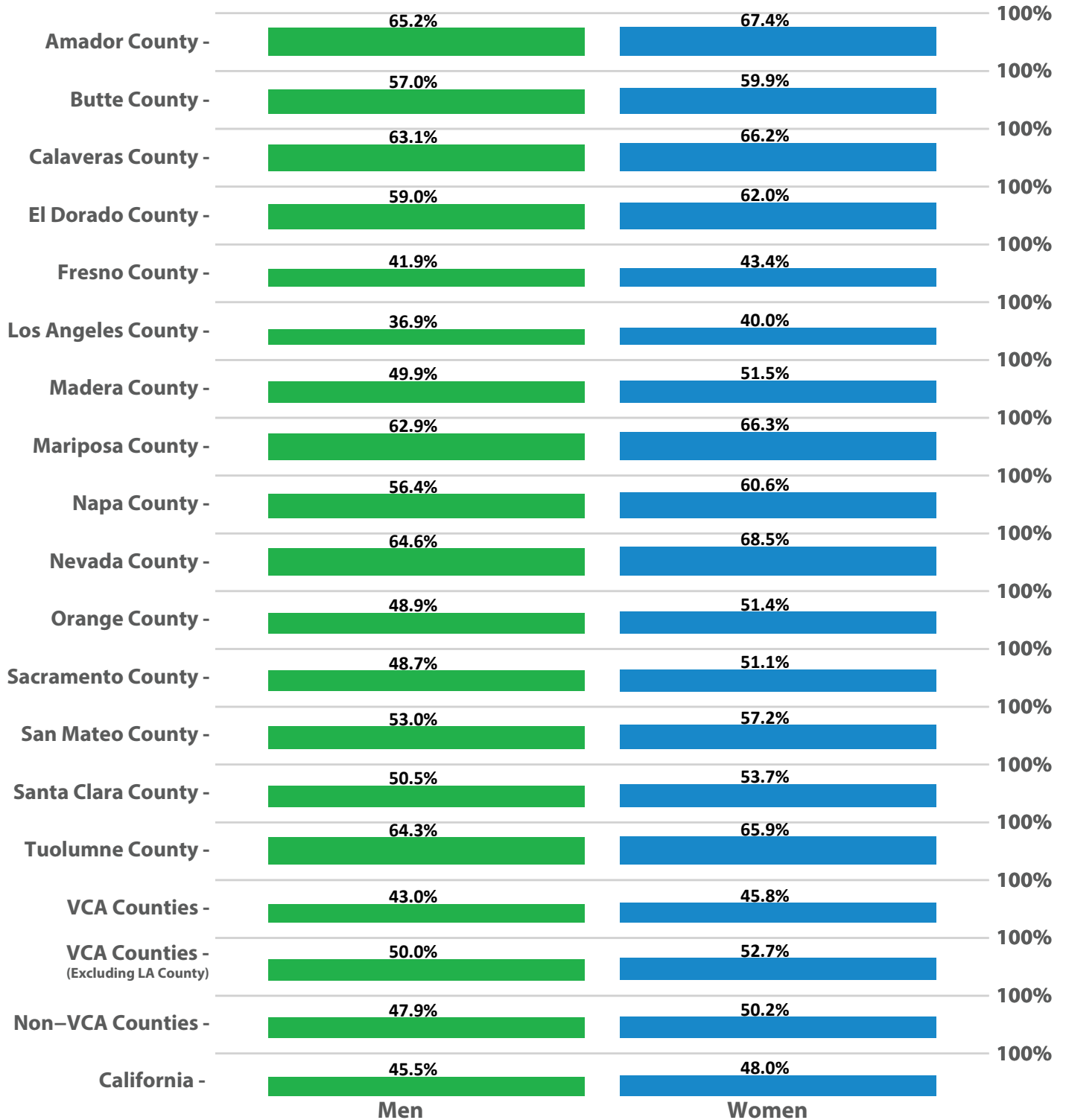
Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



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

Registered Voter Turnout by Gender

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election

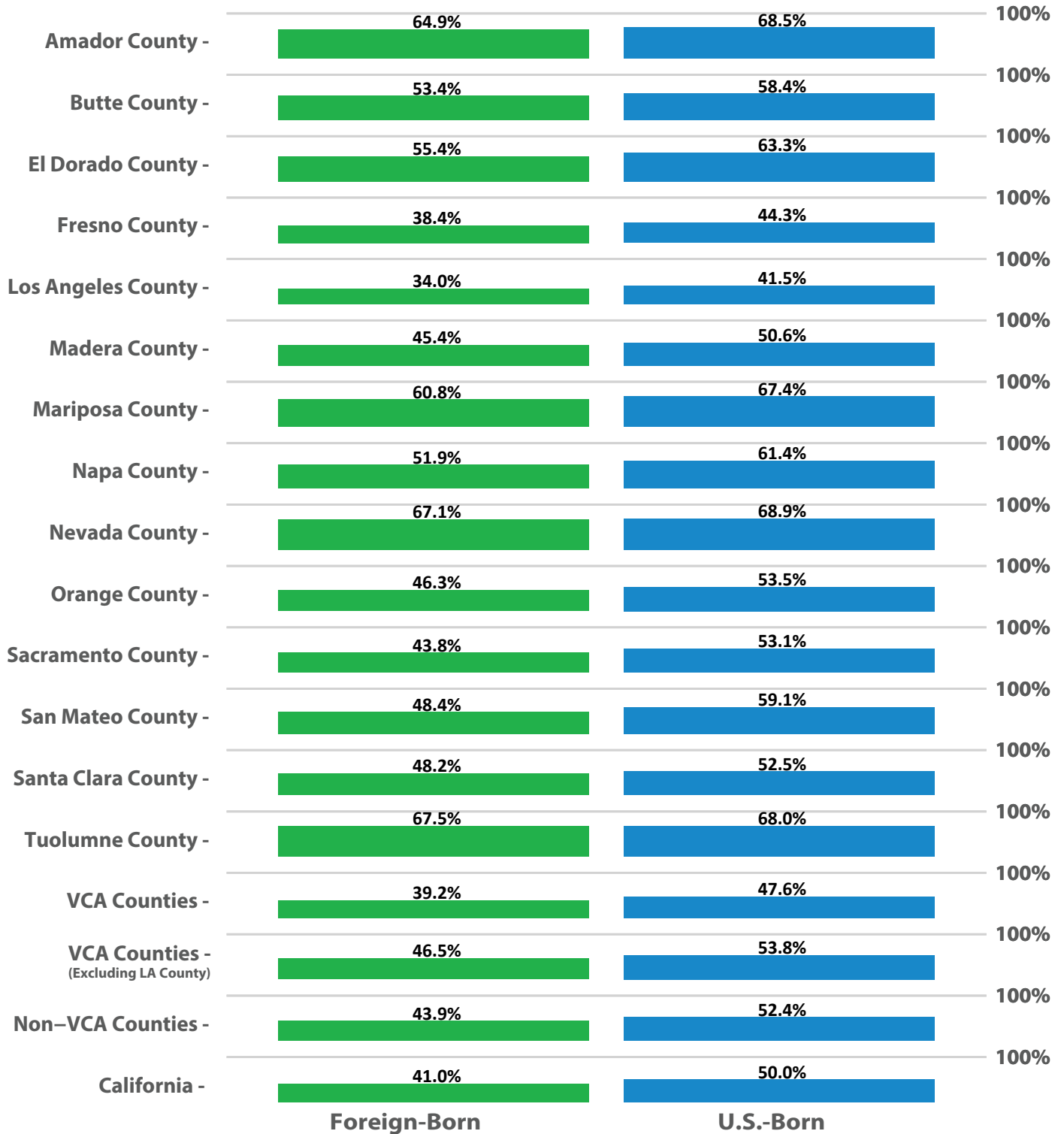


Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Registered Voter Turnout

by Nativity*

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



*Calaveras County excluded due to county coding error
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Registered Voter Turnout by Race and Ethnicity: 2020 Primary Election Voter's Choice Act Counties					
County	All	Black	Asian-American	Latino	White and No Ethnicity Identified*
Amador County	66.3%	68.3%	64.8%	52.9%	66.9%
Butte County	58.0%	57.5%	41.1%	42.5%	60.4%
Calaveras County	64.4%	69.5%	56.1%	53.7%	65.2%
El Dorado County	60.1%	60.3%	50.0%	47.0%	61.4%
Fresno County	41.4%	35.7%	33.1%	31.1%	50.0%
Los Angeles County	37.9%	33.5%	33.4%	30.5%	46.0%
Madera County	50.0%	59.5%	39.0%	33.0%	61.1%
Mariposa County	64.4%	61.4%	62.2%	49.9%	65.6%
Napa County	57.8%	63.1%	42.5%	41.2%	62.7%
Nevada County	66.4%	67.0%	65.5%	55.0%	66.9%
Orange County	49.3%	53.9%	42.3%	37.5%	55.5%
Sacramento County	49.2%	45.3%	39.3%	40.4%	52.7%
San Mateo County	53.9%	51.6%	43.9%	42.5%	60.1%
Santa Clara County	50.7%	64.0%	44.0%	41.2%	57.1%
Tuolumne County	65.0%	68.5%	58.5%	54.8%	65.7%
VCA Counties	43.7%	36.0%	38.4%	32.9%	51.8%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	50.4%	51.6%	42.4%	37.9%	56.3%
Non-VCA Counties	48.6%	46.6%	40.8%	34.1%	55.0%
California	46.1%	39.6%	39.3%	33.5%	53.6%

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.

Registration Rates: 2004-2020 Primary Elections*										
California Counties										
County	2004	2006	Feb-08	Jun-08	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
Alameda	70.9%	72.0%	72.2%	74.1%	75.2%	75.3%	78.0%	78.3%	78.7%	83.9%
Alpine	89.8%	85.1%	83.4%	82.3%	89.0%	92.6%	87.4%	75.5%	78.3%	83.3%
Amador	75.5%	76.7%	77.9%	77.1%	80.3%	75.7%	79.2%	75.6%	80.7%	84.8%
Butte	73.9%	73.9%	75.3%	72.7%	72.8%	68.7%	71.1%	73.9%	68.1%	68.7%
Calaveras	78.2%	76.9%	76.9%	77.4%	80.4%	78.5%	76.6%	76.2%	78.8%	82.9%
Colusa	70.7%	69.3%	65.9%	62.8%	65.3%	61.9%	62.3%	64.3%	67.2%	72.3%
Contra Costa	68.2%	72.0%	68.8%	70.7%	74.2%	74.2%	73.8%	75.2%	79.6%	86.0%
Del Norte	74.4%	69.7%	69.8%	67.2%	67.7%	64.6%	67.5%	75.2%	79.0%	83.2%
El Dorado	79.4%	79.2%	79.2%	80.6%	81.6%	78.2%	78.9%	80.0%	82.1%	86.5%
Fresno	69.0%	63.4%	66.7%	66.4%	71.6%	70.2%	72.4%	71.5%	74.1%	77.8%
Glenn	70.4%	69.1%	66.9%	67.9%	68.8%	66.9%	65.7%	66.1%	66.5%	70.9%
Humboldt	82.5%	79.9%	76.0%	76.0%	76.8%	72.9%	72.1%	75.2%	71.9%	75.7%
Imperial	68.4%	64.4%	59.4%	60.1%	59.2%	59.8%	61.4%	65.0%	67.9%	76.8%
Inyo	75.9%	80.7%	75.8%	75.6%	72.2%	69.9%	69.5%	70.5%	70.7%	73.4%
Kern	65.0%	64.0%	60.6%	61.0%	64.0%	67.2%	67.4%	67.4%	70.6%	75.6%
Kings	67.3%	60.5%	60.2%	57.1%	63.3%	60.8%	60.8%	60.8%	64.5%	67.4%
Lake	64.6%	68.5%	70.5%	71.3%	70.3%	70.7%	69.4%	67.5%	66.5%	68.8%
Lassen	81.2%	85.0%	74.3%	73.1%	78.6%	74.5%	77.2%	80.0%	84.8%	83.9%
Los Angeles	65.4%	67.5%	69.4%	71.0%	75.0%	74.8%	79.9%	79.2%	82.8%	89.7%
Madera	63.3%	46.3%	61.5%	61.6%	64.5%	61.3%	61.7%	62.0%	61.3%	68.1%
Marin	80.6%	83.1%	79.7%	80.6%	81.9%	83.3%	84.2%	83.9%	85.2%	91.8%
Mariposa	76.8%	80.1%	78.3%	78.1%	81.1%	72.5%	69.3%	70.3%	70.9%	73.5%
Mendocino	77.1%	77.1%	75.0%	77.3%	78.4%	75.6%	73.8%	76.9%	73.8%	82.2%
Merced	72.5%	68.0%	64.8%	66.1%	66.1%	63.2%	62.9%	59.8%	57.6%	64.4%
Modoc	78.4%	81.6%	75.3%	75.5%	77.8%	73.5%	78.0%	68.7%	69.6%	67.7%
Mono	67.8%	68.5%	67.4%	68.4%	63.9%	56.1%	60.0%	62.4%	64.8%	76.5%
Monterey	65.6%	66.8%	62.0%	63.8%	67.1%	67.9%	69.7%	72.3%	73.7%	78.8%
Napa	73.1%	74.2%	72.9%	73.4%	75.5%	75.2%	78.0%	77.6%	82.4%	87.5%
Nevada	83.1%	84.4%	79.3%	80.1%	82.6%	79.3%	80.4%	85.4%	86.9%	87.4%
Orange	77.0%	80.9%	83.5%	85.0%	85.2%	84.1%	72.2%	69.7%	73.3%	80.7%
Placer	81.7%	77.7%	77.6%	78.1%	80.1%	77.9%	77.8%	80.2%	81.5%	87.4%
Plumas	82.5%	82.3%	81.4%	82.6%	85.6%	81.3%	78.2%	73.7%	76.2%	79.5%
Riverside	62.3%	62.7%	57.5%	59.6%	63.0%	63.1%	64.0%	63.6%	66.8%	74.5%
Sacramento	68.2%	68.8%	66.4%	67.6%	71.1%	69.4%	71.9%	72.7%	73.5%	79.7%
San Benito	77.1%	73.4%	69.9%	70.0%	71.6%	74.5%	69.0%	75.6%	84.0%	84.8%
San Bernardino	58.4%	63.1%	59.6%	61.9%	65.1%	65.1%	67.1%	60.1%	68.0%	75.5%
San Diego	68.6%	68.3%	64.8%	67.3%	67.8%	70.3%	72.7%	69.7%	76.0%	81.8%
San Francisco	78.7%	73.1%	70.2%	72.3%	72.5%	78.2%	69.9%	71.9%	73.3%	76.9%
San Joaquin	66.2%	66.0%	60.3%	61.9%	64.0%	64.9%	68.9%	70.4%	73.5%	69.6%
San Luis Obispo	75.5%	81.4%	76.8%	77.5%	78.9%	73.4%	74.2%	75.1%	79.8%	84.3%
San Mateo	71.5%	75.2%	75.3%	75.6%	69.8%	70.7%	72.7%	73.2%	76.7%	82.3%
Santa Barbara	70.9%	67.2%	66.8%	68.4%	68.8%	69.3%	69.2%	69.8%	70.3%	77.0%
Santa Clara	74.9%	70.0%	62.6%	64.6%	67.5%	67.7%	70.0%	66.4%	70.3%	79.1%
Santa Cruz	76.2%	80.8%	76.9%	78.5%	80.8%	80.5%	75.5%	76.9%	80.4%	87.3%
Shasta	70.2%	68.3%	68.9%	69.3%	71.8%	72.1%	73.2%	71.7%	74.4%	77.4%
Sierra	84.7%	85.7%	88.1%	89.4%	90.8%	87.8%	88.1%	84.8%	82.3%	81.1%
Siskiyou	81.4%	74.1%	76.2%	74.6%	75.2%	73.5%	70.7%	76.4%	79.1%	80.1%
Solano	64.4%	60.8%	62.4%	64.6%	69.7%	72.2%	71.3%	72.6%	75.3%	81.2%
Sonoma	71.0%	72.8%	69.8%	70.9%	72.6%	73.3%	70.6%	72.6%	77.5%	80.7%
Stanislaus	67.3%	63.7%	65.3%	67.8%	69.4%	68.5%	64.8%	65.4%	68.6%	74.8%
Sutter	74.7%	68.0%	65.2%	63.7%	63.6%	68.1%	70.8%	69.8%	73.7%	79.6%
Tehama	71.5%	68.9%	67.8%	69.0%	70.7%	70.5%	69.8%	70.4%	74.2%	79.3%
Trinity	73.2%	72.5%	74.9%	75.5%	69.6%	70.0%	63.7%	68.0%	68.5%	69.4%
Tulare	60.6%	57.3%	57.0%	57.8%	60.0%	55.8%	53.8%	54.8%	61.0%	68.2%
Tuolumne	80.9%	81.8%	82.7%	82.8%	83.0%	79.4%	75.4%	71.6%	75.2%	80.0%
Ventura	72.9%	74.8%	74.1%	75.4%	79.7%	76.3%	79.1%	75.2%	78.8%	84.7%
Yolo	67.9%	70.8%	70.2%	72.2%	77.5%	70.6%	72.5%	68.5%	73.7%	77.1%
Yuba	69.0%	58.9%	62.1%	58.8%	61.1%	61.8%	56.8%	64.3%	67.7%	72.1%
Statewide	69.0%	69.5%	68.5%	70.0%	72.4%	72.3%	73.3%	72.3%	75.7%	81.8%

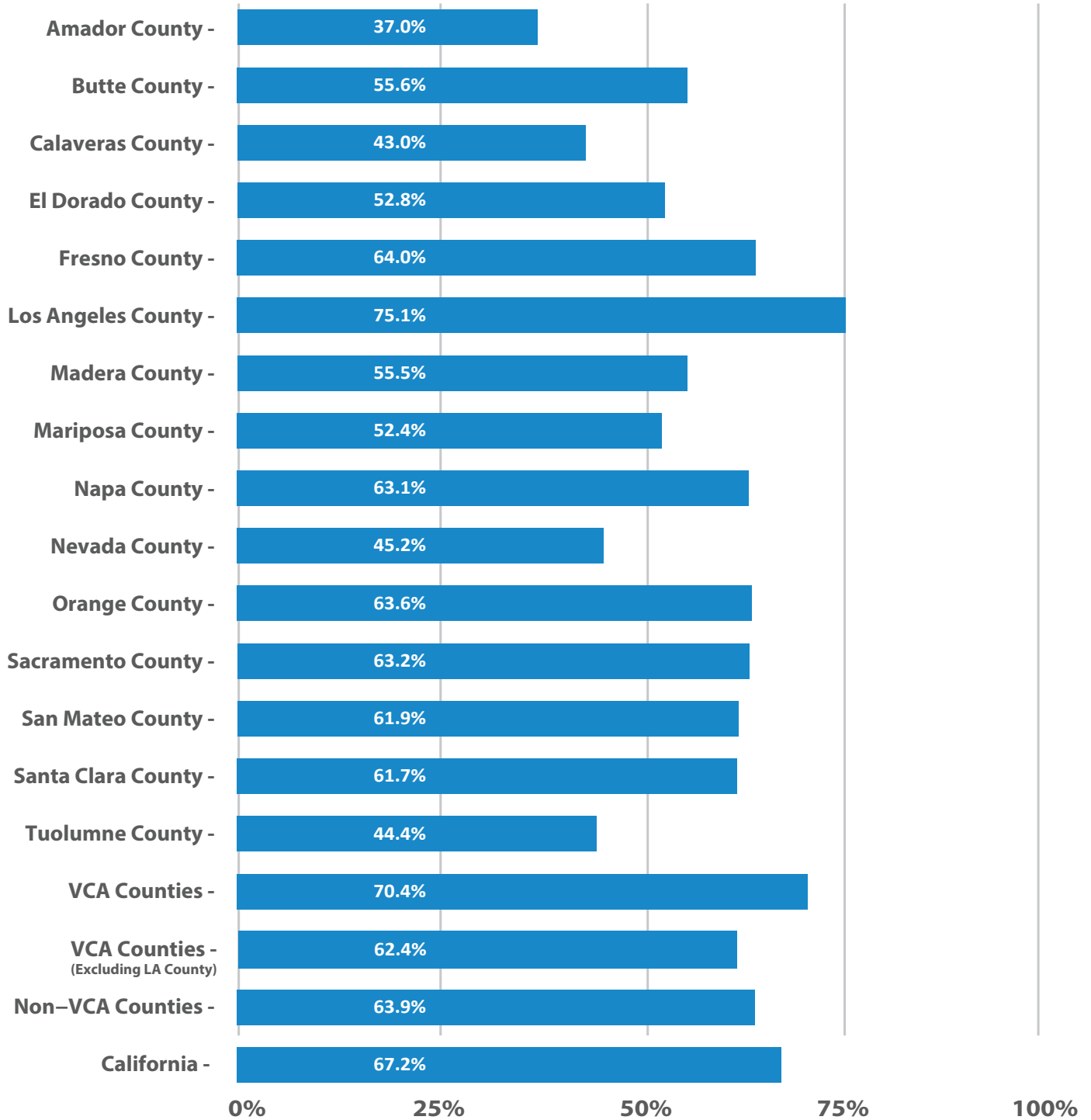
Data source: California Secretary of State's Office.

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

Registration Rates*

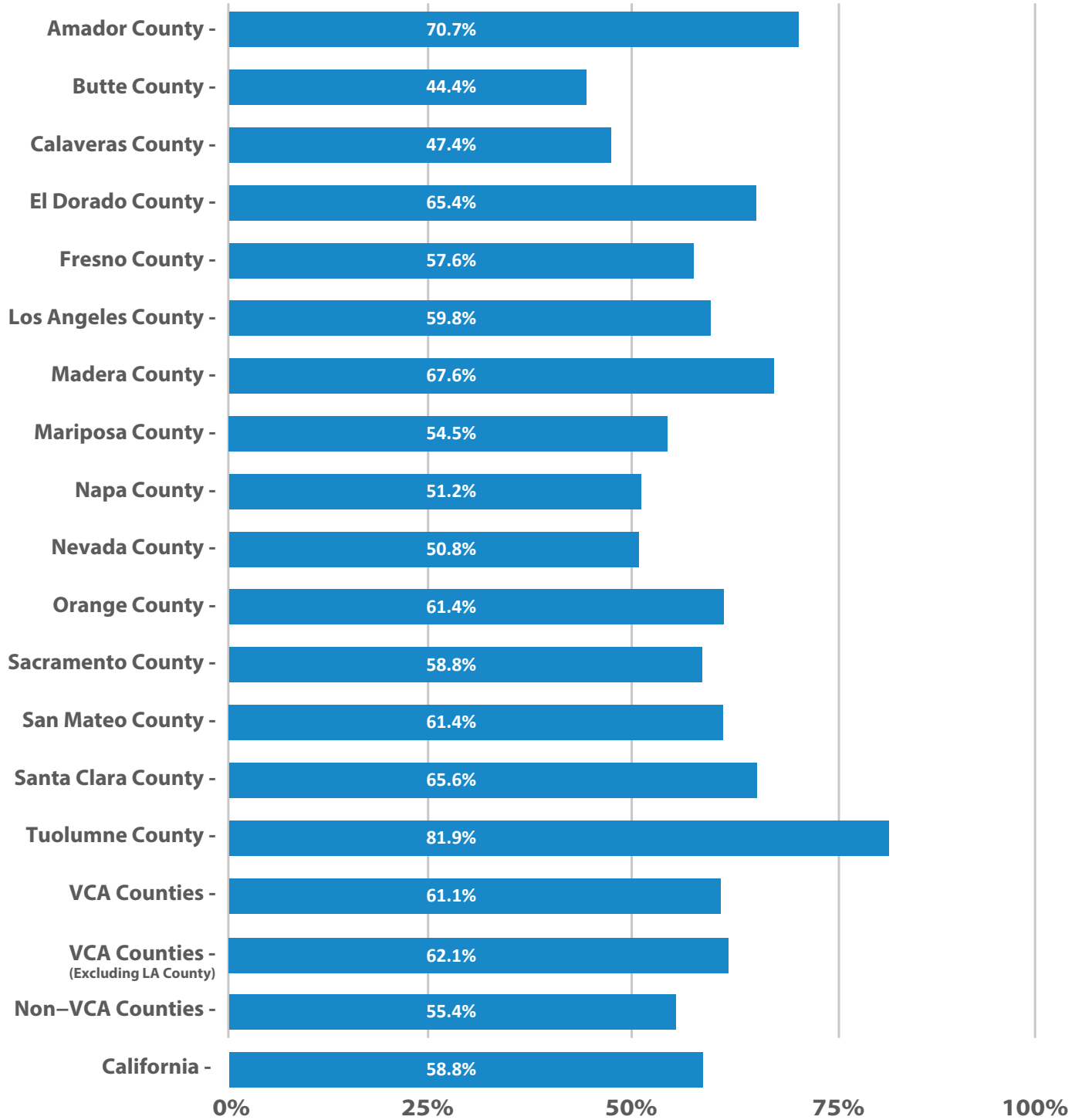
Latino Voters

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



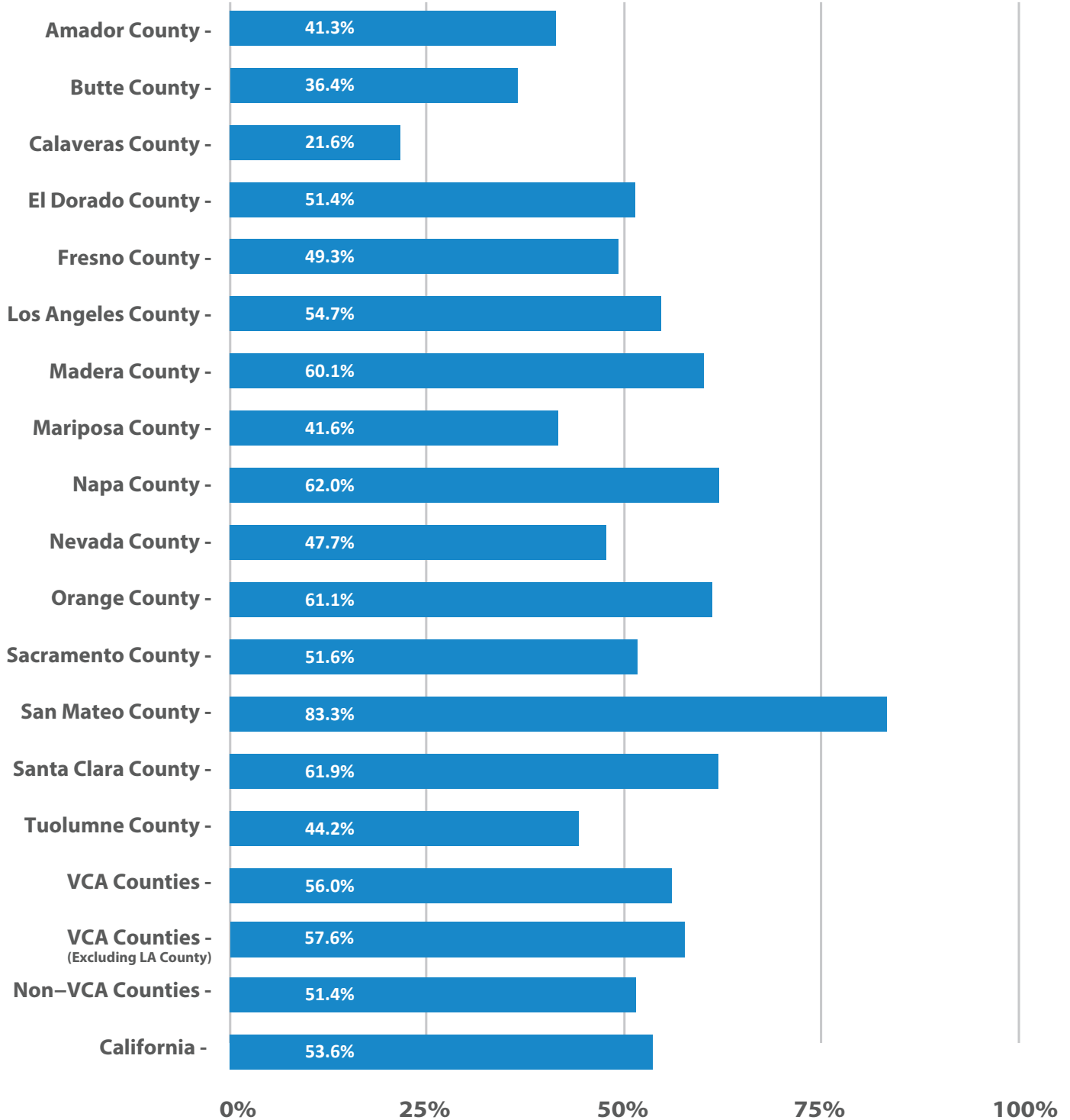
* Registration rates defined as the percent of adult citizens who are registered to vote.
Data Source: Political Data, Inc and Dept. Finance CVAP estimates

Registration Rates* Asian-American Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



* Registration rates defined as the percent of adult citizens who are registered to vote.
Data Source: Political Data, Inc and Dept. Finance CVAP estimates

Registration Rates* Youth (age 18 to 24) Voters Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



* Registration rates defined as the percent of adult citizens who are registered to vote.
Data Source: Political Data, Inc and Dept. Finance CVAP estimates

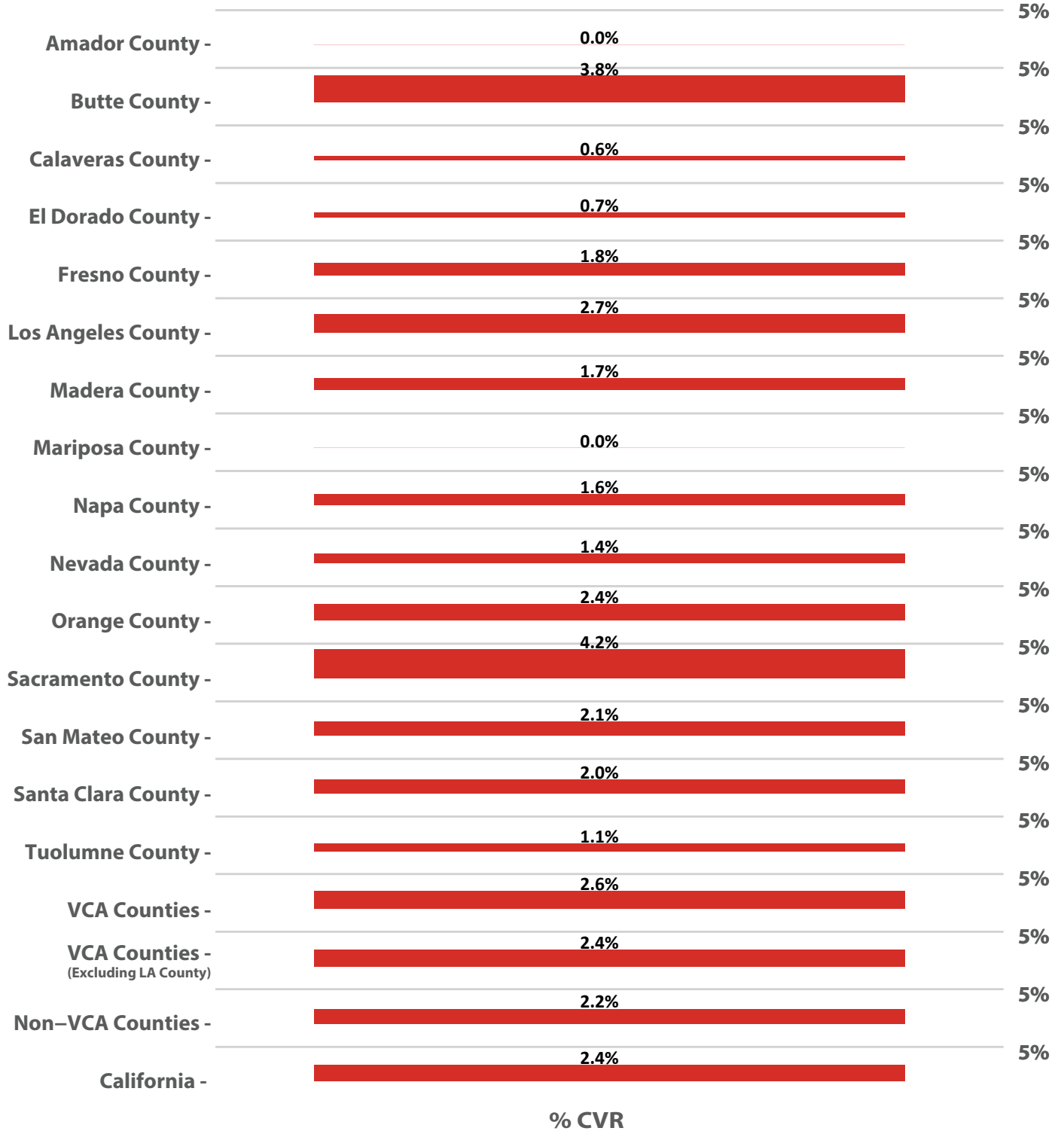
Appendix D: Conditional Voter Registration

Conditional Voter Registration and Provisional Ballots Percent of Voters: 2020 Primary Election California Counties					
County Name	Conditional Voter Registration Counted	Provisional Ballots Counted	Total Votes Counted	% CVR of Votes	% Provisional Ballots of Votes
Alameda County	16252	30010	453932	3.6%	6.6%
Alpine County	0	0	500	0.0%	0.0%
Amador County	2	5	15375	0.0%	0.0%
Butte County	674	463	66164	1.0%	0.7%
Calaveras County	86	154	15042	0.6%	1.0%
Colusa County	27	40	4793	0.6%	0.8%
Contra Costa County	2196	24952	321236	0.7%	7.8%
Del Norte County	31	15	7133	0.4%	0.2%
El Dorado County	357	15	74540	0.5%	0.0%
Fresno County	2032	169	193677	1.0%	0.1%
Glenn County	61	91	6874	0.9%	1.3%
Humboldt County	1393	3020	46225	3.0%	6.5%
Imperial County	36	1627	23155	0.2%	7.0%
Inyo County	103	41	6629	1.6%	0.6%
Kern County	914	12070	157243	0.6%	7.7%
Kings County	161	744	20670	0.8%	3.6%
Lake County	120	1296	17392	0.7%	7.5%
Lassen County	105	116	7595	1.4%	1.5%
Los Angeles County	41071	22778	2076271	2.0%	1.1%
Madera County	267	7	30796	0.9%	0.0%
Marin County	1924	5720	112616	1.7%	5.1%
Mariposa County	11	13	7057	0.2%	0.2%
Mendocino County	207	1245	28662	0.7%	4.3%
Merced County	710	2445	43980	1.6%	5.6%
Modoc County	36	58	2973	1.2%	2.0%
Mono County	88	195	4157	2.1%	4.7%
Monterey County	718	4089	89828	0.8%	4.6%
Napa County	472	3	46247	1.0%	0.0%
Nevada County	417	0	45056	0.9%	0.0%
Orange County	10490	1	803375	1.3%	0.0%
Placer County	1563	3825	139978	1.1%	2.7%
Plumas County	0	0	8083	0.0%	0.0%
Riverside County	375	36292	466261	0.1%	7.8%
Sacramento County	9951	8	403033	2.5%	0.0%
San Benito County	135	122	17032	0.8%	0.7%
San Bernardino County	3994	2806	393009	1.0%	0.7%
San Diego County	11093	59472	871536	1.3%	6.8%
San Francisco County	1762	29912	291459	0.6%	10.3%
San Joaquin County	3703	10383	145998	2.5%	7.1%
San Luis Obispo County	1306	1239	107045	1.2%	1.2%
San Mateo County	2508	0	223686	1.1%	0.0%
Santa Barbara County	1640	8184	126811	1.3%	6.5%
Santa Clara County	5354	817	483691	1.1%	0.2%
Santa Cruz County	2655	2433	101183	2.6%	2.4%
Shasta County	637	114	57299	1.1%	0.2%
Sierra County	0	0	1371	0.0%	0.0%
Siskiyou County	207	7	15006	1.4%	0.0%
Solano County	352	2737	98687	0.4%	2.8%
Sonoma County	1045	5460	183571	0.6%	3.0%
Stanislaus County	1265	5950	111715	1.1%	5.3%
Sutter County	261	204	25056	1.0%	0.8%
Tehama County	69	283	17938	0.4%	1.6%
Trinity County	22	25	4785	0.5%	0.5%
Tulare County	1363	3539	72403	1.9%	4.9%
Tuolumne County	167	0	20800	0.8%	0.0%
Ventura County	7134	12626	218873	3.3%	5.8%
Yolo County	2331	2383	61202	3.8%	3.9%
Yuba County	208	708	16299	1.3%	4.3%
VCA Counties	73859	24433	4504810	1.6%	0.5%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	32788	1655	2428539	1.4%	0.1%
Non-VCA Counties	68202	276478	4908193	1.4%	5.6%
California	142061	300911	9413003	1.5%	3.2%

Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) Use Rates

Latino Voters

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election

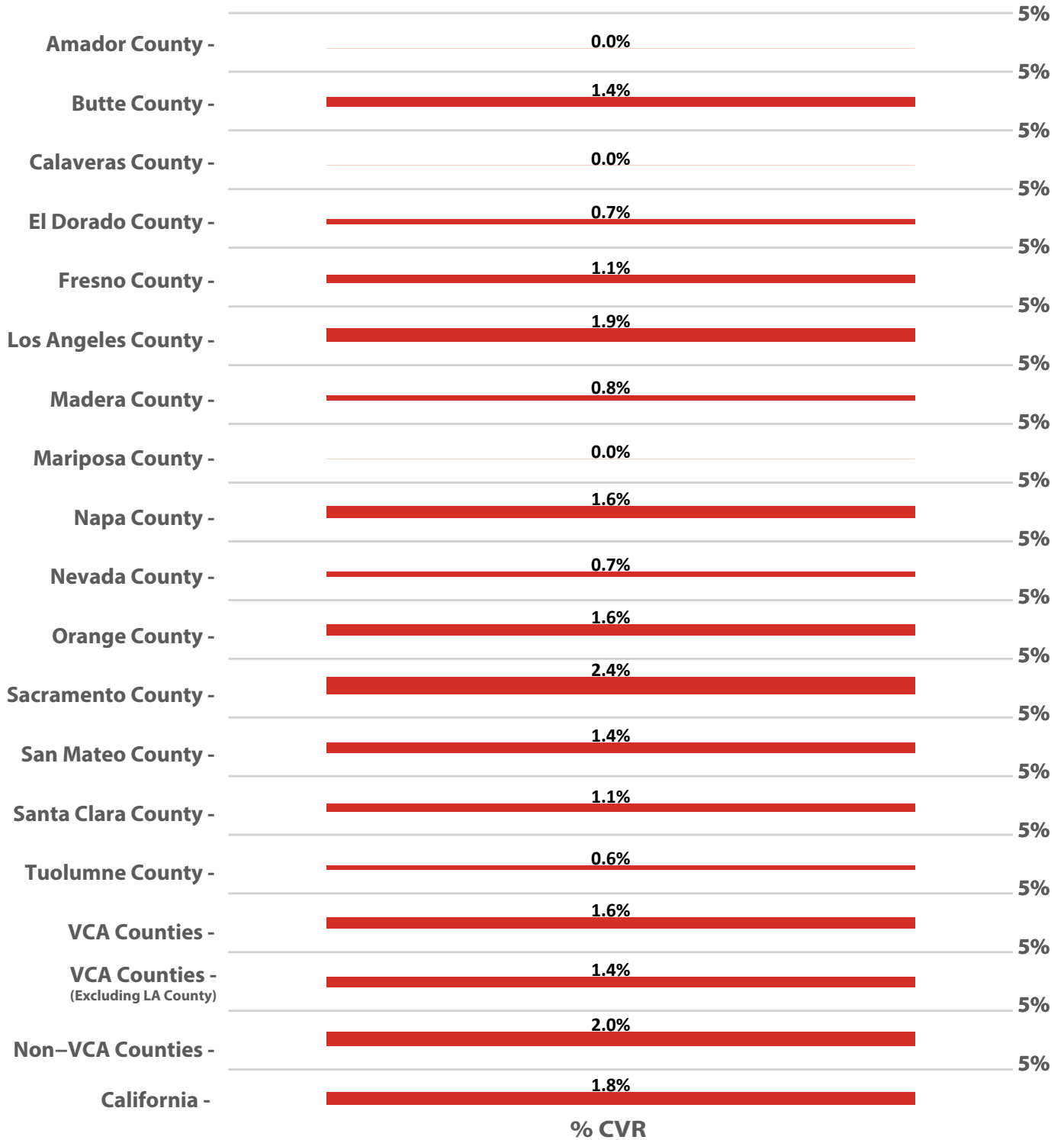


Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) Use Rates

Asian-American Voters

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) Use by Race and Ethnicity: 2020 Primary 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	1.0%	0.0%	1.4%	3.8%	0.8%
Calaveras County	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.6%
El Dorado County	0.5%	0.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.4%
Fresno County	1.0%	0.1%	1.1%	1.8%	0.8%
Los Angeles County	2.0%	0.8%	1.9%	2.7%	1.9%
Madera County	0.9%	0.0%	0.8%	1.7%	0.6%
Mariposa County	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Napa County	1.0%	0.5%	1.6%	1.6%	0.9%
Nevada County	0.9%	0.0%	0.7%	1.4%	0.9%
Orange County	1.3%	0.1%	1.6%	2.4%	1.0%
Sacramento County	2.5%	1.6%	2.4%	4.2%	2.3%
San Mateo County	1.1%	0.1%	1.4%	2.1%	1.0%
Santa Clara County	1.1%	0.0%	1.1%	2.0%	1.0%
Tuolumne County	0.8%	1.2%	0.6%	1.1%	0.8%
VCA Counties	1.6%	0.8%	1.6%	2.6%	1.4%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	1.4%	0.6%	1.4%	2.4%	1.1%
Non-VCA Counties	1.4%	2.0%	2.0%	2.2%	1.1%
California	1.5%	1.2%	1.8%	2.4%	1.3%

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

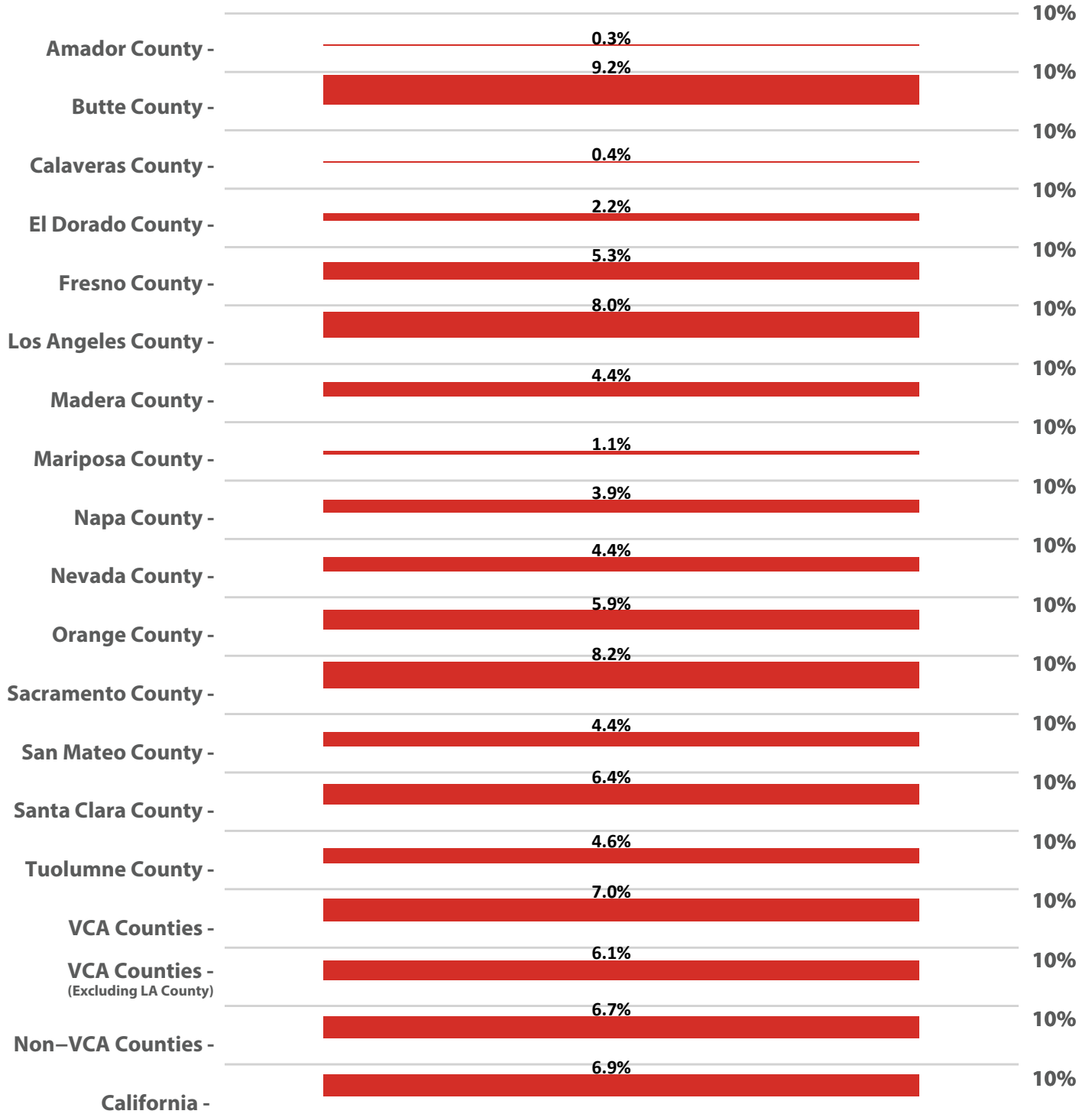
*PDI combines voters identified as white (non-Latino) and voters with no identified ethnicity in the same category.

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.

Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) Use Rates

Youth (age 18 to 24)

Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



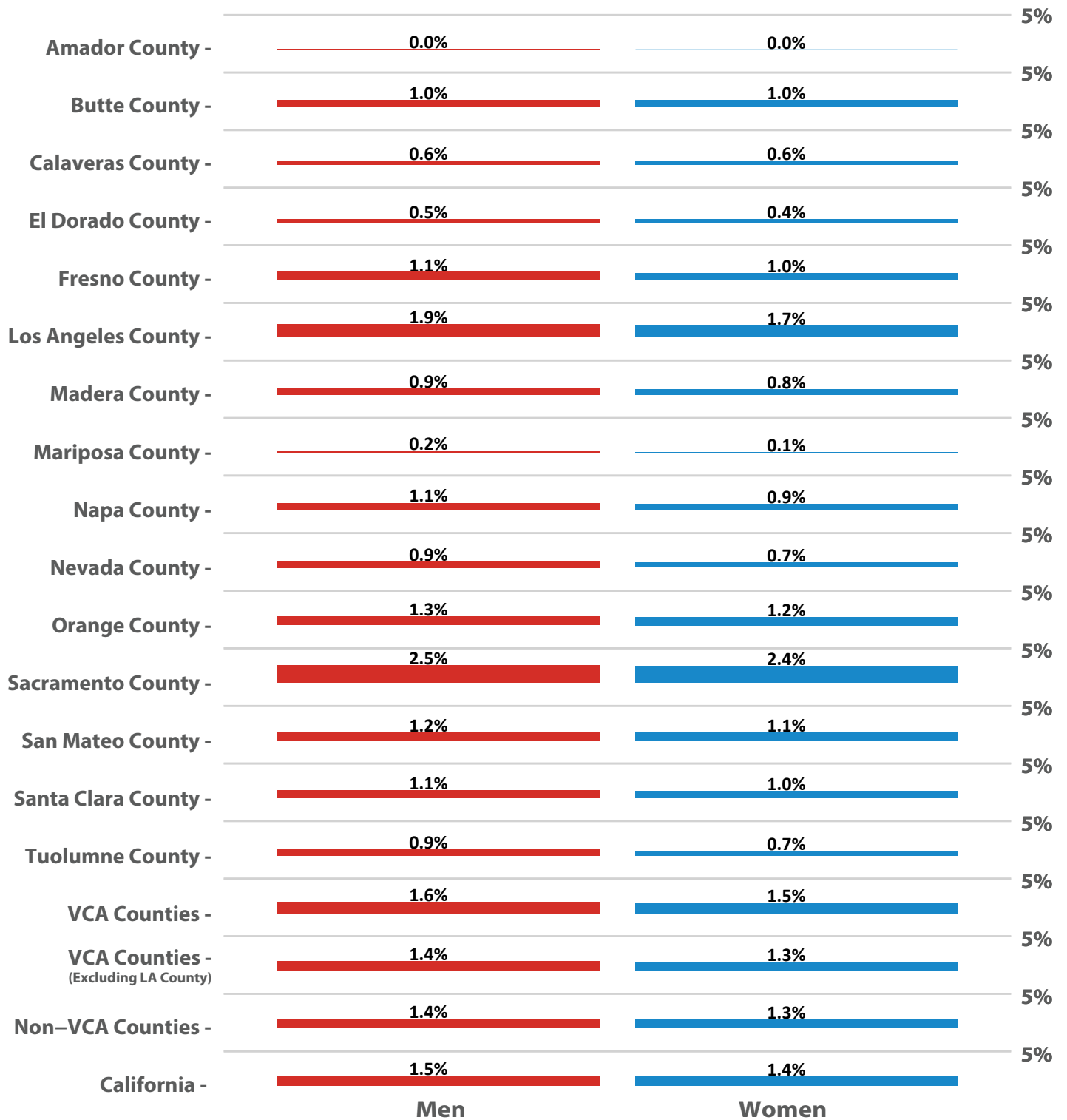
Youth (age 18 to 24)

Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) Use Rates

Gender

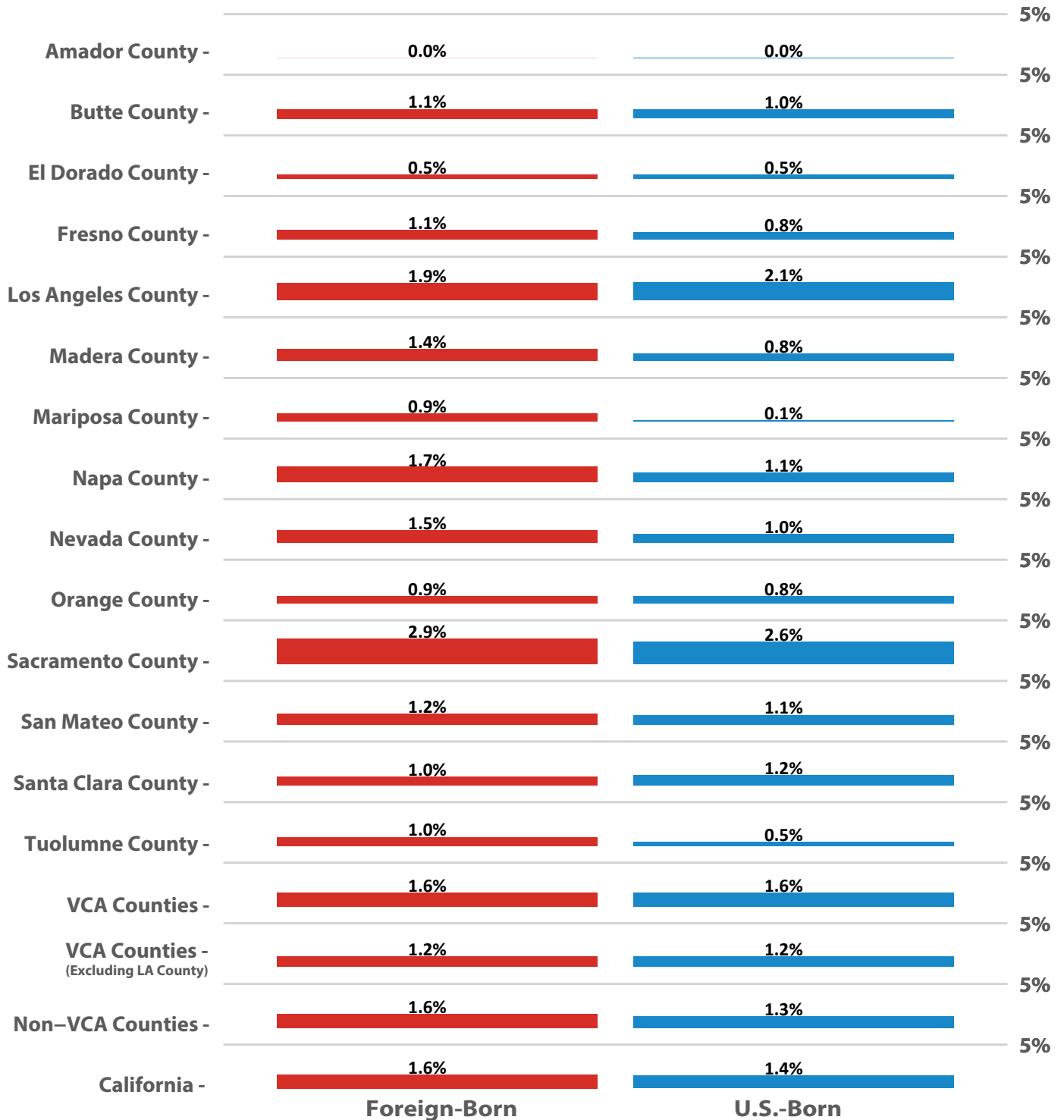
Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) Use Rates Nativity*

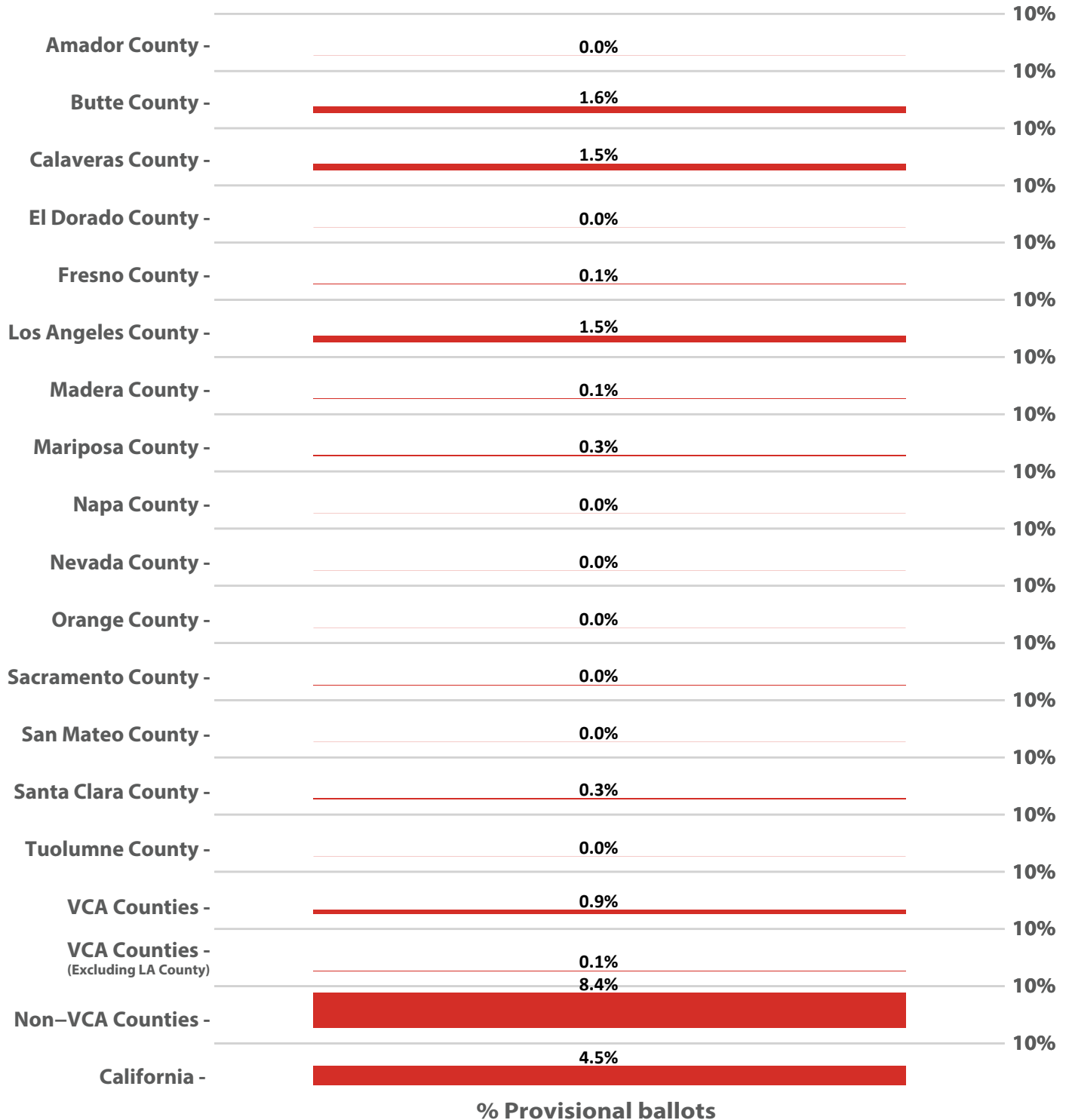
Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



*Calaveras County excluded due to county coding error
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

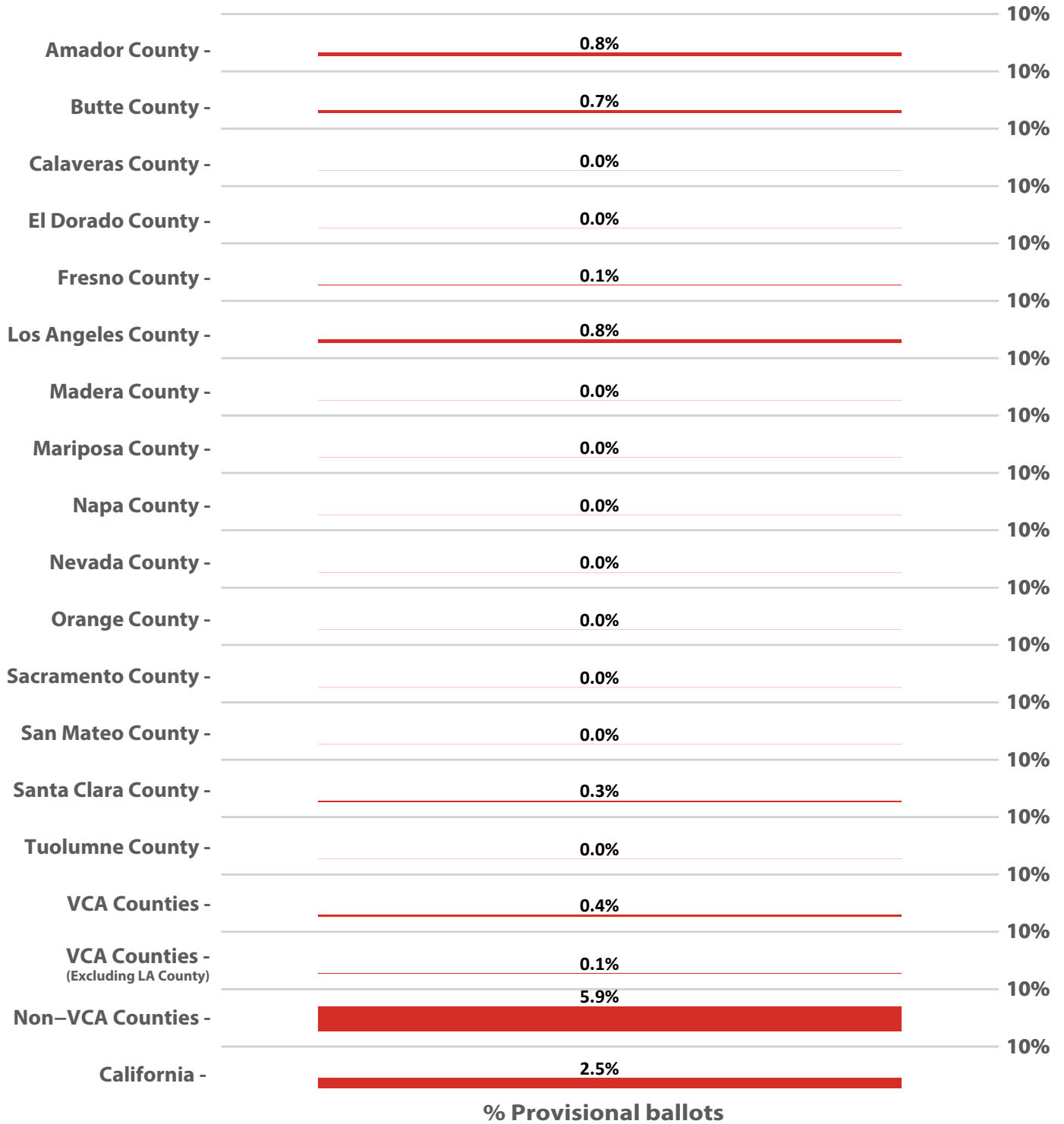
Appendix E: Provisional Voting

Provisional Ballots - Latino Voters Percent of Votes Counted that were Cast with Provisional Ballots Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Provisional Ballots - Asian-American Voters Percent of Votes Counted that were Cast with Provisional Ballots Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Provisional Ballots by Race and Ethnicity: 2020 Primary Election Voter's Choice Act Counties					
County	All	Black	Asian-American	Latino	White and No Ethnicity Identified*
Amador County	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Butte County	0.7%	0.0%	0.7%	1.6%	0.6%
Calaveras County	1.0%	1.2%	0.0%	1.5%	1.0%
El Dorado County	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Fresno County	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Los Angeles County	1.1%	1.2%	0.8%	1.5%	1.0%
Madera County	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Mariposa County	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
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	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Tuolumne County	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
VCA Counties	0.5%	0.9%	0.4%	0.9%	0.4%
VCA Counties (Excluding Los Angeles County)	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Non-VCA Counties	5.6%	7.6%	5.9%	8.4%	4.8%
California	3.2%	3.6%	2.5%	4.5%	2.9%

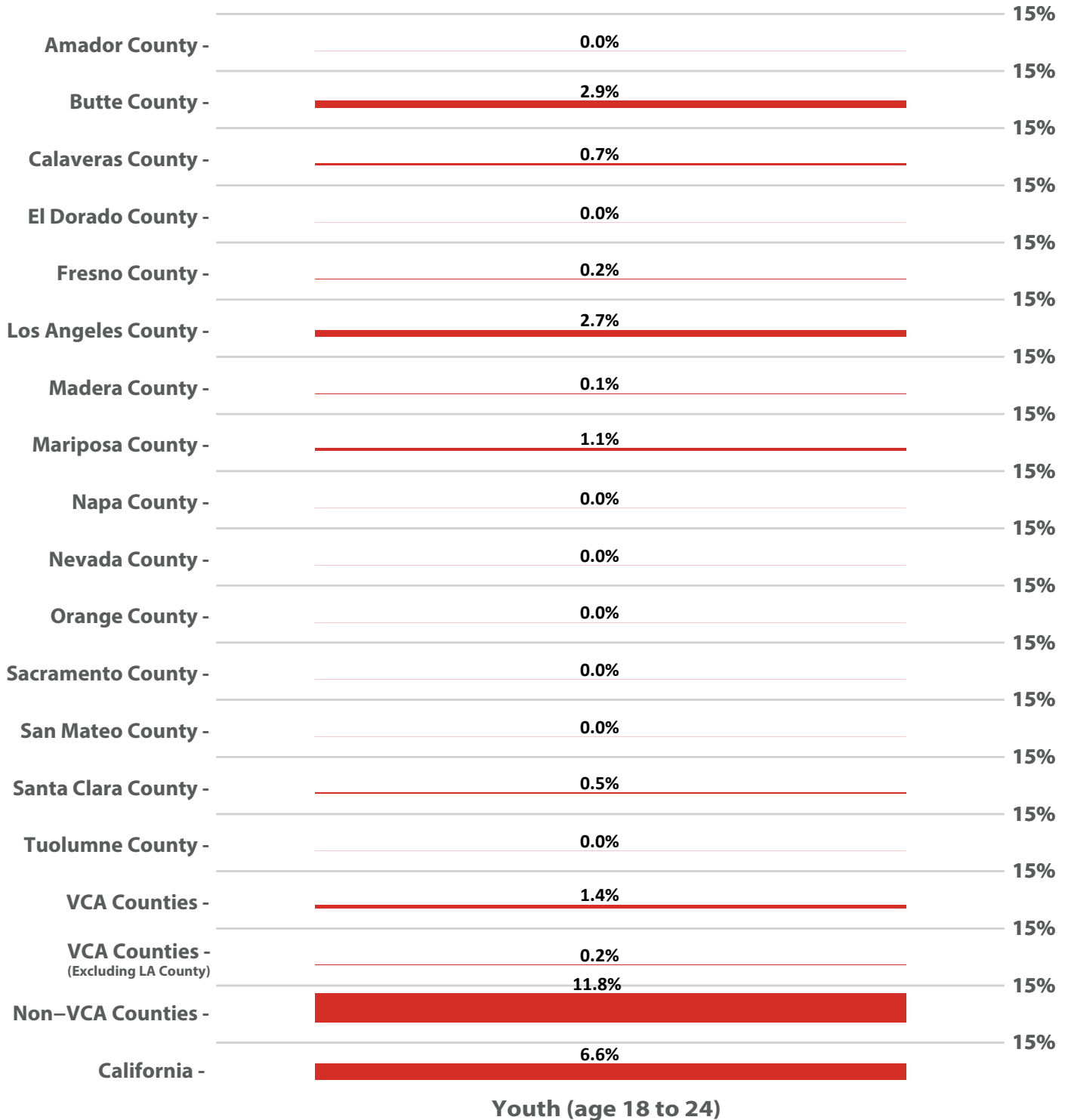
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

*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.

Provisional Ballots - Youth (age 18-24)

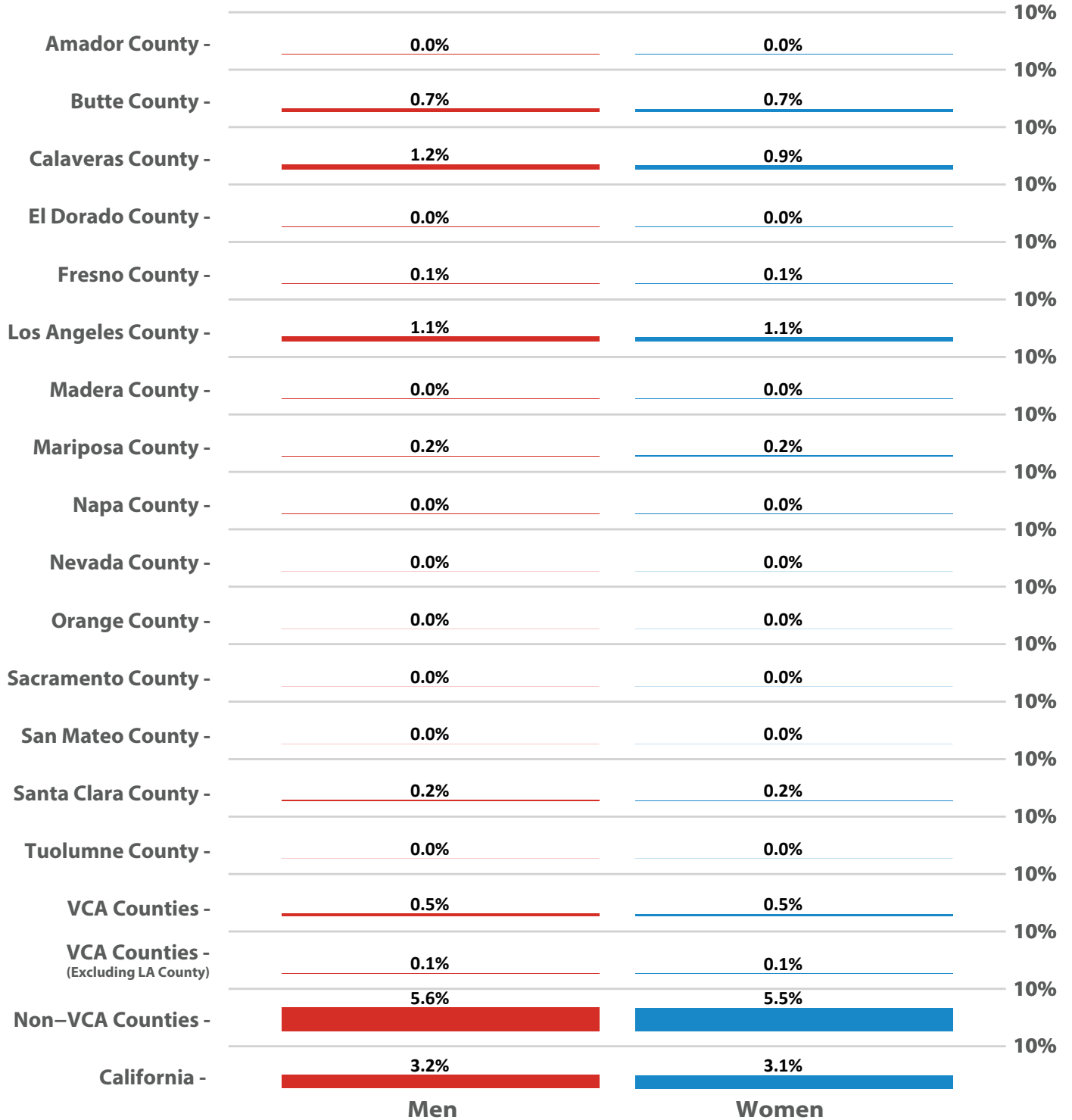
Percent of Votes Counted that were Cast with Provisional Ballots
Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Provisional Ballots - Gender

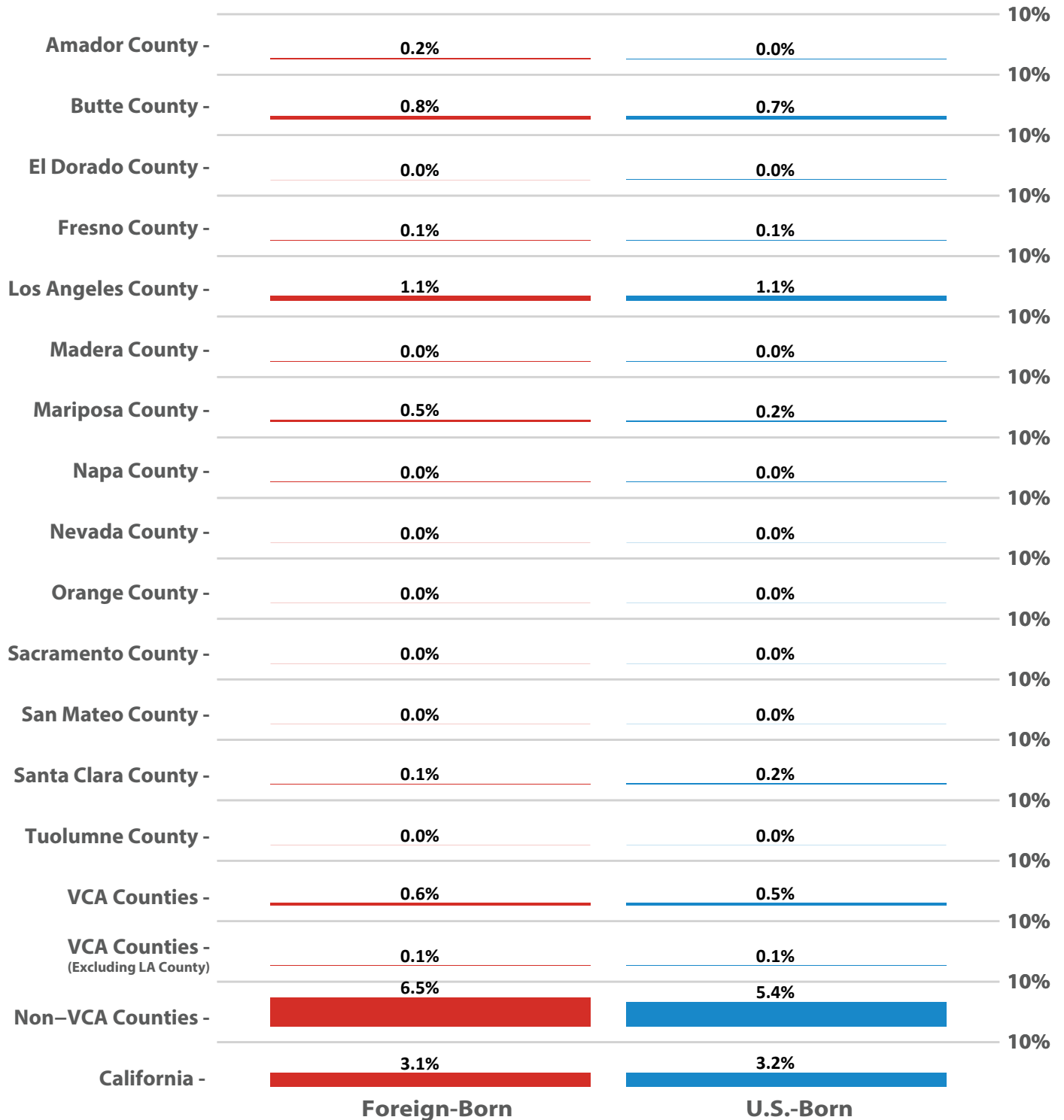
Percent of Votes Counted that were Cast with Provisional Ballots
Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File

Provisional Ballots - Nativity*

Percent of Votes Counted that were Cast with Provisional Ballots
Voter's Choice Act Counties in the 2020 Primary Election



*Calaveras County excluded due to county coding error
Data Source: California Secretary of State Voter File