



Developed by the Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID) at the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy, the [Ballot Return Tool](#) is a first-of-its-kind, data-driven interactive mapping resource for visualizing early ballots cast in real time by registered voters during an election, whether the voting is done in-person or by mail.

Using publicly available voter data, the web-based Ballot Return Tool produces visualized data maps of early ballots cast by registered voters at the county or precinct level. The technology allows users to increasingly pinpoint community-level voting activities by hovering or zooming in on a particular area or neighborhood. CID updates the maps daily as voting data is made available.

First introduced in [Los Angeles County](#) during the 2020 General Election, the Ballot Return Tool provides election officials, community advocacy groups and the general public a better way to track voting and transparently monitor voting activity, as well as plan voter services and outreach. The Tool was most recently rolled out in the state of [Georgia](#) to assist election officials and community groups there involved in voter outreach for the January 2021 U.S. Senate runoff elections.



The Ballot Return Tool is one of two web-based applications offered by CID to help election officials and voting advocates plan election-related decision making and outreach. The CID [Voting Location Siting Tool](#)—a web-based interactive data mapping system initially launched in California in 2018—is now available in 10 states. The Siting Tool helps communities identify accessible vote centers and polling places likely to have the most success serving voters. Its robust and detailed data maps have also been widely used to inform voter outreach efforts at the community level.

### **About the Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID)**

The Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID), formerly known as the California Civic Engagement Project, is part of the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy and is based in Sacramento. 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. Its non-partisan research informs and empowers a wide range of policy and organizing efforts aimed at eliminating disparities in social and economic well-being. To learn about CID, visit our website at <https://cid.usc.edu>.

### **About the USC Price School of Public Policy**

CID is housed within the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy and based in the Price School Sacramento Center. Since 1929, the Price School has defined excellence and innovation in public affairs education and research. Ranked third nationwide among “America’s Best Graduate Schools” for public affairs, according to the U.S. News & World Report, the USC Price School faculty, scholars and students help shape the world around us. Graduates of the Price School fulfill and extend the School’s mission to improve the quality of life for people and their communities at home and abroad. The Price Sacramento Center was established in 1971 to ensure that key research finds its needed audience of policy makers and stakeholders in the state capital.

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