

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Sheriff - Coroner - Public Administrator



ISSUE: 25-44

TRAINING BULLETIN

DATE: July 29, 2025

California Assembly Bill 2642

Effective January 1, 2025, California Assembly Bill 2642 enacted legislation that prohibits a person from intimidating, threatening, coercing, or attempting to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any person from engaging in specified election-related activities.

Summary of AB 2642:

AB 2642 makes it unlawful to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any person from participating in election-related activities, including voting, registering to vote, or assisting in the administration of an election.

Key Definitions:

- Firearm / Imitation Firearm: Any device designed to expel a projectile or appear to be a firearm. Includes air guns and spring guns.
- Open Carry: Public carrying of a firearm, loaded or unloaded.
- Voting: Any action needed to participate in an election (registering, casting a ballot, etc.).
- Law Enforcement Officer: As defined in Penal Code §13519.05.
- Officer Conducting a Canvass: As defined in §18502 of the Elections Code.

Prohibited Conduct (Elections Code §18581):

A person shall not intimidate, threaten, or coerce another person for:

1. Voting or attempting to vote.
2. Urging or aiding someone to vote.
3. Administering an election (e.g., counting or certifying votes).
4. Past or present participation in administering elections.

Firearm Provisions:

A person openly carrying a firearm or imitation firearm near voting activities is presumed to be engaging in intimidation unless proven otherwise.

Note: Peace officers acting within the scope of duty are generally exempt but may still be evaluated for intent based on firearm possession.

Elections Code §18544:

It is unlawful for any person in possession of a firearm (or in uniform) to be stationed near a polling place without written authorization from the appropriate elections official. Any person found in violation of Elections Code §18544 can be charged as either a felony or misdemeanor.

Penalty:

- Fine: Up to \$10,000
- Imprisonment: Up to 3 years in state prison, or up to 1 year in county jail, or both.

Exceptions:

- Unarmed uniformed personnel voting.
- Peace officers conducting official business.
- Private security hired by the election office.

In addition to the governing legislation, personnel shall be familiar with and abide by KCSOPPM C-0100 which can be accessed via the link below:

[KCSOPPM C-100 Rules of Conduct - Law Enforcement Personnel](#)

Additionally, Assembly Bill 2642 can be accessed via the following link:

[California Assembly Bill 2642](#)

By acknowledging this training bulletin, you are indicating you have reviewed this training bulletin and KCSOPPM C-0100. All sworn personnel of the Deputy Sheriff and Park Ranger ranks are required to review and acknowledge this training bulletin no later than **Friday, August 29, 2025.**