

## **County Jail Ordered to Provide Inmates with Absentee Ballots**

*Cannavan v. County of Ventura*  
(*Fernando M. Olguin, C.D. Cal. 2:20-cv-10012*)

A district judge ordered a county to provide its jail inmates with absentee ballots in an action filed on the Friday before a general election.

*Subject:* Absentee and early voting. *Topics:* Absentee ballots; class action.

An inmate in a county jail filed a federal class action against the county and its sheriff in the Central District of California on Friday, October 30, 2020, alleging improper denial of ballots.<sup>1</sup> With his complaint, he filed an application for a temporary restraining order and motion for a preliminary injunction<sup>2</sup> and an application to certify the class of at least one hundred Ventura County Jail inmates.<sup>3</sup> The court assigned the case to Judge Fernando M. Olguin,<sup>4</sup> who ordered briefing on the applications complete by Sunday afternoon.<sup>5</sup>

On Sunday, Judge Olguin certified the class<sup>6</sup> and ordered the defendants to immediately obtain absentee ballots for all class members and deliver them by 5:00 p.m. on November 2 and deliver cast ballots to election authorities by 5:00 p.m. on election day, November 3.<sup>7</sup>

An amended complaint filed on July 19, 2021,<sup>8</sup> was dismissed as settled in 2022.<sup>9</sup>

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1. Complaint, *Cannavan v. County of Ventura*, No. 2:20-cv-10012 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 30, 2020), D.E. 1.

2. Application and Motion, *id.* (Oct. 30, 2020), D.E. 5.

3. Application, *id.* (Oct. 30, 2020), D.E. 6.

4. Notice, *id.* (Oct. 30, 2020), D.E. 7.

5. Minute Order, *id.* (Oct. 30, 2020), D.E. 10.

6. Minute Order, *id.* (Nov. 1, 2020), D.E. 20, 2020 WL 12176251.

7. Minute Order, *id.* (Nov. 1, 2020), D.E. 21, 2020 WL 639163; *see* Megan Diskin, *County Must Give Inmates Ballots, Judge Says*, *Ventura Cty. Star*, Nov. 3, 2020, at A2.

8. Amended Complaint, *Cannavan*, No. 2:20-cv-10012 (C.D. Cal. July 19, 2021), D.E. 58.

9. Stipulation, *id.* (Sept. 2, 2022), D.E. 88; Order, *id.* (Apr. 25, 2022), D.E. 80.