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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

GAIL L. PELLERIN, PRESIDENT

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January 9, 2012

Honorable Lou Correa, Chair
Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee
State Capitol, Room 2203
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 1413** Top Two Primary Clean Up

Dear Chairman Correa:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee has reviewed **AB 1413**, which addresses essential technical changes to the new Top Two Primary election system. Our Committee supports the adoption of these technical amendments to the California Elections Code.

More specifically, AB 1413 focuses on critical challenges associated with the implementation language for Proposition 14 provided in Senate Bill 6 (SB 6, Chapter 1, 2009). Mandates in SB 6 require additional text and formatting associated with listing of candidates that, unless amended, will stress – and in some cases exceed – the capability of certain voting systems currently used in California. AB 1413 reduces the risk of exceeding system capacity and provides necessary technical changes to allow for a more practical implementation of the new Top Two Primary election system.

California election officials are tasked with implementing newly adopted policies, educating voters and poll workers, and providing quality election services. Adoption of the significant technical amendments listed in AB 1413 addresses the limitations of California's existing voting systems and will result in a more efficient implementation of Proposition 14 and assist in maintaining the integrity and transparency of California's elections.

We urge your support in adopting these changes to ensure that counties have the capacity to conduct the 2012 State Primary Election and future state primaries using today's voting systems and in a manner consistent with the adoption of Proposition 14.

If you or your staff have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at the Monterey County Elections Department at (831) 796-1499.

Very truly yours,

Linda Tulett
Correspondence Secretary
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

c: Assembly Member Paul Fong, Author
Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates