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# CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

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March 8, 2023

The Honorable Assemblymember Gail Pellerin  
Member, Assembly Committee on Elections  
State Capitol, 1021 O Street, Suite 6310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 626 (Pellerin) Voting: returning vote by mail ballots in person – SUPPORT if Amended

Dear Assemblymember Pellerin:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) Elections Legislative Committee is pleased to support Assembly Bill 626 if amended to expand this service to voters in counties that operate polling places. AB 626 will permit voters to cast the vote-by-mail ballot mailed to them by placing it in a ballot box or precinct ballot scanner in a vote center.

Under current law, a person who votes a vote-by-mail ballot is required to place the ballot in the identification envelope provided to the voter, seal and sign the envelope, and return the ballot by mail or in person.

Your proposal would authorize a voter to vote their vote-by-mail ballot without the identification envelope if the voter returns the ballot in person at a vote center and provides their name, address, and signature on the roster.

We support your proposal as it should result in more ballots being included in the election results reports counties post during the semifinal official canvass. We appreciate the time you and your staff have put into this bill. We hope that our request that you expand your proposal to polling place counties as well is acceptable. We have attached suggested edits to AB 626 for your review and consideration.

If you or your staff has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [tricia.webber@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:tricia.webber@santacruzcounty.us) or (831) 454-2409, or my co-chairs James Kus, at [jkus@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:jkus@fresnocountyca.gov) or (559) 600-1730 or Bob Page at [bob.page@ocvote.gov](mailto:bob.page@ocvote.gov) or (714) 567-7620-5690.

Respectfully,

Tricia Webber  
Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee  
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

cc: Rob Grossglauser, Pinnacle Advocacy LLC  
James Kus and Bob Page, Co-Chairs, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 3016.5 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

3016.5. (a) ~~In an election conducted using vote centers, a voter~~ **Voters** may vote their vote by mail ballot, without the identification envelope, in person at **the polling place designated for their home precincts on or before election day or a vote center established pursuant to Section 4005** ~~a vote center~~ pursuant to this section.

(b) (1) If **the precinct board or** the vote center election board has real-time access to the county election official's election management system, the status of a voter who seeks to vote their vote by mail ballot in person, without the identification envelope, shall be changed in the election management system from a vote by mail voter to an in person voter.

(2) After the voter's status has been changed pursuant to paragraph (1), the voter shall provide their name, address, and signature pursuant to Section 14216 and shall be permitted to vote their vote by mail ballot without the identification envelope.

(3) A ballot cast pursuant to paragraph (2) shall be processed and counted in the same manner as a nonprovisional ballot cast in person at **the polling place or** the vote center.

SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.