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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

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March 23, 2023

The Honorable Senator Steve Glazer
Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments
1020 N Street, Room 410
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 386 (Newman) Elections - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Glazer:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) Elections Legislative Committee is pleased to sponsor and support Senate Bill 386, a proposal to improve several elements of election administration, including petition examination, ballot instructions, and candidate nomination for city offices.

Current law establishes procedures for county elections officials and the Secretary of State to determine the validity and numerical sufficiency of the signatures submitted with state initiative and referendum petitions and local initiative, referendum and recall petitions. This proposal would provide county elections officials with 30 additional business days to verify the voter signatures when a full check of the petition is required.

Existing law requires city elections officials to extend the nomination period for municipal candidates by five days if an eligible incumbent does to file nomination papers and the required number of nomination signatures for the city office by 5 p.m. on the 88th day before the election. SB 386 would require the city elections official to publish a public notice no later than 91 days before the election that announces whether an eligible incumbent has pulled nomination papers for the municipal office.

Current law requires specified voting instructions be printed on ballots. This proposal would repeal antiquated instructions regarding the election of political party delegates and Presidential electors that no longer apply to California elections.

CACEO supports Senator Newman's focus on efficient election administration practices for petitions, ballot instructions and nomination for municipal offices. We respectfully request the committee's AYE vote on Senate Bill 386.

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

Respectfully,

Bob Page
Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

cc: Senator Newman (Author)
Rob Grossglauer, Pinnacle Advocacy LLC
James Kus and Tricia Webber, Co-Chairs, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee