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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

May 29, 2007

Assembly Member Todd Spitzer State Capitol, Room 5126 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Spitzer:

The Elections Legislative Committee of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) reviewed **AB 1090** (as amended April 30, 2007). This bill mandates the use and retention of a ballot designation worksheet for all candidates.

Currently the form referred to is an optional form provided by the Secretary of State, with a request that it be used for state-certified candidates. Counties forward the completed form to the Secretary of State with the nomination documents, in order that the Secretary of State staff who are reviewing ballot designations may have some background information for making a determination as to whether or not a ballot designation is appropriate. This is of assistance to the Secretary of State staff who do not interact directly with the candidates at the time of filing and who do not have the level of familiarity with candidates as the local elections official may. Some counties and cities choose to use this form for local candidates, however, others do not.

Sonoma County has approximately 500 elected offices, including cities, school, and special districts. There are generally multiple candidates for each office. This bill would require an additional form to be distributed, explained, filed, retained for a period of 6 - 8 years, and purged on a regular basis. The form requests redundant information, which may be of assistance to the Secretary of State, but not needed by the local election official. The form also requires documentation from elected officials, such as copies of certificates of election or appointment to be attached, for which the local elections official has documented records and no need.

The Committee voted to take **No Position** on the bill, but requests that the bill be amended to reflect that the requirement to complete the forms applies only to candidates for state-certified offices as set forth in Elections Code Section 8100(a), and that the forms are to be forwarded to the Secretary of State, with the original nomination documents and retained by the Secretary of State.

Should you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Sonoma County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor's Office (707) 565-1877.

Very truly yours,

Janice Atkinson Correspondence Secretary Elections Legislative Committee California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

c: Senator Ron Calderon, Chair, Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee Assembly Member Curren Price, Chair, Committee on Elections and Redistricting Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee