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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

GAIL L. PELLERIN, PRESIDENT

Santa Cruz County Clerk
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* non-voting member

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March 7, 2011

Assembly Member Steve Knight
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95614

Dear Assembly Member Knight:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials' Elections Legislative Committee has reviewed **AB 193 (as introduced January 27, 2011)**, requiring election officials to check the address of every polling place against the Department of Justice sex offender registry, and prohibiting the establishment of a polling place at a facility or property where a person listed on the registry resides. The Committee has not taken a position on the bill, but would like to share with you the following concerns.

While understanding the concerns prompting the legislation, implementing the proposal would impose an onerous task and ongoing costs on counties. Polling locations would have to be checked prior to each election, as individuals relocate and polling locations change. With approximately 5,000 polling places in Los Angeles County alone, the time and expense to check each location would be significant. It might also be noted that the Department of Justice Registry does not provide a look-up feature by address, nor does it list registrants' addresses. The California Attorney General's list does provide these features.

In addition, implementation would likely result in decreased access for non-offender voters, as polling places in large apartment complexes or assisted living facilities would be among those most likely to be required to be moved. Further, voters who have been voting at the same location for many years would have to be redirected to another facility in the event a registrant moved into the facility where the polling place had previously been located.

If you or your staff have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me in the Sonoma County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor's Office at (707) 565-1876.

Very truly yours,

Janice Atkinson
Correspondence Secretary
California Association of Clerks
and Election Officials

c: Assembly Member Paul Fong, Chair, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting
Senator Lou Correa, Chair, Senate Committee on Elections, Reapportionment and
Constitutional Amendments (name?)
Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates