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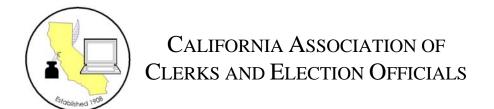
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September 13, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger Governor, State of California State Capitol Sacramento, CA 95814

## Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The Elections Legislative Committee of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials urges your signature on **SB 382** (Senator Oropeza). This legislation will eliminate the seven day period prior to an election in which newly sworn citizens are not allowed to cast a ballot.

California's Election Officials support this proposal to allow new citizens to cast their first ballots by coming to the office of the election official or other location designated by the election official between the 14<sup>th</sup> day before the election and the close of polls Election Day. The existing seven-day blackout period for new citizen voting serves no purpose, other than to dampen the patriotic spirit of newly sworn citizens.

Election officials across California have all encountered the disappointment of a newly sworn citizen who is unable to participate in the democratic process simply because the citizenship ceremony occurred within a week of an election. When a new citizen's first encounter with voting is one of denial, it leaves a negative impression on the voter and discourages further participation in the democratic process.

Should you or your staff 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: Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee