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* non-voting member

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Sacramento County
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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

GAIL L. PELLERIN, PRESIDENT

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March 17, 2011

State Senator Ted Gaines
State Capitol
Room 3056
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Gaines:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee is pleased to convey its **Support of SB 109 (as amended March 14, 2011)**. This proposal would amend existing law relating to mail ballot elections to allow California counties with a population of less than 400,000 to conduct an election by all mail ballot, if specified conditions are met and authorization is provided by the governing body.

Since 2003, existing law relating to all mail ballot elections has been clarified and expanded to add eligible entities, such as small cities with a population of 100,000 or less, as well as school districts, as jurisdictions permitted to hold elections by mail ballot, if specified conditions are met. Additionally, with the inception of "no-excuse" permanent vote by mail voting, as amended by the Legislature in 2003, California counties have seen a substantial increase in the number of voters choosing to vote by mail on a permanent basis. The number of voters who vote by mail now often surpasses the number of voters who vote in person on Election Day at their polling place, as reflected in the Statement of the Votes posted on the Secretary of State's web site for elections conducted since 2008 (excluding the first February Bifurcated Presidential Primary in 2008 and statewide general elections). There are numerous benefits of all-mail ballot elections. In addition to being more convenient for many voters, all-mail ballot elections can lead to increased voter participation while keeping elections costs low, allowing taxpayer dollars to be redirected to other core government functions. In these difficult economic times, evaluating ways to make local governments more efficient is essential. This bill would accomplish this while also providing opportunities to increase participation by citizens in the electoral process.

If you or your staff have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Monterey County Elections Department, at (831) 796-1499.

Very truly yours,

Linda Tulett
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
Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates