

OFFICERS 2010-2012

GAIL L. PELLERIN
PRESIDENT
Santa Cruz County
CATHY DARLING ALLEN
VICE PRESIDENT
Shasta County
NEAL KELLEY
TREASURER
Orange County
DEAN LOGAN
SECRETARY
Los Angeles County

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APPOINTED:

GINA ALCOMENDRAS
Santa Clara County
JANICE ATKINSON
Sonoma County
TESS FITZGERALD
Santa Cruz County
SACHI HAMAI
Los Angeles County
JOSEPH HOLLAND
Santa Barbara County
JIM MC CAULEY
Placer County
KATHIE MORAN
Colusa County
SUSAN M. RANOCHAK
Mendocino County
JULIE RODEWALD
San Luis Obispo County
DEBORAH SEILER
San Diego County
DAWN ABRAHAMSON*
Fremont City Clerk
* non-voting member

ADVISORY COUNCIL:

STEVE WEIR
Contra Costa County
REBECCA MARTINEZ
Madera County

ELECTED AREA CHAIRS:

JULIE BUSTAMANTE
Northern Area
Lassen County
KARI VERJIL
Southern Area
Riverside County
JILL LAVINE
Mother Lode Area
Sacramento County
AUSTIN G. ERDMAN
Central Area
San Joaquin County
LINDSEY MC WILLIAMS
Bay Area
Solano County

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

CLERK OF THE BOARD:

SACHI A. HAMAI
Los Angeles County
JOHN MCKIBBEN
Los Angeles County

COUNTY CLERK:

KATHIE MORAN
Colusa County
VICKI PETERSEN
Sonoma County

ELECTIONS:

JILL LAVINE
Sacramento County
DEBORAH SEILER
San Diego County



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

GAIL L. PELLERIN, PRESIDENT

Santa Cruz County Clerk
701 Ocean St., Room 210, CA 95060
831-454-2419 * Fax 831-454-2445 * Cell 408-316-9745
E-Mail: gail.pellerin@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Website: www.caceo58.org

September 1, 2011

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

The Elections Legislative Committee of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) would like to share concerns relating to **SB 199 (Correa)**, a proposal to require the county elections official, on behalf of vote by mail voters registered in other counties in California, to deliver their out-of-county vote by mail ballots turned in at their county polls to the originating county elections official who issued the ballot.

In a March letter to the author, Senator Correa, the Committee indicated that a number of potential unintended consequences; and, while election officials are aware that a small percentage of voters are not properly returning their ballot to their home county, the following issues were identified:

Timing and Certification:

- ★ it takes days to weeks to go through all precincts' materials to identify and retrieve out-of-county vote by mail ballots. Each precinct's materials must be methodically logged to maintain an audit trail. With the ever-growing number of vote by mail voters and the significant percentage who turn their ballots in at the polls, the time needed to retrieve these out-of-county ballots from election night materials is significant;
- ★ election officials in large counties or those with high percentages of vote by mail ballots are barely meeting the statutory deadline for the completion of the canvass as more and more voters are waiting until the last minute to return their vote by mail ballot. Retrieving vote by mail ballots during the canvass process could require an extension of the official canvass;
- ★ smaller counties often complete their canvass shortly following the election. Would these counties be required to delay the certification of their election(s) and/or re-open the canvass if a ballot was forwarded from another county?

Voter Behavior and Confusion:

- ★ once voters learn that ballots will be forwarded to their home county on their behalf, a significant increase in out-of-county vote by mail ballots can be expected each election. College and University campuses with large numbers of out-of-county students would undoubtedly generate more out-of-county ballots, let alone generate confusion for out-of-state voters who do not share the same benefit;
- ★ The proposal does not specify which election this would apply, and as written, allows a voter to return their vote by mail ballot to any county during any election, regardless if the county they wish to return it is having an election. This may require all election officials to keep their doors open for each election in the state, whether or not their county is conducting an election or not. With five or six established election dates throughout the year, this surely would create confusion for voters and increased workload for election officials who were not currently holding an election in their county.

Please consider our concerns as you review SB 199 and consider your signature. If you or your staff have any questions, 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: Senator Lou Correa, Author
Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates