

## OFFICERS 2010-2012

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CATHY DARLING ALLEN  
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## CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

### GAIL L. PELLERIN, PRESIDENT

Santa Cruz County Clerk  
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Fremont City Clerk  
\* non-voting member

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DEBORAH SEILER  
San Diego County

March 9, 2011

State Senator Christine Kehoe  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Kehoe:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials' Elections Legislative Committee is pleased to convey its **Support of SB 304 (as introduced February 14, 2011)**. This proposal will authorize a pilot project for elections in San Diego County to be conducted by all mail ballot, through January 1, 2016, if specified conditions are met. The bill also requires San Diego County to report to the Legislature and the Secretary of State regarding the success of the election conducted under these provisions. The report must include specified information relating to voter statistics and cost, and whenever possible, a comparison to similar elections in the same jurisdiction that were not conducted wholly by mail.

Since the inception of "no-excuse" permanent vote by mail voting, 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 places. Authorizing this pilot project will permit further research into the impacts of mail ballot elections, including cost, voter interest, and effects on participation, along with any potential difficulties and successes. The provisions of this proposal would remain in affect until January 1, 2017, unless extended.

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

cc: 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