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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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* non-voting member

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DEBORAH SEILER
San Diego County

March 9, 2011

State Senator Leland Yee
State Capitol, Room 4074
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Yee:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials' Elections Legislative Committee is pleased to convey its **Support of SB 397 (as introduced February 16, 2011)**.

This proposal will add temporary provisions to allow county election officials to develop and use an Internet web system for the completion and submission of voter registration forms for voters residing in the county who have a valid California driver license or state identification card that can be verified by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The temporary provisions mirror the existing provisions of Section 2196 of Chapter 2.5 of Division 2 of California Election Law entitled, "Online Voter Registration" (added by Chapter 613, 2008), allowing the Secretary of State to provide such electronic voter registration services. However, as the Secretary of State has not yet certified that California has a statewide voter registration database that complies with the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act, those provisions are not yet effective. Allowing county election officials to offer online voter registration services to voters who meet certain provisions, as above, continues the intent of the federal National Voter Registration Act (1994) and the federal Help America Vote Act (2002) with regard to expanding the voter registration process for eligible voters while continuing existing requirements to capture identification information, including signatures, for qualifying voter registration forms.

The authorization for county election officials would be repealed at the time the Secretary of State certifies that the state has a statewide voter registration database that complies with the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002.

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