

## 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

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September 1, 2011

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

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee urges your approval of **SB 441 (Vargas)**, which now awaits your signature. This proposal was **supported** by the Legislative Committee as it will repeal certain provisions of existing law relating to political party contributor envelopes or letters, as specified, to be included with the sample ballot in the voter information guide prepared and mailed by the county elections official.

In a letter of support to Senator Vargas, the Association pointed out that, during the June 2010 statewide direct primary election, county central committees in the counties of San Diego, Yolo, and Los Angeles provided letters to the local elections officials that not only solicited funds, as allowed under Section 13305 of California's Election law, but also specifically advocated for the election of certain candidates of their parties. In San Diego County, the mailing was so specific to advocate for candidates, state propositions and local ballot measures, it had the appearance of a slate mailer; however, there was nothing specific in state law to prohibit distribution. In compliance with Section 13305, the Registrar of Voters published and distributed the materials in the voter information pamphlet. A lawsuit was filed County of San Diego against the Registrar of Voters costing over \$25,000 in legal fees to merely defend its compliance with existing law. A superior court upheld the ruling; however, the matter is now on appeal. Counties are not in a fiscal position to mount a legal defense of the practice of private organizations, such as organized central committees.

In addition to the above issues, the implementation of the new "Top Two Primary" mandates all candidates for partisan office appear on the same ballot, virtually doing away with political party specific voter information materials and partisan elections, excluding the office of President and county central committee. Should this policy remain in effect, not only will it impact the County's ability to affectively distribute political party committee materials to voters of that party (as required under the existing provision), it will continue to force local election officials to provide an inappropriate venue for political influence at the ballot box via official governmental materials.

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: Senator Juan Vargas, Author  
Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee  
Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee  
Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates