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# 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

May 10, 2011

State Senator Sharon Runner State Capitol Room 2048 Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

Dear Senator Runner:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee is pleased to convey its **Support** of **SB 908** (as **amended April 11, 2011)**. This proposal would allow special military and overseas voters called to duty after the deadline for requesting a vote by mail ballot to return their voted ballot by electronic mail, as long as certain conditions are met.

Beginning in 2002, state law has been amended to expand the availability of electronic applications and use of electronic transmissions of voting materials. In 2002, legislation was adopted to allow election officials to provide an electronic application for a vote by mail ballot to any voter. In 2004, temporary legislation was passed to allow special absentee voters in the military or residing overseas to return their voted ballot to the elections official via facsimile transmission. This temporary provision sunset in 2009, however, it was made a permanent provision of law in 2010. And, finally, in 2007, legislation was passed to allow the elections official to, not only receive an electronic application for a vote by mail ballot but to send the voters' material, including the official ballot, via electronic transmission. This bill will further expand voting options for military and overseas voters who are called to duty during a specified time frame, 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

Officium Populi - Office of the People