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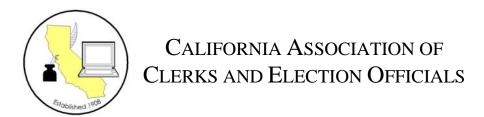
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KATHIE MORAN Colusa County VICKI PETERSEN Sonoma County

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JILL LAVINE Sacramento County DEBORAH SEILER Solano County



May 4, 2007

Senator Joe Simitian State Capitol, Rm. 2080 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Simitian:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) Elections Legislative Committee would like to thank you for introducing **SB 967** on February 23, 2007. The Committee has voted overwhelmingly to **Support** this proposal.

Subtracting the number of permanent absentee voters from the total number of voters when establishing precincts makes good sense for election officials, poll workers, voters and taxpayers. Prior to the increase in permanent absentee voters, it was typical for 500 or more voters to vote at a polling place in Sonoma County. In the November 2006 general election, Sonoma County's turnout at the polls ranged from a low of 67 voters to a high of 333 voters, despite the fact that overall voter turnout was over 75%.

This bill would allow election officials to assign more voters to polling places that are commonly recognized, highly visible, safe, secure, and accessible to voters with disabilities, such as community centers, veterans' memorial buildings, and schools. These locations are also more likely to be situated on major thoroughfares and transit routes, improving access to the polls.

Finding sufficient volunteers to staff the polls has been a problem for many years. Under the provisions of this proposal, fewer poll workers would be needed. Fewer poll workers would allow for better training of the remaining poll workers. The result would be better trained poll workers to assist voters on Election Day. Voters deserve the services of well-trained, considerate poll workers.

Thank you for assisting our Association in reducing barriers to participation in the democratic process. Should you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me at 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

c: Senator Ron Calderon, Chair, Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee

Assembly Member Curren Price, Chair, Committee on Elections and Redistricting Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee

Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, C

Officium Populi – Office of the People