



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

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April 18, 2017

The Honorable Marc Berman, Chair Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting
The Honorable Ian Calderon
The Honorable Evan Low
The Honorable Kevin Mullin
The Honorable Shirley Weber
State Capitol Building, Room 6011
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Berman and Members of the Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee is pleased to support **AB 1729**, your proposed legislation which would place a retention date on petitions that have been examined for some reason by the proponents or others.

Current law states that petitions have an eight month retention period for petitions that either appear before the voters for approval, or do not qualify for an election. However, if the petition is involved in a legal examination or investigation, the law is ambiguous as to how long those petitions need to be retained following the completion of the examination/investigation.

Your proposal places actual time frames on how long these petitions are to be retained giving counties the needed guidance as to when they can destroy petitions. It also ensures that all 58 counties are performing the same retention practice.

In Elections Code 17200(a), the retention period is eight months. However in Elections Code 17200(b) (3) the retention period is one year. We would recommend making those timeframes the same, changing the eight months to one year as well.

If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at tricia.webber@santacruzcounty.us or (831) 454-2409, or Jill LaVine, Sacramento County Registrar of Voters at lavinej@saccounty.net or (916) 875-6060.

Respectfully,

Tricia Webber

Co-Chair, CACEO Election Legislative Committee
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

cc: Ethan Jones, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy
Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates, Inc.
Nick Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates, Inc.
Silvio Ferrari, Sacramento Advocates, Inc.
Jill LaVine, Co-Chair, CACEO Election Legislative Committee