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DEAN LOGAN VICE PRESIDENT Los Angeles County

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# CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

## **NEAL KELLEY, PRESIDENT**

Orange County Registrar of Voters 1300-C South Grand Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 P.O. Box 11298, Santa Ana, CA 92711-1298 714-567-7600 \* Fax 714-567-7627

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April 27, 2015

The Honorable Roger Hernandez and Ian Calderon State Capitol, Room 2148 Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 254 (Hernandez and Calderon) -CONCERN

Dear Assembly Members Hernandez and Calderon:

The California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials regrets to advise you of our concerns for AB 254, which would eliminate the established election dates in March and April for the purpose of increasing participation in local elections. The bill would further load general election ballots which already contain scores of offices, initiatives and measures. While the raw number of voters participating in the election may increase, the number of votes cast for local offices may not increase as there is significant evidence of ballot fatigue and drop off by voters who only voter for the top contests on a ballot.

Furthermore, city election officials will be stripped of an essential function of their offices which is to conduct city elections while significantly adding cost and complexity to the conduct of presidential and gubernatorial elections. Without evidence that more voters would actually vote for local officers, we are concerned that this bill disrupt proven election practices and division of labor with achieving the expected benefit.

Should you have questions regarding our position, please contact me at the Contra Costa County Election Division at <a href="mailto:scott.konopasek@vote.cccounty.us">scott.konopasek@vote.cccounty.us</a> or (925) 335-7808.

Respectfully.

Scott O. Konopasek

Corresponding Secretary

California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

Cc: Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas, Chair, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting

Ethan Jones, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting Daryl Thomas, Republican Caucus Consultant

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Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates, Inc.
Jill LaVine, Co-Chair, CACEO Election Legislative Committee
Karen Rhea, Co-Chair, CACEO Election Legislative Committee