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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

CATHY DARLING ALLEN, PRESIDENT

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June 20, 2014

The Honorable Alex Padilla
Chairman, Senate Committee on Elections
and Constitutional Amendments
State Capitol, Room 4038
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 2631 (DABABNEH) -OPPOSE

Dear Senator Padilla:

The California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials opposes AB 2631 and urges your consideration of our concerns. The Secretary of State sponsored bill proposes to amend the definition of a voting machine (EC 361) in terms that we, as those who use them, consider to narrow the range of voting technology which may be considered and used in the future. Further the bill inexplicably leaves the definition of voting device (EC 360) and voting system (EC 362) untouched. While it may be helpful for all of these terms to be updated and redefined to accommodate future technology, we see no reason to tinker with these definitions on the eve of the implementation of SB 360 which redefines and recasts the entire voting system and certification paradigm. We believe that any such definitional changes would be best accomplished as part of the implementation of SB 360 rather than risk adopting a definition now which would impair the purposes of SB 360.

Members of the legislative committee have met with the staff from the Secretary of State's Office to discuss this sponsored bill and to express our concerns. We have not come to an agreement and wish to continue to work with the Secretary's staff. We are also concerned with the addition of a new election night requirement called a Certificate of Performance. The effect of this provision will be delays in preparing, transporting and processing election night returns with no apparent benefit.

We respectfully urge reconsideration of the need for AB 2631 at this time. Should you have questions regarding our position, please contact me at the Contra Costa County Election Division at scott.konopasek@vote.cccounty.us or (925) 335-7808.

Respectfully,

Scott O. Konopasek
Corresponding Secretary
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

Cc: The Honorable Matthew Dababneh, Member of the Assembly
Darren Chesin, Chief Consultant, Senate Elections and C.A. Committee
Ethan Jones, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting
Cory Botts, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates, Inc.
Jill LaVine, Co-Chair, CACEO Election Legislative Committee
Karen Rhea, Co-Chair, CACEO Election Legislative Committee

Officium Populi – Office of the People