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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

CATHY DARLING ALLEN, PRESIDENT

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August 14, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Brown Governor, State of California State Capitol Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) Elections Legislative Committee is pleased to convey its **Support** for **AB 817** (Bonta). This proposal would authorize a local elections official to appoint a non-citizen who is a lawful permanent resident to serve as a precinct board member with certain limitations.

Existing law requires the election official to appoint precinct board members to serve voters at the polls on Election Day. Election officials must also make efforts to recruit and place workers who are fluent in languages used by limited English-speaking voters and protected under the Federal Voting Rights Act. Administered under the same provisions as existing legislation authorizing student poll workers, non-citizen precinct board members would not be eligible to serve as a precinct inspector or tally votes. This legislation is favorable as it will expand options for counties to recruit bilingual poll workers from a larger pool of bilingual speakers, providing greater assistance for and access to the ballot for persons with language barriers.

If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 858-694-3402.

Very truly yours,

L. Michael Vu

Interim Correspondence Secretary

California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

c: Assembly Member Rob Bonta, Author
Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Karen Rhea, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates