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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

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September 23, 2014

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr. Governor State Capitol Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Jacque Roberts, Deputy Legislative Secretary

Re: SB 29

Dear Governor Brown;

The California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials wishes to advise you that it supports SB 29, which would permit vote by mail ballots to be counted if postmarked by Election Day and received within three days of the election. This change would permit thousands of ballots cast by eligible voters prior to the close of the polls in a statewide election to be considered timely and, if verified, counted and included in the returns. As the percentage of permanent vote by mail voters increases, the number of voters disenfranchised by the current rules is increasing.

This change removes voter uncertainty that a ballot cast and mailed on or before Election Day will be received by election officials and deemed timely. It is anticipated that this change will permit a 2-3% increase in voters having their votes counted.

We urge you to sign SB 29 into law. 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: Senator Lou Correa, Author

Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates, Inc.

Neal Kelley, President, CACEO

Jill LaVine, Co-Chair, CACEO Election Legislative Committee Karen Rhea, Co-Chair, CACEO Election Legislative Committee