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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

CATHY DARLING ALLEN, PRESIDENT

Shasta County Clerk 1643 Market Street, Redding, CA 96001 530-225-5166 * Fax 530-225-5454 * Cell 530-604-2655

E-Mail: cdarling@co.shasta.ca.us
Website: www.caceo58.org

May 6, 2013

The Honorable Bill Emmerson State Capitol Room 5082 Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Dear Senator Emmerson,

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee is pleased to convey its **Support** for **SB 519** (as amended April 1, 2013), your proposal to require the state reimburse counties for costs associated with conducting special vacancy elections for state and federal offices called by the Governor in 2012 and 2013.

Since 2009, counties have incurred millions of dollars in special election costs to fill well over a dozen state and federal vacancies. This bill only applies to expenses incurred in 2012 and 2013. While the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials support your proposal, we do believe this proposal should include reimbursement for all counties who have incurred expenses for special vacancy elections since 2009.

Every other level of government is required to pay their share of election costs, except the state whose share is paid for by county general funds. The costs of state and federal vacancies come to counties unexpectedly, often well after annual budgets have been determined. Special vacancy elections put additional financial load on already strained county general funds. Reimbursing counties for such costs will go far to restore general fund balances and support county programs.

If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Monterey County Elections Department, at (831) 796-1499.

Very truly yours,

Linda Tulett

Correspondence Secretary

California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

c. Honorable Mike Gatto, Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee Honorable Kevin de León, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee Karen Rhea, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates