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**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS**

CATHY DARLING ALLEN, PRESIDENT

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March 22, 2013

Senator Cathleen Galgiani, Author
State Capitol, Room 4082
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Dear Senator Galgiani:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee has reviewed **SB 756** (as introduced February 22, 2013), a proposal to delete the requirement the Secretary of State has certified a statewide voter registration system is in place before implementing conditional voter registration and voting period. The Committee does share your desire to increase voter registration levels in California and removed its Opposition to AB 1436 (Feuer, 2012) based on one condition – there be a fully functioning statewide voter registration database in place at inception.

The Committee voted to **Oppose SB 756** due to grave concerns in administration of the law and integrity of all elections conducted under conditional voter registration without a proven statewide system in place. In our opposition to AB 1436, the Association wrote:

*"The Committee does share your desire to increase voter registration levels in California and understand it should be addressed in some manner. However, the Committee voted to **Oppose AB 1436** due to grave concerns with its provisions and timing.... The lack of a fully functioning statewide voter registration database, puts the integrity of the election at risk. State regulation prohibits election officials from sending their full index of registration to the Secretary of State during the period following the 15-day close of registration and continuing through the completion of the 28-day canvass. Requiring election officials to accept hundreds, if not thousands, of conditional voter registrations without the ability to validate the information against a statewide database provides a greater opportunity for voter fraud. There would be a grave risk of duplicate voting and inaccurate Rosters of Voters at the state's 24,000 polling places. County election officials would simply have no practical way to determine whether or not a person was registered and voted in another county until after the completion of the canvass period."*

The reliability of the voter registration system establishes the framework for the integrity of the election results. It is imperative for the election official to have a secure and reliable method to validate a voter's eligibility to receive a ballot prior to issuance. Without a certified statewide database to rely upon, there could be no guarantee that a voter has not received a ballot from more than one election official, greatly increasing the risk of fraud. The lack of a HAVA certified system must be addressed and not forgotten.

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 Paul Fong, Chair, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting
- Honorable Lou Correa, Chair, Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments
- Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
- Karen Rhea, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
- Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates