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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

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March 26, 2012

Assembly Member Jared Huffman, Author
State Capitol, Room 3120
Sacramento, CA 94249-0006

RE: **AB 1805** Elections: Military or Overseas Voters

Dear Assembly Member Huffman:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee has reviewed **AB 1805** (as introduced February 21, 2012) relating to military and overseas voter procedures for state and local elections. The Committee has voted to **Support if Amended**, requesting essential changes that relate to the number of days in advance of the election for certain activities, and to forms and information necessary to register military and overseas voters:

- Amend section 3102(b) to require the military or overseas voter's application, when used as an affidavit of registration, include a space for the voter's social security or state ID information for voter registration purposes as required by state and federal law.
- Amend section 3102(e) to delete the seven day application deadline. Division 2 of the California Elections code specifies the deadline to register to vote is 15-days prior to the election. Section 3001 imposes a seven day deadline to request a vote by mail ballot.
- Amend section 3105(b)(1) to allow the election official to send the voter's ballot "*no later than 45 days before the election*", as required under federal mandates. Sending the voter an official ballot, rather than use a blank ballot to write in choices, will reduce ballot duplication costs, particularly in high turnout Presidential Elections.
- Amend section 3117 to specify that a ballot is deemed valid if received by "*8:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on the day of the election*", as required for all voters.
- Amend section 3121(a) requiring ballot contest information appear on the website to "*no later than 60 days before the election*". State law sets the deadline for requesting election services from the County, and qualifying candidates and local ballot measures at 88 days prior to the election; the deadline to amend or withdraw a local measure from the official ballot is 83 days prior to the election. Waiting until after these two critical deadlines will reduce voter confusion when items are placed on or removed from the ballot between the 100th and 83rd days. Additionally, coupled with a lengthy ballot (multiple offices and ballot measures) and several language translation requirements under the Voting Rights Act, counties will need that critical time to develop translated ballot information for voters.

If you or your staff has 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
Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
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