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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

CATHY DARLING ALLEN, PRESIDENT

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March 22, 2013

Assembly Member Rob Bonta, Author
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0018

Dear Assembly Member Bonta:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee is pleased to convey its **Support** for **AB 817** (as introduced February 21, 2013). This proposal would authorize a local elections official to appoint a non-citizen who is a lawful permanent resident and otherwise eligible to register to vote to serve as a deputy registrar of voters or as a precinct board member, under 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 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 process voted ballots or tally votes. This legislation is favorable as it will expand options for counties to recruit bilingual poll workers and deputy registrars 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 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
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