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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

May 29, 2007

Assembly Member Ted Lieu State Capitol P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249-0053

Dear Assembly Member Lieu:

The Elections Legislative Committee of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) reviewed **AB 1151** as amended April 9, 2007. This bill requires that there be a mechanism by which a voter can verify his, or her, registration on a county election official's website. If the county has no website, a toll-free number can be substituted to meet the requirement.

This bill, as written, is problematic due to the confidential and semi-confidential information on a voter registration (address, telephone number, precinct and driver's license number). Several counties have developed web-based programs that allow voters to verify that someone with a specific date of birth, zip code and address number (not street) is registered to vote. We cannot confirm that an individual voter is, or is not, *properly* registered. For example, twins living at the same address would not be individually confirmed. Also, if two people with the same date of birth, were living at the same house number, on different streets within the same zip code, the system would not provide specific confirmation. A toll-free telephone number presents the same challenges.

Two options to correct this situation would be either to word the language to provide for a verification system as described above or to amend the Government Code to provide that confirmation of the confidential or semi-confidential personal information does not violate those provisions.

The Committee asked that we be able to work with the author to craft wording that would not violate, or impinge upon, the confidential and semi-confidential nature of information that appears on the voter's registration record.

Should you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Sonoma County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor's Office (707) 565-1877.

Very truly yours,

Janice Atkinson Correspondence Secretary Elections Legislative Committee California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

 c: Senator Ron Calderon, Chair, Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee
 Assembly Member Curren Price, Chair, Committee on Elections and Redistricting Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
 Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee