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**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS**

Rebecca Martinez, President
Madera County Clerk-Recorder
200 West 4th Street, Madera, CA 93637
(559) 675-7721; FAX (559) 675-7870
E-Mail: rmartinez@madera-county.com
Website: www.caceo58.org

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August 27, 2009

The Honorable Debra Bowen
Secretary of State
1500 11th Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Conditional Voter Registration Program - SUPPORT IN CONCEPT

Dear Secretary Bowen:

I am pleased to inform you that the Board of Directors of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) voted to support, in concept, the Conditional Voter Registration Program (CVRP) as proposed in your draft legislation (final draft dated 8/14/09). The Board vote was 9 to 2 in support.

The Board is appreciative that several county elections officials had the opportunity to work with your staff to develop this important legislation. We also thank you for inviting review and input in regard to the proposed draft from all county election officials through presentation at our Annual State Conference and via conference call. This collaboration led to the inclusion of several components that are key to our support position, such as:

- Ensuring that only eligible persons are allowed to vote, by putting in place identification and proof of residency requirements consistent with subdivision 303(b)(2)(A)(i) of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002.
- Restricting the implementation of the program to the permanent office of the county election official. This will ensure that the election official will have access to the most current local and statewide voter registration data, eliminate any potential for abuse of the program and provide statewide consistency in the administration of the program.
- Delaying the start of the program until 2011 when the new statewide voter registration database will be available to all local county election officials as the primary source of eligibility verification for the program.
- Requiring all persons in this program to cast a provisional ballot, to be counted once the voter registration applicant's eligibility is verified and the registration process is completed, as provided in Elections Code section 2100 et seq.

Once again, thank you for working with county election officials throughout the state to develop this proposal. We share your desire to improve the efficiency of our state's voter registration process and to provide access to the democratic process to all eligible Californians. If you have questions or need further information, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Martinez, President

Officium Populi -- Office of the People