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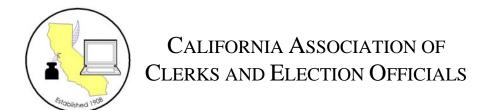
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JILL LAVINE Sacramento County DEBORAH SEILER Solano County



March 21, 2007

Senator Jenny Oropeza State Capitol, Room 4074 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Oropeza:

The Elections Legislative Committee of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials reviewed **SB 382** (as introduced February 21, 2007), your proposed legislation eliminating the seven day period prior to an election in which a newly sworn citizen is not allowed to cast a ballot, and allowing election officials the option of designating an alternate location to the election official's office in which a new citizen may cast a ballot.

California's Election Officials **Support** your proposal to allow new citizens to cast their first ballots by coming to the office of the election official or other location designated by the election official between the 14th day before the election and the close of polls Election Day. The existing seven-day blackout period for new citizen voting serves no purpose, in light of the provision that the new citizen vote at the election official's office or at another location designated by the election official.

Election officials across California have all encountered the disappointment of a newly sworn citizen who is unable to participate in the democratic process simply because the citizenship ceremony occurred within a week of an election. When a new citizen's first encounter with voting is one of denial, it undoubtedly leaves a negative impression on the voter and discourages further participation in the democratic process.

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