

OFFICERS 2006-2008

STEVE WEIR
PRESIDENT
Contra Costa County
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Madera County

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Los Angeles County
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Los Angeles County
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Colusa County
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City Clerk, Murrieta
* non-voting member

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Northern Area
Lassen County
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Southern Area
Riverside County
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Mother Lode Area
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Solano County



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

May 29, 2007

Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas
State Capitol, Room 4061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Ridley-Thomas:

The Elections Legislative Committee of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials reviewed **SB 854** (as amended, April 11, 2007), your proposal to increase voter registration opportunities to high school, college and university students. The Committee voted to **Support** this bill.

Many students change their residence or mailing addresses frequently. In order to keep students properly registered at high numbers, avoid difficulties on election days, and increase voter turnout, it is necessary to provide numerous and varied ways to access voter registration opportunities. In the 2004 Presidential Election, over 200 provisional ballots were cast at the polling place on the Sonoma State University Campus. Students waited in line up to 2 hours to cast a ballot, because they had heard that anyone could vote a provisional ballot. Unfortunately, very few of these ballots were eligible to be counted. The students either had never registered to vote, or were registered at their parents' homes, in other counties, and had neither reregistered at the college address, nor requested an absentee ballot from their county of residence.

Automated programs coordinated with the student registration process should assist students in maintaining proper voter registration. Requiring high schools, community colleges and California State Universities to designate a contact person to liaison with the Secretary of State to facilitate the distribution of voter registration forms should prove to be very beneficial for the students, as well as the Secretary of State's Office. It is our hope that the Universities of California would also participate in this program.

Should you or your staff have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Sonoma County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor's Office at (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