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**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS**

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September 6, 2012

The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee has closely followed **AB 1436** and, while the membership removed its original opposition to the bill earlier in August, we continue to urge further discussion of the logistical concerns that will trigger major administrative cost increases for years to come.

The issues that remain with conditional voter registration and provisional voting relate to the lack of specific dedicated funds from the state, placing a financial burden upon county budgets for years to come. We strongly believe these costs will be necessary to manage the influx of voter activity during a timeframe when counties are making final preparations for Election Day materials, including ensuring adequate supply of official ballots. We have and are continuing to gather cost estimates from California's 58 counties. To date, with only 31 counties reporting thus far, estimates show the cost to administer AB 1436 may easily surpass \$10 million including both one-time and ongoing costs, for materials, computers, ballot supplies, physical space, staffing, and voter education. Without adequate funds to cover needs, officials may be unable to serve voters adequately and risk creating a denial of service.

We acknowledge the author for partnering with us to satisfy the majority of our earlier concerns, primarily moving this bill forward at a time when the state does have a fully implemented statewide voter registration database that meets the provisions of the Help American Vote Act and would guard against voter fraud and protect the integrity of the election.

We do value this proposal and share the desire to improve the voter's access to registration and voting in California. We cannot state strongly enough that this proposal will take an enormous amount of funding to administer successfully. We respectfully ask you do not let election mandates continue to become a victim of state budget cuts. We remain extremely concerned that there will be no funds available for counties to seek reimbursements. Rather, we suggest the state review and repeal outdated mandates in order to balance out costs that continue to rise that counties can no longer manage to fund.

We urge you, as you consider signing AB 1436 into law, to reflect on the large fiscal impact it will have on future budgets. If you or your staff have any questions or wish to discuss our concerns, 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: Assembly Member Mike Feuer, Author
Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
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