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**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS**

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August 6, 2012

Assembly Member Mike Feuer, Author
P.O. Box 942849, Room 2013
Sacramento, CA 94249-0042

Dear Assembly Member Feuer:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee has reviewed **AB 1436** (as amended June 18, 2012), and the membership has voted to remove its opposition to the bill. The Committee does share your desire to increase voter registration levels in California

We thank you for consideration of our earlier concerns, 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 continue to urge further discussion of the logistical concerns that will trigger *major cost increases* for county election officials during times of state and county fiscal crises. The issues that remain with a conditional voter registration and provisional voting period relate to the lack of specific dedicated funds from the state, which places the financial burden upon county budgets for years to come. We are currently gathering estimates of what we believe will be the cost necessary to manage the influx of voter activity during a timeframe when counties are making final preparations for Election Day materials, including ensuring an adequate supply official ballots, canvassing vote by mail ballots returned early, and preparing for the 28-day canvass. Preliminary data reflects costs in the millions; with only two of the 58 Counties reporting thus far, costs are already reaching over one million dollars in 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 value this policy proposal and share your desire to improve the voter's access to registration and voting in California. We respectfully suggest creation of a special task force, including election administrators that can work together on this concept as we move towards implementation of California's statewide database, so at the time of implementation, we can all be assured that the proposal can be administered properly and contains provisions for financial reimbursement for counties.

We look forward to working with you on resolving these very important concerns. 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: Honorable Christine Kehoe, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
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Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
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