

OFFICERS 2012-2014

CATHY DARLING ALLEN
PRESIDENT
Shasta County
NEAL KELLEY
VICE PRESIDENT
Orange County
DEAN LOGAN
TREASURER
Los Angeles County
SUSAN M.RANOCHAK
SECRETARY
Mendocino County

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APPOINTED:

GINA ALCOMENDRAS
Santa Clara County
SACHI HAMAI
Los Angeles County
JOSEPH HOLLAND
Santa Barbara County
MARK LUNN
Ventura County
KATHIE MORAN
Colusa County
KAREN RHEA
Kern County
JULIE RODEWALD
San Luis Obispo County

BEVERLY ROSS
Tehama County

LARRY WARD
Riverside County

DAWN ABRAHAMSON*
Fremont City Clerk
* non-voting member

ADVISORY COUNCIL:

STEVE WEIR
Contra Costa County
REBECCA MARTINEZ
Madera County

GAIL L. PELLERIN
Santa Cruz County

ELECTED AREA CHAIRS:

JULIE BUSTAMANTE
Northern Area
Lassen County

KAMMI FOOTE
Southern Area
Inyo County

JILL LAVINE
Mother Lode Area
Sacramento County

AUSTIN G. ERDMAN
Central Area
San Joaquin County

ELMA ROSAS
Bay Area
Santa Clara County

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

CLERK OF THE BOARD:

SACHI A. HAMAI
Los Angeles County
JOHN MCKIBBEN
Los Angeles County

COUNTY CLERK:

KATHIE MORAN
Colusa County
CRAIG KRAMER
Sacramento County

ELECTIONS:

JILL LAVINE
Sacramento County
KAREN RHEA
Kern County



**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS**

CATHY DARLING ALLEN, PRESIDENT

Shasta County Clerk
1643 Market Street, Redding, CA 96001
530-225-5166 * Fax 530-225-5454 * Cell 530-604-2655
E-Mail: cdarling@co.shasta.ca.us
Website: www.caceo58.org

April 21, 2014

Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez, Author
Capitol Office
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0080

AB 1873 (Gonzales) Support If Amended

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials has reviewed **AB 1873** and is pleased to offer its **support if amended** to address a few concerns. We appreciate your proposal which provides counties an option to conduct special vacancy elections for congressional and legislative offices by primarily mail ballot and provides options for cities to conduct special mail ballot elections for city measures.

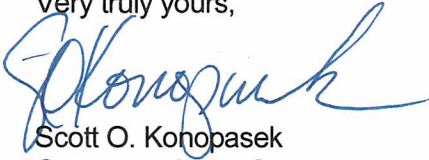
Currently, existing California Election law requires special vacancy elections for congressional and legislative offices to be conducted using a primarily polling place format. These special vacancy elections have historically had low voter turnout, yet the cost to conduct them is exorbitantly high and counties bear the full cost. In 2013 alone, thirteen (13) special state legislative vacancy elections were held costing approximately \$17,500,000.

California's voting behavior is changing and as experienced in the November 2012 Presidential General Election, the majority of voters are voting by-mail. This is more evident in special elections where the percentage of mail ballot voters is even greater than the percentage of polling place voters. We favor having a mail ballot local option and propose the following amendments to address our concerns:

- 1) Under 4000.5(3)(A), delete the dropoff per city provision and instead use a 100,000 (suggested) registered voters per dropoff location formula. Also, amend language from "beginning 21 days" to "at a minimum of 7 days". This will provide sufficient flexibility to election officials to determine the size and extent of the special election.
- 2) Delete 4000.5(3)(B) regarding unincorporated dropoff locations. The requested amendment above will address all areas within the jurisdiction.
- 3) Delete 4004(d). By striking this provision, it will allow cities to work with their county election official to determine the best course to consolidate the election.

If you or your staff has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at scott.konopasek@vote.cccounty.us or 925-335-7808.

Very truly yours,



Scott O. Konopasek
Correspondence Secretary
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

Cc: Honorable Paul Fong, Chair, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting
Honorable Norma J. Torres, Chair, Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments
Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Karen Rhea, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates