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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

NEAL KELLEY, PRESIDENT

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April 27, 2015

The Honorable Marc Steinorth
State Capitol, Room 2111
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 363 (STEINORTH) -SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Steinorth:

The California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials is pleased to advise you of our support for AB 363, which would authorize election officials, on Election Day, the option of processing ballots from the polls during the day and reporting those results immediately after the close of the polls at 8:00 pm. Many large counties' final election night reports are late into the morning of the day after the election due to technological, logistical and geographic limitations. The bill does not require election officials without such challenges to change any current procedures.

The bill permits the sealing and delivery of ballot containers to a central location where the containers will be opened and the ballots will be processed. The complex and time consuming reconciliation of the ballots cast would be performed centrally with greater accuracy. This would have the dual effect of speeding up the return of ballots on Election Night as well as reducing the time required to complete the count and produce a final unofficial report of results. A further benefit would be a reduction in labor and overtime costs.

We appreciate your recognition of the challenges faced by large counties that count ballots centrally. This bill represents a viable solution for many until new voting technology, without these constraints and limitations, is authorized and fielded in the state.

We urge passage of AB 363. Should you have questions regarding our position, please contact me at the Contra Costa County Election Division at scott.konopasek@vote.cccounty.us or (925) 335-7808.

Respectfully,

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

Cc: Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas, Chair, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting

Ethan Jones, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting

Daryl Thomas, Republican Caucus Consultant

Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates, Inc.

Jill LaVine, Co-Chair, CACEO Election Legislative Committee

Karen Rhea, Co-Chair, CACEO Election Legislative Committee