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\* non-voting member

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Sacramento County

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Kern County



# CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

**NEAL KELLEY, PRESIDENT**

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May 26, 2015

The Honorable Ben Allen  
State Capitol, Room 2054  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**AB 547 (GONZALEZ) -SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Allen:

The California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials wishes to advise you that it supports AB 547. This bill fine tunes last year's AB1873 which was San Diego's pilot to conduct special vacancy congressional or state legislative contests by mail/"vote centers". These elections are unanticipated, unbudgeted, pose a heavy fiscal burden on counties and voter participation is low.

By allowing all congressional and State legislative districts to be conducted under this alternative election format and adding other eligible entities, the County of San Diego will be able to provide a more comprehensive report to determine:

- Whether conducting elections primarily by-mail will have a positive impact on voter participation across a diverse County.
- If the anticipated cost savings to conduct an election as compared to a traditional polling place environment are confirmed.

The original version contained language allowing all cities, school districts and special districts, within San Diego County to conduct special elections under this alternative election format. Although removed in the Assembly, we feel that the inclusion of all districts in the pilot will provide better data in analyzing the impact of alternative voting options in California.

Should you have questions regarding our position, please contact me at the Contra Costa County Election Division at [scott.konopasek@vote.cccounty.us](mailto: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  
Darren Chesin, Chief Consultant, Senate Elections and C.A. Committee  
Cory Botts, Republican Caucus Consultant  
Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates, Inc.  
Jill LaVine, Co-Chair, CACEO Election Legislative Committee  
Karen Rhea, Co-Chair, CACEO Election Legislative Committee