CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

CATHY DARLING ALLEN, PRESIDENT
Shasta County Clerk
1643 Market Street, Redding, CA 96001
Tele 530-225-5730 Fax 530-225-5454
E-Mail**: cdarling@co.shasta.ca.us**
Website: **www.caceo58.org**

August 28, 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 is pleased to convey **Support** for **SB 1272** (Kehoe). This legislation extends the term of office for members of a political party county central committee from two years to four years, consolidating these elections with the presidential primary.

Consolidating central committee elections with the presidential primary election will provide two immediate benefits. First, it would reduce the frequency of these elections from being conducted every two years to four years (consolidated with the Presidential primary), saving local taxpayer dollars spent on political party elections. Second, it would reduce voter confusion by diminishing the complexity and length of the statewide direct primary ballot by removing the only remaining party-nominated offices being voted upon at the gubernatorial primary election.

The end result of California's Open Primary Act (Proposition 14) is two-fold: a more complex primary for voters to understand with relation to whom they are eligible to vote, and more difficult and costly for election officials to administer. While the Open Primary Act has the effect of consolidating the ballot for state and federal offices into a single ballot at the gubernatorial year, the exclusion of party committee offices from this integration results in the need to produce more ballot types, which has been historically common. These additional ballot types further increase the cost of administering the primary election. SB 1272 will resolve voter confusion and save millions of local dollars that is typically spent on the selection of membership to county political party committees throughout the state.

Please consider our support when determining whether or not to sign SB 1272 into law. If you or your staff has any questions, 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: Senator Christine Kehoe, Author
    Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
    Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
    Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates

Officium Populi – Office of the People