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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

GAIL L. PELLERIN, PRESIDENT

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April 11, 2012

Senator Christine Kehoe, Author
State Capitol
Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

RE: **SB 1272** Political Party Organization: Central Committees - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Kehoe:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee is pleased to convey **Support** for **SB 1272** (introduced February 23, 2012). 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, saving local taxpayer dollars relating to 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 Top Two Open Primary Act (Proposition 14) has created a more complex primary for voters to understand with relation to whom they are eligible to vote, as well as being more difficult and costly for election officials to administer. Further compounding the regulating framework governing the statewide direct primary, political parties can encourage voters with no party preference to vote their party's ticket for state and federal offices while excluding the same voters from electing members of their party's central committee offices. While the Top Two Open Primary 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.

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: Honorable Paul Fong, Chair, Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting
Honorable Lou Correa, Chair, Senate Committee on Elections & Const. Amendments
Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates