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**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS**

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August 27, 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 urges your approval of **SB 1275** (Lieu). This legislation extends certain deadlines relating to special vacancy elections called by the Governor.

By extending the timeframe for both special primary and general elections to occur, SB 1275 will offer three major benefits:

- ★ **Saves local taxpayer dollars.** Reduces additional expenses relating to time and resources necessary for special elections that are not held on established or consolidated election dates. Since 2009, counties have administered 13 special vacancy elections. Of the 23 primary and general vacancy elections, only five were scheduled on an established date or consolidated with an election already called, including the May 19, 2009 Special Statewide Election called by the Governor.
- ★ **Reduces voter confusion.** Vacancy elections are characterized by voter confusion and low turnout when held within days or weeks of another election. SB 1275 would allow election officials additional time to enfranchise military and overseas voters who often receive materials too late for these special vacancy elections, particularly if scheduled less than 60-days from the Governor's proclamation.
- ★ **Avoids real barriers to conducting efficient elections.** Due to the limited time between the occurrence of the vacancy and the call of the special election as well as overlapping pre- and post-election requirements and schedules, county election officials are constrained by an insufficient number of trained staff, limited secure space to store voted ballots and voting equipment, lack of availability of regular polling places and poll workers, and an insufficient availability of accessible voting equipment.

Please consider our support when determining whether or not to sign SB 1275 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 Ted W. Lieu, Author
Deborah Seiler, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
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