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* non-voting member

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Sacramento County
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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

GAIL L. PELLERIN, PRESIDENT

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April 11, 2012

Senator Ted W. Lieu, Author
State Capitol
Room 4090
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

RE: **SB 1275** Vacancies in Office: Special Elections - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Lieu:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee is pleased to convey **Support** for **SB 1275** (introduced February 23, 2012). 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.
- ★ Reduce 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.
- ★ Avoid real barriers to conducting efficient elections. Vacancy elections are also characterized by 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, insufficient availability of accessible voting equipment due to overlapping pre- and post-election procedures to canvass the vote.

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