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**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS**

CATHY DARLING ALLEN, PRESIDENT

Shasta County Clerk
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May 6, 2013

State Senator Leland Yee, Author
State Capitol, Room 4074
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Dear Senator Yee:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee has re-reviewed **SB 553** (as amended April 23, 2013), and has voted to **Oppose** your proposal relating to the local agency assessment elections. While the Committee appreciates the addition of language relating to reimbursing county elections officials for costs related to an election, we continue to have the same concerns listed in our original letter relating to the vagueness of your proposal.

In the Committee's April 11 letter, the following issues were raised:

- ★ There is no definition of "electorate". The county election official maintains a list of registered voters, not property owners. These two are often not the same, and there can be multiple registered voters for each property and there may be multiple properties per parcel. The complexities are too numerous.
- ★ Under the California Constitution, "local government" can mean a county, city, city and county, any special district, or any other local or regional governmental entity. Further, "special district" means an agency of the State, formed for local performance that may include school districts or redevelopment agencies. The county election official will have boundaries for cities and counties but will not have electoral boundaries or precincts for such governmental entities or redevelopment agencies. Creation of boundaries within an election management system can take months. California's pre-clearance counties, such as Monterey, Kings and Yuba will require additional time for each new boundary and related election procedure to be reviewed by the US Department of Justice.
- ★ The proposal is too vague and does not clarify if the election shall be administered per the rules contained within the California Elections Code or the California Government Code, or even if it must occur on an established election date. The county election official has no system or procedures in place to conduct an election under Articles XIII C and D of the California Constitution and Title 5 of the Government Code.

If you or your staff have 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 Mike Gatto, Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
- Honorable Kevin de León, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
- Jill Lavine, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
- Karen Rhea, Co-Chair, CACEO Elections Legislative Committee
- Barry Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates