



# CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

## DEAN C. LOGAN, PRESIDENT

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May 4, 2017

The Honorable Henry Stern  
State Capitol Building, Room 3070  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Stern:

The California Association of Clerks and Election Officials Elections Legislative Committee is pleased to support **SB 511**, your proposal to clarify the duties of the Secretary of State in the Elections Code and to expand those duties to include promoting voter participation and civic education.

Elections in California are administered by county election officials with oversight provided by the Office of the Secretary of State (SOS) who is designated the Chief Elections Official. Codes state that the SOS is responsible to promulgate regulations, share best practices, certify election results, produce the statewide Voter Information Guide and test and certify voting systems. However, missing from the code is the requirement for the SOS to promote voter participation and provide civic education to the eligible voters of California.

Your proposal will specifically detail that the Secretary of State is to make every reasonable effort to: promote voter registration to eligible voters; encourage eligible voters to vote; promote pre-registration to eligible citizens; and promote civic learning and engagement to prepare students and new citizens to register to vote and then vote.

Our democracy works best when the most people participate. Our Association recognizes and applauds the current Secretary of State, Alex Padilla's work to engage the eligible voters across the state on his own accord. SB 511 will clearly establish these duties to ensure that future Secretary of States will continue this important role of engaging voters and promoting participation in our democracy.

If you or your staff has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [tricia.webber@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:tricia.webber@santacruzcounty.us) or (831) 454-2409, or Jill LaVine, Sacramento County Registrar of Voters at [lavinej@saccounty.net](mailto:lavinej@saccounty.net) or (916) 875-6060.

Respectfully,

Tricia Webber

Co-Chair, CACEO Election Legislative Committee  
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

cc: Shaun Naidu, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Matt Osterli, Senate Republican Caucus  
Nick Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates, Inc.  
Silvio Ferrari, Sacramento Advocates, Inc.  
Jill LaVine, Co-Chair, CACEO Election Legislative Committee