

April 9, 2018

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1886 (Carrillo): Payment of expenses - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher:

On behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, we are pleased to support AB 1886 (Carrillo) which would reimburse counties for the costs associated with administering a special election to fill a legislative or congressional vacancy on or after January 1, 2017. This will help ensure county resources are not siphoned away from services and programs due to costly elections that occur outside of the regularly scheduled election cycle.

Elections administration is a basic and important duty assigned to counties on behalf of the State for candidate contests and policy decisions at all levels of government, from the smallest school district to the national stage. From 1993 through 2007, the state reimbursed counties for the costs of special legislative and congressional elections. However, this provision of law expired January 1, 2008. Since that time, the State has approved only a one-time allocation to support a single recall election through the 2017 Budget Act. The Secretary of State's Office estimated that four special elections conducted in 2015 totaled \$6 million in county funds, and an additional special election in one county in 2016 cost \$500,000 to fill legislative vacancies. Already for 2018 there are additional special elections scheduled.

All other local government agencies – cities, special districts and schools – pay for their portion of elections. We believe it is appropriate for the State to also pay for their share in light of the direct impact on county budgets. This is especially important as county voting equipment and systems are rapidly aging and counties continue to carry over \$60 million in unpaid debt for election-specific state mandates.

For these reasons, we urge your Aye vote on AB 1886 (Carrillo).

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Wendy Carrillo, California State Assembly  
Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
Jennifer Galehouse, Principal Consultant, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Bill Monning, California State Senate  
The Honorable Anthony Cannella, California State Senate  
The Honorable Anna Caballero, California State Assembly  
The Honorable Mark Stone, California State Assembly  
California State Association of Counties