

April 30, 2019

The Honorable Kevin Mullin
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3160
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: ACA 4 (Mullin) Elections: voting age. - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Mullin:

On behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, I write to offer our support for ACA 4 which would authorize a United States citizen who is 17 years of age, is a resident of this State, and will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the next general election to register to vote and to vote in any intervening primary or special election that occurs after the person registers to vote.

Allowing 17-year-olds to register and participate in primary elections would complement the civic education many receive in high school. Research indicates that voting is habit-forming. Early involvement in the electoral process for first-time voters should be a high priority for this reason.

Many states across the nation allow some form of primary voting for individuals that are 17 years of age. According to FairVote, there are 23 states as well as the District of Columbia that allow 17-year-olds to vote in presidential primaries or caucuses, and 16 states as well as the District of Columbia allow 17-year-olds to vote in congressional primaries or caucuses.

We are pleased to support your ACA 4 and thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy advisors, Jennifer Capitolo or Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

John M. Phillips
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc Senator Bill Monning
 Senator Anna Caballero
 Assemblymember Mark Stone
 Assemblymember Robert Rivas
 California State Association of Counties