



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Marc Steinorth
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: AB 2558 – **SPONSOR**

Dear Assemblyman Steinorth:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to sponsor AB 2558, legislation that permanently authorizes San Bernardino County to contract with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to enforce the County's campaign finance ordinance.

Existing law, until January 1, 2018, authorizes the FPPC, upon mutual agreement with the County of San Bernardino, to have primary responsibility for the impartial, effective administration, implementation, and enforcement of the County's campaign finance ordinance. The mutual agreement has provided exceptional oversight through the use of existing expertise and resources.

The FPPC has enforced California's campaign finance laws at the state and local level for 40 years, and thus the FPPC has the track record necessary to provide effective oversight of the County's campaign finance rules. Through the mutual agreement with the FPPC, the County has benefitted in the following areas:

- **Conflict of Interest Elimination**– The FPPC is an impartial and independent third party which eliminates potential conflict of interest that could arise from the creation of internal ethics commission by the Board of Supervisors.
- **Cost Savings** – Counties that have ethics commissions or other formal entities spend upward of \$3.5 million or more annually to police ethical behavior. Contracting with the FPPC has proven to be a cost effective alternative to an ethics commission and a prudent use of taxpayers' resources.

By removing the 2018 sunset date from statute, AB 2558 will continue the existing, effective partnership between San Bernardino County and the FPPC for enforcement of local campaign finance ordinances.

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For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to sponsor AB 2558 and thanks you for championing this effort. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,



JAMES RAMOS
Board of Supervisors Chairman
Third District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino



JANICE RUTHERFORD
Board of Supervisors
Second District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino