



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

April 21, 2016

The Honorable Shirley Weber
Chair, Committee on Elections and Redistricting
California State Assembly
State Capitol Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2686 – (Mullin) –**As Amended on April 20, 2016 - SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Weber:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 2686, legislation that would extend an existing pilot program in San Diego County until January 1, 2023, and would also authorize any county to conduct, as a pilot program, an all-mailed ballot special election or special consolidated election to fill a congressional or legislative vacancy only if 50 percent or more of the total number of voters within the county are permanent vote by mail voters, is approved by the county board of supervisors, and various protections are in place.

Special elections can cost millions of dollars and cannot be planned for. Counties are often forced to redirect important resources budgeted for critical community services because of special elections. In some cases, special elections are held as stand-alone elections rather than being consolidated into one. This dramatically increases the unplanned expense. AB 2686 would allow counties to take advantage of cost-saving measures by removing the prohibition against conducting all-mail elections for special and consolidated elections.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 2686. 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@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Ramos".

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

c: The Honorable Kevin Mullin
Members and Consultants, Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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