



**COUNTY OF  
SAN BERNARDINO**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX  
Chief Executive Officer

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS  
385 North Arrowhead Avenue  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110  
(909) 387-4821

July 11, 2012

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2146 (Cook) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the County of San Bernardino, we respectfully request your signature to AB 2146. This legislation would enable the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to enforce the County of San Bernardino’s campaign finance ordinance.

Many counties and cities across California have enacted campaign finance rules to create a level playing field for candidates and to stem the influence of “big money” in local politics. Locally appointed ethics commission often enforce campaign finance rules adopted by local governments.

The County of San Bernardino, which has been the subject of several high-profile corruption cases, is in the process of developing a campaign finance ordinance that would establish contribution limits that mirror those applied to State and Assembly candidates. Rather than appointing an ethics commission, which could present financial as well as conflict-of-interest challenges, the County wishes to contract directly with the FPPC for enforcement of our ordinance.

The following are reasons why the FPPC would be more effective and efficient than creating another government bureaucracy to enforce local campaign finance rules in the County of San Bernardino:

- Cost effective – 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 is a cost effective alternative to an ethics commission and a prudent use of taxpayer resources.
- Eliminates conflict of interest – The FPPC is an impartial and independent third party which eliminates potential conflict of interest that could arise from the creation of an internal Ethics Commission by the Board of Supervisors.

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- Proven track record – The FPPC has enforced California’s campaign finance laws at the state and local level for 37 years, and thus the FPPC has the track record necessary to provide effective oversight of the County’s campaign finance rules. Since 1975, the FPPC Enforcement Division has prosecuted more than 2,400 cases, and the Commission has imposed more than \$20 million in fines based on Enforcement actions.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino respectfully requests your signature on the bill. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, at (909) 387-4280.

Sincerely,



**JOSIE GONZALES, Chair**  
Board of Supervisors



**JANICE RUTHERFORD**  
Second District Supervisor

cc: The Honorable Paul Cook, California State Assembly