

**Board of Supervisors  
County of San Bernardino**



**PAULBIANE**  
CHAIRMAN  
SUPERVISOR SECOND DISTRICT

March 15, 2007

The Honorable Sharon Runner  
36<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 223 (Runner)– As Introduced January 29, 2007 - SUPPORT**  
Set for hearing March 27, 2007

Dear Assemblymember Runner:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 223, addressing the issue of absentee ballots for military personnel.

As you know, current law contains accommodations to facilitate the casting of ballots by members of the electorate who cannot cast their ballot at their polling places on Election Day. Unfortunately, active duty military personnel are at times unable to cast their vote because of rapid deployment or being stationed out of state or country and are unable to receive the accommodations granted to other members of the electorate because of their unique circumstance. Thus, many active duty military personnel are deprived of a right for which many have paid the ultimate price. Active military personnel are entitled to additional accommodations as special absentee voters.

AB 223 expands the opportunities for military personnel to cast ballots by: 1) adding voters called to military service after the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot to the list of voters eligible to request that a ballot be delivered to them or their authorized representative; 2) adding voters called to military service after the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot to the list of voters permitted to return their ballot by facsimile transmission; 3) allowing voters called to military service after the deadline for absentee ballot request to appear before the elections official in either the county of registration or the county of service to request an absentee ballot, which may be cast by facsimile transmission or, when available, by e-mail or online transmission.

This legislation will enable members of our military forces every opportunity to participate in elections and clear the unnecessary hurdles that prevent military personnel from voting when they are called to duty on short notice. Therefore, the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors supports 223.

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Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
County of San Bernardino