



**COUNTY OF  
SAN BERNARDINO**

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**  
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GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX  
Chief Executive Officer

April 5, 2012

The Honorable Gloria Negrete McLeod  
California State Senate  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1346 (Negrete McLeod) – As Introduced February 24, 2012 – SPONSOR**

Dear Senator Negrete McLeod:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to sponsor SB 1346. This legislation would allow county elections officials in vast geographic counties, spanning over more than 5,000 square miles, to authorize the secure ballot retrieval from polling places prior to the closing of polls.

As you are aware, existing law prohibits removal of a ballot container from a polling place until all ballots are counted and further prohibits the ballot container from being opened until after the polls are closed. This legislation would permit county elections officials of a county greater than 5,000 square miles to direct a precinct board to seal ballot containers prior to the closing of polls and direct a two member ballot security team to escort sealed containers of voted and untallied ballots to the central ballot counting processing location.

The County of San Bernardino spans over 20,000 square miles, presenting a host of logistical challenges on election night. Traditionally, after the polls close on Election Day, ballots are returned to the Registrar of Voters office in San Bernardino for processing and counting. Ballots are two cards, front and back, require hand processing to tear off stubs, sort, and bundle into batches before scanning through vote counting machines. Currently, manual processes begin after 9:30 p.m. on election night. Processing requires hours of manual labor and require hundreds of staff. Due to the size of the County, several polling locations are located in remote areas and require several hours to transport the ballot to the central ballot processing location.

This necessary legislation will expedite ballot processing, reduce administrative costs, increase overall efficiency and provide voters with timely election results.

For these reason, the San Bernardino Board of Supervisors is pleased to sponsor SB 1346. We thank you for championing this effort. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Deputy Legislative Director, at (909) 387-4280.

Sincerely,

**Josie Gonzales, Chair**  
Board of Supervisors

*The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.*