



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

June 26, 2015

Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 49 (Runner) – As amended on June 23, 2015 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Lara:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 49, legislation that would help clarify what we believe to be an unintended consequence of the top-two candidate open primary election system when applied to a special election to fill a state legislative or congressional vacancy.

SB 49 would address the circumstances when only one candidate has qualified to be listed on either a primary or a general special election ballot. The measure outlines the subsequent actions that may be taken by state constitutional officers to reduce unneeded elections and declare the sole listed candidate as elected.

The cost burden for elections to fill state legislative or congressional seats falls to counties as the state does not provide reimbursement for special elections called to fill a state or congressional vacancy. SB 49 has the potential to provide significant cost savings to counties when only one individual is listed on the ballot for a special election.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino respectfully requests an "Aye" vote on SB 49. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or at jcandelaria@sbcounty.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 Sharon Runner
Honorable Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
County of San Bernardino Legislative Delegation

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