



**CALIFORNIA
STATE
ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTIES**



**URBAN
COUNTIES
CAUCUS**



**REGIONAL
COUNCIL OF
RURAL
COUNTIES**

June 11, 2008

TO: Members of the Budget Conference Committee
Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny
Senator Mike Machado
Senator Bob Dutton
Assembly Member John Laird
Assembly Member Mark Leno
Assembly Member Roger Niello

FROM: Karen Keene, Legislative Representative, CSAC
Casey Kaneko, Executive Director, UCC
Paul Smith, Director of Legislative Affairs, RCRC

RE: Item 0890-108-0001, Issue 108 – Page 64

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties Caucus (UCC) and the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC) support the Senate version of Item 0890-108-0001, which would provide full reimbursement for eligible costs incurred by counties for conducting the Presidential Primary election last February.

Generally most of the costs of conducting statewide elections are a “county charge,” meaning that counties pay them out of their General Funds. However, the Legislature has recognized that requiring counties to conduct additional special elections beyond the regular primary and general places financial strain on county budgets and impacts other programs and services provided by counties. Therefore, the Legislature has historically reimbursed counties for operating special elections.

Last year the Legislature approved SB 113, creating a separate Presidential Primary in February. The bill contained language expressing the intent of the Legislature “to fully reimburse counties for costs resulting from the presidential elections added by this act in an expeditious manner upon certification of those costs.” Counties have aggregated their costs and submitted additional detailed information requested by the Budget Subcommittees. Counties believe that these estimates will hold up to the scrutiny of audits by the State Controller, as prescribed in the proposed budget bill language. Therefore, counties respectfully request that the Budget Conference Committee adopt the Senate version, which would schedule reimbursement to each county in an amount that reflects its actual eligible reported costs.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

cc: Brain Ehlers, Senate Budget Committee
Adam Dondro, Assembly Budget Committee
Joe Shinstock, Senate Republican Caucus
Daryl Thomas, Assembly Republican Caucus