



CALIFORNIA STATE
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES



RURAL COUNTY
REPRESENTATIVES OF
CALIFORNIA



URBAN COUNTIES
of CALIFORNIA

February 22, 2019

Ms. Keely Bosler
Director, Department of Finance
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Reimbursement Request for Special Election Costs

Dear Ms. Bosler,

On behalf of our three organizations, we write to request the Department of Finance reimburse counties for the costs of conducting special elections for legislative vacancies.

For many years, special elections for legislative vacancies were reimbursed by the state, even through difficult deficit years. However, these payments stopped in 2007 and have yet to resume, leaving counties to foot the bill for millions of dollars' worth of state elections.

All other local government agencies — cities, special districts, and schools — pay for their portion of elections. When legislative elections are part of a regular primary or general election ballot, counties pay the state's share of the costs, which in these cases are both marginal and predictable. However, for special legislative vacancies, a county must mobilize its entire election infrastructure, resulting in significantly higher, unbudgeted costs.

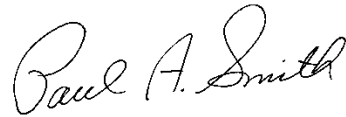
Already in 2019, the Governor has declared two special elections for Senate District 1, affecting eleven counties, mostly rural, and Senate District 33 in Los Angeles County. And in 2018, three southern California counties administered special elections for Senate District 32, Assembly District 54, Assembly District 45, and Assembly District 39. The estimated costs of all of these elections are detailed in the enclosed document.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that the state reimburse counties for the cost of special legislative vacancy elections in the current and previous fiscal years. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or would like to discuss the issue. Thank you for your consideration.

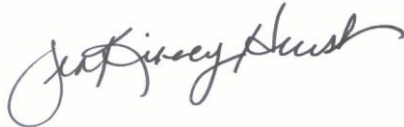
Respectfully,



Geoff Neill
Legislative Representative
California State Association of Counties



Paul Smith
Vice President Governmental Affairs
Rural County Representatives of California



Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Representative
Urban Counties of California

Enclosure: Cost Estimates to Conduct Special Elections, 10/3/17 - 3/26/19

Cc: Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Honorable Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Members and Consultants, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Members and Consultants, Assembly Budget Committee
Ann O'Leary, Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Newsom
Ana Matosantos, Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Alpine County
El Dorado County
Lassen County
Los Angeles County
Modoc County
Nevada County
Orange County
Placer County
Plumas County
Sacramento County
Shasta County
Sierra County
Siskiyou County
Ventura County