



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS
AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

August 14, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California

The Honorable Mike McGuire
Senate President pro Tempore

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker, California State Assembly

The Honorable Monique Limón
Senate President pro Tempore - Elect

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Committee

The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee
No. 5 on State Administration

The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Subcommittee No.4 on State Administration
and General Government

Dear Governor Newsom and Honorable Leaders of the California Legislature:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO), we write to request that, **if a statewide special election is called this fall, counties receive funding in advance for the costs associated with administering the election.**

While cities, special districts, and schools cover their share of costs for regularly scheduled elections, the additional expenses tied to a statewide special election would fall almost entirely on counties — imposing a significant and unfunded financial burden on already strained local budgets.

The 2021 statewide special election cost a total of \$200 million, of which \$174 million supported county costs for administration¹. We anticipate costs could be even higher for this special election. Only a minimal amount of the anticipated costs may be offset in the 19 counties that already have elections scheduled, since those elections are limited in scope and not held countywide. For the remaining 39 counties across California that currently do not have an election scheduled for November 2025, this is an unexpected, unbudgeted, major event that is rapidly approaching. **Ensuring that all counties have the funds necessary to administer a statewide special election is critical and necessary.**

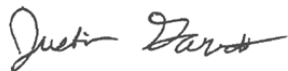
¹ <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/statewide-elections/2021-recall/report-to-legislature.pdf>

County election officials and county election staff statewide are unwavering in their efforts to ensure that elections are conducted with the highest standards of fairness, safety, and accessibility. Now, more than ever, it is imperative to empower county election officials as they administer elections that are secure, accessible, and that every voter can trust. California must ensure all counties are sufficiently funded to carry out their responsibilities.

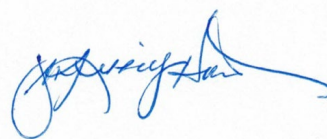
Our organizations have collectively supported additional investments in elections administration for many years, given the importance of ensuring fair and free elections and maintaining the public's confidence in election results. To that end, we respectfully **urge your inclusion of state funding** for county administration of any potential special election to avoid unfairly burdening counties with such a significant cost.

Please feel free to contact us at any time with questions or to further discuss our request.

Sincerely,



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Yolo County Registrar of Voters and
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Honorable Members and Consultants, Assembly Budget Committee
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Jason Sisney, Budget Director, Office of Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Nathan Barankin, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Nani Coloretti, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance
Erika Li, Chief Deputy Director, Budgets, Department of Finance
Amy Jarvis, Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance