



February 15, 2018

The Honorable Richard Roth  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4  
on State Administration & General Government  
State Capitol, Room 4034  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Funding for Voting System Replacement - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Roth:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I write to express our support for the Governor's budget proposal to provide funding to assist counties in replacing voting systems and associated technology. RCRC is an association of thirty-five rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties.

California counties are responsible for administering federal, state, and local elections. While counties can bill other local governments for their proportional share of administering elections, the state and federal government typically do not pay for their proportional share of elections. The state has provided one-time funding in certain circumstances for elections costs; however, the state does not provide regular funding to counties for elections purposes. In fact, the Legislative Analyst's Office, in a recent report discussing the roles and responsibilities of the state and counties in the administration of the elections system, suggested that the Legislature consider one-time support to help replace voting systems.

Additionally, the California Voters Choice Act (CVCA) – enacted in Senate Bill 450 (Ch. 832, Statutes 2016) – challenges counties to improve voter participation and outreach by (1) authorizing counties to conduct elections in which all voters are mailed ballots; and, (2) providing voters with the opportunity to vote on those ballots or to vote in person at a vote center for a period of 10 days leading up to election day. Fourteen specified counties are permitted to conduct elections under this system in 2018, while the remaining counties may use this system beginning in 2020. Participation in SB 450 will necessitate an upgraded voter system and modern technology to successfully advance the goals of CVCA; the funding proposed by the Governor would offer needed resources to achieve

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CVCA objectives. Therefore, RCRC supports the \$134.3 million proposed in the Governor's proposed budget that will match local investment in much-needed upgrades to county voting systems, providing an opportunity to improve voter participation and outreach across the state.

If you have any questions or concerns about RCRC's support for the Governor's proposed funding for replacement of voting systems and associated technology, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

PAUL A. SMITH  
Vice President Government Affairs

cc: Members of the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration &  
General Government  
Consultant, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration &  
General Government