



League of Women Voters of Fresno
1345 Bulldog Lane
Fresno, California 93710

June 5, 2017

Fresno County Board of Supervisors
2281 Tulare Street, Room 301
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: Board of Supervisors Meeting, Agenda Item #29: Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2018

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The League of Women Voters of Fresno urges your Board's support for the Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2018 to improve California's voting systems. The funding would update aging equipment and modernize how elections in California and our county are conducted to improve the voting experience.

California's voting equipment is near its life expectancy. Many counties have voting systems designed and engineered in the 1990s. We don't settle for 20 year old technology in cell phones and computers – our voting systems should be no different. An investment in modern voting systems will help protect the integrity of our elections and better serve voters. In some California counties the elections department relies on computers that operate on systems that no longer receive free security upgrades or other support from the manufacturer. The California Legislative Analyst's Office has determined that this one-time funding will insure the security of the voting system and prevent the possibility of a catastrophic failure of voting systems in California counties.

The bond revenues will also fund innovations in voting access for Californians. Funding would enhance early voting options, same-day voter registration, disability and language access, and provide more options for where, when and how voters can cast a ballot.

Voting is the most important right we have. Voting should be as easy as possible, and outdated and barely functioning voting systems discourage participation and present challenges to elections officials. A healthy democracy has healthy and well-functioning voting systems. With this bond, the State will have the opportunity to create a path forward for counties to acquire critically needed equipment and replace outdated and aging voting systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nyla Zender'.

Nyla Zender, Executive Vice President
nylajz@comcast.net