



County of Fresno

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June 6, 2017

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Assemblywoman, District 80
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 668 (Gonzalez Fletcher) – Support

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher:

Fresno County is pleased to support your Assembly Bill 668, which would place a bond measure on the June 2018 ballot for voter approval to appropriate \$450 million to replace aging voting systems in all of California's 58 counties.

Congress passed the Help America Vote Act of 2002 in response to the problems of Florida's 2000 Presidential Election, which were widely blamed on obsolete voting systems. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) appropriated \$252 million to California for the replacement of county voting systems, and during the same period California voters passed Proposition 41, the Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2002, which provided \$200 million in state funds. These funds were provided to counties as a reimbursement on a 3:1 matching basis to upgrade voting systems, which is very similar to the intent of this bill.

Although Fresno County's current voting system was updated in 2008 to include accessible voting equipment, the federal standards for these systems was intended to only last 10 years. While Fresno County still has some funding available through the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and Proposition 41 to assist with the procurement of a new voting system, it is insufficient to address the full cost of procuring and deploying a new voting system.

Counties pay for the full financial burden to conduct Federal and State elections and have no ability to recoup costs from the Federal or State government. It would help county budgets tremendously if the State were to pay for a portion of replacement equipment.

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For these reasons, Fresno County is pleased to support AB 668. Further, we wish to thank you for your strong support of Fresno County and all other counties in ensuring replacement of obsolete voting systems. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Brandi Orth, Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voters at (559) 600-3013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Pacheco".

Brian Pacheco, Chairman
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

cc: Fresno County Board of Supervisors
Fresno County Legislative Delegation
Paul Yoder, State Legislative Advocate
Michael Corbett, State Legislative Advocate
Brandi Orth, County Clerk/Registrar of Voters