

CITY CLERKS DEPARTMENT OF THE LEAGUE
CCAC Legislative Director Report
A. Kay Vinson, MMC

March, 2008

LEGISLATION

AB 1654 (Huffman, DeSaulnier and Saldana) Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act. This was the original mail ballot bill that morphed to a vote center bill and now relates to water management.

AB 1992 (DeVore) Public resources: unauthorized use. This bill failed passage on the first reading in committee on March 25, 2008. It would have prevented organizations like the League from being involved in ballot measure campaigns.

AB 2218 (Gains) Local government assessment and fee ballots. This bill deals with vote tabulation, packaging and mailing. Randi Johl provided concerns to the League regarding noticing requirements and the mandate that ballots be opened at the hearing. She also noted that CACEO opposes. The bill was referred to the Committee on Local Government on March 25, 2008.

AB 2633 (Torrico) Election Precincts. This bill proposes consolidation of six county precincts into one voting precinct. However, it also requires each group not exceed 1000 voters and each group must have its own precinct board, supplies, ballot box and set of returns. Scott Martin has proposed an exemption for local municipal elections that are conducted by the local jurisdiction. It is set for hearing on April 8 in Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee. Natasha Karl, League staff, indicated they will review the amendments and address any issues that negatively impact local government.

AB 3068 (Committee on Elections and Redistricting) Voting. This bill provides that the Secretary of State conduct the required parallel monitoring in precincts that have more than one unit from a direct recording electronic voting system. A hearing has been set for April 8, 2008 in Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee.

AB 3069 (Committee on Elections and Redistricting) Election process. 1) Clarifies that the county elections official shall cancel the voter registration of any person that the clerk of the superior court's statement includes those convicted felons who have been sentenced to prison; 2) Nonsubstantive changes to requirement that a ballot designation worksheet be submitted with a candidate's declaration of candidacy; 3) Shifts the responsibility for refunding or billing for under or overpayment of a candidate's statement to the agency providing the estimate. Hearing set in Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee on April 22, 2008.

SB 1696 (Yee) California Public Records Act: disclosure. It prohibits making an agreement, i.e. regarding personnel matters, confidential by the other party agreeing to that. It was set for hearing in the Senate Judiciary committee on March 25th.

CACEO (California Association of Clerks & Elections Officials)

The next CACEO meeting is April 4 in Fresno. Dana Davidson has graciously offered to attend.

SECRETARY OF STATE DEBRA BOWEN

Secretary Bowen will receive the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award from Caroline and Senator Edward Kennedy on March 12 at the JFK Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. The award honors her political courage on the controversial decision last year to curtail use of electronic voting machines after security flaws were discovered.

We are still waiting to see if Secretary Bowen will be attending our annual conference.

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

One of the League's Strategic Priorities is to Enact honest and responsible eminent domain reform. As you know two competing measures are on the June 3, 2008 Statewide Direct Primary Election Ballot. A new survey of California voters released March 26 by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) found that 41% of likely voters would vote "No" on Proposition 98, the California Property Owners and Farmland Protection Act, funded by wealthy apartment owners and mobile home park owners. On the other hand, by a two-to-one margin (53-27), voters were inclined to support Prop. 99, the Homeowners Protection Act, sponsored by the Eminent Domain Reform Now coalition, supported by seniors, homeowners, business, labor, environmentalists, affordable housing advocates, public safety leaders and local government (League of California Cities).

The next League Board meeting is April 17-18 in Sacramento.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

If you come across statutes that need clarified or changed; and want to propose some needed legislation, please complete the following form and forward to any member of the legislative committee. The form and committee members are available on this website.