



April 4, 2018

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The Honorable Marc Berman
Chair, Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee
1020 N Street, Room 365
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: Assembly Bill 2095 (Quirk-Silva). Congressional and legislative vacancies.
Support – As amended March 13, 2018
Hearing Date: April 11, 2018 – Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Berman:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) supports Assembly Bill 2095 (Quirk-Silva) that would provide additional opportunities for elections consolidation when a special election is called to fill a legislative or congressional vacancy. This will help preserve county resources for programs and services provided to Californians on a daily basis and in moments of great need.

Elections administration is a basic and important duty assigned to counties on behalf of the State for candidate contests and policy decisions at all levels of government, from the smallest school district to the national stage. From 1993 through 2007, the state reimbursed counties for the costs of special legislative and congressional elections. However, this provision of law expired January 1, 2008. Since that time, the State has approved only a one-time allocation to support a single recall election through the 2017 Budget Act.

AB 2095 would allow greater flexibility by permitting a special election to be consolidated with any regularly scheduled statewide or local election in which at least 50% of the voters in the special election are eligible to vote occurring within 180 days of a gubernatorial proclamation. Current law is limited only to the “next” scheduled election occurring within the 180-day timeframe. AB 2095 is a reasonable approach to help limit further costs resulting from multiple special elections called to meet the current time frames and the limited consolidation opportunities falling outside the 126-140 day time frame. Creating opportunities to reduce elections costs is especially important as county voting equipment and systems are rapidly aging and counties continue to carry more than \$60 million in unpaid debt for election-specific state mandates.

For the reasons stated above, CSAC supports AB 2095. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our position at (916) 650-8133.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dorothy Johnson'.

Dorothy Johnson
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee
Ethan Jones, Chief Consultant, Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus