



April 2, 2018

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The Honorable Wendy Carrillo
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2160
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: Assembly Bill 1886 (Carrillo). Payment of expenses.
Support – As Introduced
Hearing Date – April 4, 2018**

Dear Assembly Member Carrillo:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is pleased to support your Assembly Bill 1886, which would reimburse counties for the costs associated with administering a special election to fill a legislative or congressional vacancy on or after January 1, 2017. This will help ensure county resources are not siphoned away from services and programs due to costly elections that occur outside of the regularly scheduled election cycle.

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. The Secretary of State's Office estimated that four special elections conducted in 2015 totaled \$6 million in county funds, and an additional special election in one county in 2016 cost \$500,000 to fill legislative vacancies.

All other local government agencies, including cities, special districts and schools, pay for their portion of elections. We believe it is appropriate for the State to also pay for their share in light of the direct impact on county budgets. This is especially important as county voting equipment and systems are rapidly aging and counties continue to carry \$60 million in unpaid debt for election-specific state mandates.

For the reasons stated above, CSAC is pleased to support AB 1886 and we appreciate your leadership on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our position or if we can be of assistance in support of this measure at (916) 650-8133.

Sincerely,

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

Dorothy Johnson
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Marc Berman, California State Assembly