



April 18, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mark Leno
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Election Funding – SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown, Assembly Member Ting and Senator Leno

The Urban Counties of California (UCC), a coalition of California's most populous counties, and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), an association of thirty-five low-population counties, write to comment in support of the Secretary of State's proposal to provide \$32 million in funding for the 2016 election cycle.

Specifically, Secretary of State Alex Padilla is proposing \$32 million to address the cost of the upcoming competitive June primary, with \$13 million to the Secretary of State for the voter pamphlet and between \$13 and \$19 million for counties to verify signatures for ballot initiatives.

These funds are to address a confluence of events that have significantly increased workload and costs for counties that was not foreseen during the January Budget process.

- **Ballot Initiatives.** There are an unprecedented number of ballot initiatives (potentially 21) which county election officials are required to verify signatures. While normally this would not be an issue, this is the first time counties have been required to verify signature at the same time as the preparation necessary for the June primary.

- Competitive June Primary. While normally, counties would not need additional assistance for the Presidential primary, this is the first time in many years that California will have a competitive Presidential primary race which is driving up voter registration and the need for materials, poll workers and other ancillary costs.

To ensure that counties will have a successful and error-free June primary and because resources are often limited in this area, UCC and RCRC believe that this funding is necessary. Often in cases of elections costs, counties have submitted invoices and sought reimbursement after the fact. However, this is an urgent case with the primary scheduled in just a few weeks.

We sincerely appreciate the proposal by the Secretary of State to proactively approach this issue so that we are all prepared prior to the upcoming primary. For these reasons, UCC and RCRC are in support of this additional funding and respectfully requests your support on this item. If you have any questions, please contact Jolena Voorhis at (916) 327-7531 or Paul A. Smith at (916) 447-4806.

Sincerely,



JOLENA L. VOORHIS
Executive Director
UCC



PAUL A. SMITH
Senior Legislative Advocate
RCRC

cc: Members and Consultant, Senate Budget Subcommittee #4
Members and Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #4
Secretary of State Alex Padilla
Michael Cohen, Director, Department of Finance
Lisa Acosta, Department of Finance