



April 14, 2023

**AB: 1004**

Members Assembly Committee on Elections  
Assembly Member Isaac Bryan, Chair

**SUPPORT IF AMENDED**

Members of the Assembly Committee on Elections,

Election Integrity Project<sup>®</sup> *California*, Inc. (EIPCa) would **Support AB 1004** as written and amended as of the date of this letter **if further amendments are made.**

AB 1004 proposes the standardization of petition signature verification that has been needed for some time.

In past years, the standards for verification of signatures on petitions has not only been far more stringent than for those on ballot envelopes, but have had wide and arbitrary variation from county to county. Such random application of standards has created a situation of disparate application of voter rights throughout the state.

AB 1004 would apply the same standards to petition signatures as to mail ballot envelope signatures, and at least partially **standardize** the regulations **statewide**. This is the **right thing** to do for the state's voters.

However, just as with ballot envelope signature verification, each county is able to determine its own number of points of match. Some require a three-point match, some a two, and some only require a one-point match, an unreasonably lenient policy.

Thus, a ballot signature or petition signature that would be challenged in one county would be easily accepted in another county. **Voters deserve both a standard high enough to ensure the legitimacy of a signature and complete consistency throughout the state.**

EIPCa proposes **amending AB 1004** to establish a three-point match standard statewide not only for petition signatures but also for ballot envelope signatures.

In addition, EIPCa recommends **eliminating the curing process proposal** for petition signatures. A grace period for curing ballot envelope signatures is legitimate because mail-in ballots are signed without the supervision of another individual and errors can be made. But petitions are signed under the supervision of the signature gatherer whose purpose is to collect viable signatures and is therefore vigilant and instructive during the signing process.

Extending a curing period for petition signatures places an added burden on the Elections Office, adds expense to the process and makes meeting the timing requirements for petition processing very difficult. It is also unnecessary.

**EIPCa strongly supports the equalization of signature verification between mail ballot envelopes and petitions.**

**EIPCa urges a standardization of a 3-point match be mandated for all signature comparisons, and the elimination of a curing option for petition signatures.**

**With those changes, EIPCa would enthusiastically endorse AB 1004.**

Sincerely,

ELECTION INTEGRITY PROJECT® *CALIFORNIA*, INC

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