



April 12, 2025
Assembly Appropriations Committee
Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1249

SUPPORT IF AMENDED

Members of the Committee,

EIPCa **supports AB 1249 if amended** as stipulated below.

Establishment of early voting satellite locations allowing full service of voter options is a good idea in counties not offering regular polling places with extended days of access.

Providing at least one week-end day for in-person voting access is advisable in a growingly complex society.

EIPCa's reservations regarding AB 1249 are two:

1. In counties of large area, or with challenging commute within the county due to geographical complexity, the addition of only one satellite may be insufficient.

EIPCa recommends that qualifying counties under this statute be evaluated by the SOS for ease or difficulty of voter access, and assigned a number of satellites deemed necessary by circumstances unique to them.

2. There is no legitimate reason for last-minute satellite "pop-ups" (48-hour notice). It is our understanding that the SOS has recommended that the time frame be extended, perhaps to two weeks (still insufficient), yet the current online amended version of AB 1249 still reads "48 hours".

EIPCa believes that allowing pop-up satellites that have not been announced **before** the early voting 29 days begins opens the door for capricious, partisan placement decisions designed to benefit a single party or candidate rather than to benefit the county's voters as a whole.

Additionally, establishing pop-ups without full appropriate notice ensures that fewer voters (or only targeted voters) will be notified of the expanded voting opportunities.

EIPCa recommends that the number and locations of early voting satellites be:

- determined and publicized **at the same time** and in the same ways (voter information mailings, PSAs, website postings and as many other methods as

possible) as polling locations are determined and publicized—well in advance of the 29-day early voting season.

The public should know from the very beginning of the election season what ALL their voting options will be.

- determined so that all voters of the county are equally served with no consideration other than convenience and accessibility to the population of the county as a whole.

EIPCa urges the above amendments to AB 1249, and only then recommends a YES vote.

Sincerely,

ELECTION INTEGRITY PROJECT® *CALIFORNIA*, INC

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