

April 15, 2024

Assembly Committee on Elections Gail Pellerin, Chair **AB 2627** 

**OPPOSE** 

Members of the Committee,

Election Integrity Project® *California*, Inc. (EIPCa) **Opposes AB 2627** as written and amended as of the date of this letter.

EIPCa's opposition rests almost solely on the obvious cost of implementing the components of this bill.

California is in a budgetary and deficit crisis. It is far past time for government to show **leadership**, **responsibility and restraint**.

At all levels of life and government there are commodities and programs that would be magnificent to have, but if those things are simply financially unsustainable, we must learn to achieve desired goals less expensively and more creatively.

These days, many Californians are having to make very difficult choices between paying for gas, food, rent, utilities or medical care. These are real quality of life decisions brought about by the current economic environment.

We Californians deserve to have our legislators show responsible stewardship in the management of taxpayer monies.

Civic education and encouragement of participation in the processes of governing this Republic are vital. It is likely that the proposed pilot program will receive a positive assessment, which will surely generate further legislation to expand the program statewide.

But a positive outcome for this pilot program will not make it in any way cost-benefit effective, nor sustainably affordable, especially if implemented statewide.

Fortunately, unaffordable amounts of money that are not available in state coffers do not have to be spent to accomplish the goal of AB 2627.

Many of the programs for voter outreach and registration called for in SB 2627 can be encouraged through official memos from the CA Department of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction directly to California's secondary and higher educational institutions, who are already motivated and acting along those lines.

Before California has a complete financial meltdown, EIPCa urges this committee to show an understanding of our economic reality, and pare down the legislative wish list to what absolutely must be done immediately, what cannot be accomplished more inexpensively, and what can be reasonably and responsibly funded.

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AB 2627 does NOT meet those criteria. EIPCa urges a NO on AB 2627.

Sincerely,

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