



May 24, 2023

Members Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee
Senator Steven M. Glazer, Chair

AB 292

OPPOSE

Members of the Committee,

Election Integrity Project *California*, Inc. (EIPCa) **Opposes AB 292**: Primary Elections: Ballots, as written and amended as of the date of this letter.

Among other objections, EIPCa takes significant issue with the proposed disparate treatment of NPP voters based on the manner in which they elect to request an allowable partisan ballot, and with any ballot request not accompanied by a means of verifying voter identity.

Section 13502(2)(c) mandates, “*If requesting a ballot pursuant to paragraph (3), the voter **must also provide their signature.***” However, the following sections of the proposed bill exempt voters requesting a partisan ballot by telephone, internet or text from providing a signature: “**The voter’s signature shall not be required.**”

Expecting NPP voters to request a partisan ballot by mailing or delivering a **signed** paper request is a **reasonable and necessary mandate** that adds a level of protection against voter impersonation.

Providing a voter with a written or verbal admonishment (“Only the registered voter themselves may request a ballot from a political party. A request for a party’s ballot that is made by any person other than the voter is a criminal offense.”) does **NOT** provide the same level of protection or **ability to validate the identity of the requestor.**

NPP voters who fail to make a written request or who make a cross-over decision at the last minute have the option to request the partisan ballot of their choice at their county elections office any time during the 29-days before Election Day, at the vote center of their choice on any of the 11 days of operation, or at their precinct polling location on Election Day. There is no lack of opportunity and no reason for providing further less secure methods.

Disparate treatment of voters raises serious constitutional issues, and should not be codified in the Election Code. All requests should be made requiring the verifiable method of signature provision, either by mail-in form or in person provided at one of the many days and locations listed in the previous paragraph.

EIPCa urges a NO vote on AB 292.

Sincerely,

ELECTION INTEGRITY PROJECT® *CALIFORNIA*, INC

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