



May 30, 2023

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

AB: 969

OPPOSE

Members of the Committee,

Election Integrity Project® *California*, Inc. (EIPCa) **Strongly Opposes AB 969** as written and amended as of the date of this letter.

Ever since the election of 2000, there has been a steadily-growing distrust of election results in this country, stemming from the increasing complexity of the systems used and the lack of transparency associated with advancing technology.

The mistrust now polls at between **70% and 80%** of the public. **Whether the skepticism is warranted is irrelevant.** It is incumbent upon elected officials to recognize their constituents' right to work within their communities and counties to restore their faith in elections.

AB 969 sends a clear message to the people of California that the State has **no faith** in the self-governance model of the U.S. Constitution that has been **more successful than any other form of government in human history.**

AB 969 tells the people of California that they have **no business thinking for themselves** and problem-solving at the local level, where all government is most effective.

AB 969 assumes that an all-powerful State should dictate the minutia that are best handled locally.

Interestingly enough, most of California's election laws are broad and sometimes maddeningly unspecific, leaving the matters of implementation and procedures in the hands of county elections officials. For State government to intrude now at the local level **raises more than a few suspicions of ulterior motives.**

Nothing positive can come from the State's imposition of a voting system mandate. A free-market model of decision making is always best. Blocking problem solving and creative thinking at the local level by giving counties only a list of choices they consider to be equally unacceptable is a recipe for continued and growing anger, animosity and discontent.

AB 969 dictatorially removes from the table any election model other than one fully reliant on the very technology that so many people world-wide **not only believe** but **know** to be unreliable and manipulatable. It paints Californians into a corner where all choices may be unacceptable.

Clearly the genesis of AB 969 is the recent action taken by the Shasta County Board of Supervisors in deciding to conduct its county's elections without electronic assistance.

The Shasta County Board of Supervisors worked in good faith with its residents before making the decision they made.

- They heard and considered presentations (sales pitches) from **all** election systems companies certified by the California SOS.
- They considered the 297 pages of the Missouri return to hand count model of election management.
- They considered their constituents' apprehension with respect to electronic voting and tabulation machines.
- They took into account that Canada, England, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and France, among other allied nations, documented **severe election fraud and manipulation** as a result of employing the **same election systems** now in use across the U.S., and chose to eliminate machine involvement in their elections.
 - These nations now conduct their elections transparently, free of electronic systems, with **same day, verifiable and trusted results**.
- They then acted responsibly and with a clear plan in place to meet the needs of their county as they saw it after all evidence and considerations were in.

THIS is the role of local government!

There IS a problem with California's electoral process as it currently exists.

That is the public perception, which 12+ years of EIPCa research, data analysis and documentation **prove to be unassailably correct**.

It would be a mistake to attempt to tie the public's hands, or send a message to the residents of the districts you represent that ***you do not trust them with self-governance decisions***.

The strong implication of this bill is that counties cannot be trusted to ensure a viable election plan without an invasive and intrusive State straight jacket.

This bill sends a secondary message as well, that there IS something to hide, just as many citizens have documented as a result of their elections observations experiences.

Part of that "something" resides in the electronic voting systems. AB 969 smacks of desperation. It appears the proponents of this bill believe they have something to lose unless they squash any possibility of change to increase election integrity once and for all.

The "upgrading" of this bill to urgency status just enhances and validates that message.

EIPCa urges this committee to PUT AN IMMEDIATE END TO AB 969.

Sincerely,

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