



May 5, 2024

AB: 1174

Assembly Committee on Elections
Assembly Member Gail Pellerin, Chair

OPPOSE

Committee Members,

Election Integrity Project® *California*, Inc. (EIPCa) **Opposes AB 1174** as written and amended as of the date of this letter.

AB 1174 suggests that the State has the right to subvert the legitimate autonomy of local municipalities, even in the case of Charter Cities with specific self-governance rights under state law.

The fact is, local governmental subdivisions have the right to self-govern in a manner they best see fit. Whether the State agrees with their methods or the reason for their choices has no sway.

One argument proffered by the proponents of SB 1174 is that there is no evidence of voter fraud and therefore no reason to guard against it.

EIPCa would offer two counter arguments:

1. Lack of evidence does not equal lack of risk, nor imply it is unwise to plan for eventualities.
 - There is no evidence an individual will have to cancel a vacation last-minute, yet that individual is wise to purchase trip insurance. Emergencies happen because life and health are unpredictable.
 - There is no evidence an appliance will falter in the year after its warranty expires, yet it is wise to purchase an extended warranty plan. Some appliances do break down for no logical reason.
 - There is no evidence burglars will invade any specific home while the inhabitants are away, yet it is wise to install a security system. Homes get invaded somewhere every day because the temptation is there and humans are fallible.

A possibility does not have to be a probability or be proven to have occurred for wise people to take precautions.

In light of the definite POSSIBILITY that voter impersonation **can** occur under the current loose environment created by the of laws in California, it is reasonable and

completely within the purview of a municipality to be concerned, and to act upon that concern **in a manner validated not only in 26 American states but in most if not all democratic countries around the world.**

California is clearly the outlier here - and a denier of reality.

2. Evidence will never be found if no one is looking for it!

The argument that because there are few convictions for voter fraud, the State has the right to insert itself in local affairs is specious in light of the fact that no one in authority has made any attempt to determine whether fraud is occurring.

Additionally, virtually every effort by citizens and citizen groups to do the research has been derailed by denial of FOIA, ORR and all other efforts to obtain the records requisite to do the research.

The State expects the citizens to believe it “just ain’t so” just because they say so. The fact is, there is **no evidence of the absence of vote fraud.**

The State should expedite any investigations into the integrity and security of the election process in order to reassure the voters that every aspect is secure.

As a Representative Republic, the State of California does not have the authority to deny any municipality the right to self-govern based on the desires of its populace unless a broader Civil Rights violation is at stake.

The State appears to acknowledge this truth by alleging there is a Civil Rights justification for SB 1174: “Allowing individual cities or counties to impose a voter ID requirement for local elections would adversely impact ethnic minority populations.”

EIPCa rejects this argument. The mere suggestion that segments of the population are unable to obtain and provide a simple and ubiquitous form of identification undeniably necessary for the most basic and necessary interactions of living in modern society simply because of their race or ethnicity is **the very definition of racist thinking.**

Not only is it provably false, it is demeaning and completely inappropriate in the current culture. The very articulation of such a thought suggests that somehow certain ethnic populations are either not sufficiently competent nor intelligent to acquire the needed documentation.

Such an allegation implies that the same population is somehow subsisting without renting an apartment, opening a bank or checking account, purchasing medicines or liquor, renting anything, cashing a check, obtaining public assistance, entering a government office or claiming a lottery win payoff.

This is an absurd, and untrue, underlying assumption.

One final argument made by proponents of SB1174 is that ID is required for voter registration, so voter ID in casting a vote is superfluous.

EIPCa would first point out that the two are unrelated if the ID of the individual casting a vote is not verified to be the same as the registrant's.

In fact, it is entirely possible for any person to go to a polling location, find the name of a voter who has not yet voted on the precinct list, impersonate that person, and by simply supplying that name and address to poll workers, vote in their place undetected. **Voter ID would prevent that fraud.**

With so much at stake in any election, where there is such an easy way, there will definitely be the will to take advantage of it. **Even ONE such vote is too many when it can be prevented by a simple ID requirement.**

Secondly, we would remind the proponents that **ID is NOT required for voter registration in California.**

Providing a CDL#, a CA ID# or the last four digits of the SS# is merely requested, and if not provided, the registration is still effected. Then, the registrant is asked to provide "ID" upon casting the first vote, but the list of "ID"s acceptable is so broad and generous that the individual's legitimacy may still be in question.

SB 1174 is a government over-reach, and the only real reasons to support it are a desire to facilitate the potential of election manipulation and to consolidate State power over local governments. Both reasons are unworthy of individuals elected to serve their constituents and protect their rights under the State and U.S. Constitutions.

EIPCa strongly urges a NO vote on SB 1174.

Sincerely,

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