



OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR

KEVIN JOHNSON
MAYOR

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

September 22, 2015

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1461 (Gonzalez, Alejo, McCarty)– Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown,

We respectfully request your signature on AB 1461 (Gonzalez, Alejo, McCarty), the California New Motor Voter Act. This bill will significantly reduce barriers to casting a ballot by addressing well-documented disparities in voter registration.

In 2012, California ranked 38th in voter registration. California has more than 6.6 million eligible, but unregistered voters who are predominantly Latino, African American and Asian-Pacific Islander. Only 33% of 18-24 year old African Americans are registered to vote. Seventy percent of unregistered voters are Latino and Asian-Pacific Islander. This is particularly alarming given that Latinos and Asian-Pacific Islanders will be the majority of eligible voters by 2020.

This disparity in voter registration leads to a disparity in the allocation of election resources. State and county governments expend resources informing registered voters about voting and elections through sample ballots and voter information guides. Additionally, registered voters often receive outreach from election campaigns or nonpartisan GOTV drives. Registering a citizen to vote not only allows them to exercise their right to vote, but it means public and private resources are mobilized to get them out to vote.

We should make every effort to facilitate the participation of all citizens in our democracy. In recent years, modern technology has transformed voter registration and voting practices. Since 2012, California has offered online voter registration which established electronic data sharing between the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Secretary of State. By July 2016, California is scheduled to launch VoteCal, a new statewide centralized voter registration database that will replace voter registration files currently maintained by each of the state's 58 county elections officials. In addition, this year's budget provided nearly \$2.5 million to establish electronic voter registration at the DMV. We have the technology to register more voters in a more efficient manner.

AB 1461 will use existing technology to make voter registration more convenient, efficient and accessible. We respectfully request your signature on this important measure.

Sincerely,



Kevin Johnson
MAYOR