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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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September 15, 2015

ALAN FERNANDES

Chief Legislative Representative

REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

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

**RE: AB 1461 (Gonzalez, Alejo and McCarty) -- SUPPORT
Relating to Voter Registration: California New Motor Voter Program**

Dear Governor Brown:

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors supports AB 1461 (Gonzalez, Alejo, and McCarty).

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 requires each state to offer registration services at its department of motor vehicles. The 2015-16 State Budget provides funding to the Secretary of State and to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to integrate the voter registration system between the two agencies.

AB 1461 would establish the California New Motor Voter Program (NMVP), and would direct the DMV to electronically transmit to the Secretary of State the records of each person who submits a DMV application for a driver's license, State identification card, or a change of address. The Secretary of State would be prohibited from registering DMV applicants to vote who affirmatively decline to register or do not attest to being eligible to vote. A voter registered through the NMVP may also affirmatively decline to register to vote on a later date.

Los Angeles County has the lowest voter turnout of any county in the State. The County's Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk indicates that the current DMV voter registration system is an inefficient, two-decades old paper-based system. The current manual voter registration process has increased the number of provisional ballots that County officials must resolve during each post-election canvas period.

AB 1461 would provide an essential element of a new, Statewide voter registration system that utilizes modern technology to significantly increase opportunities for California residents to participate in the elections process. By simplifying, streamlining and enhancing the voter registration process, it would mitigate a number of challenges to maintaining accurate voter information at the County-level.

We respectfully urge your signature on AB 1461.

Sincerely,



ALAN FERNANDES
Chief Legislative Representative



STEPHEN KAWAMURA
Legislative Representative

c: Assembly Member Lorena S. Gonzalez
Assembly Member Luis A. Alejo
Assembly Member Kevin McCarty
Daniel Seeman, Deputy Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor