



Email to: leg.unit@gov.ca.gov

September 25, 2015

Dear Governor Brown:

Thank you for your long career as a champion of voting rights. I am writing to urge you to sign AB 1461, the California New Motor Voter Act.

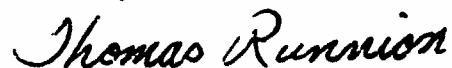
Voting is a fundamental right, yet the United States is one of the few developed countries that puts the obstacle of registration and the burden on its citizens to pre-register to exercise that fundamental right. We do not have to opt-in to other rights. We do not opt-in to free speech. We do not opt-in to freedom of religion. We do not opt-in to due process. The right to vote is equally fundamental and should eliminate every barrier we can.

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. This disparity in voter registration leads to a disparity in the allocation of election resources and participation in our democracy.

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. California now has online voter registration, which is beginning to deploy new a statewide voter registration database, and there is a new technology upgrade at the DMV specifically for voter registration. We now have the technology in place to make voter registration more efficient.

Please sign AB 1461.

Sincerely,



Thomas Runnion, Vice President
CWA-D9

TR: jm

Cc: Elizabeth Sorenson, Area Director