



April 7, 2016

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Honorable Alex Padilla  
California Secretary of State  
1500 11th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for Budget Allocation for County Elections Administration**

Dear Secretary Padilla:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I write to express our support and appreciation for your funding augmentation request for county administrative duties related to the 2016 statewide June primary and November general elections.

In your letter to Governor Brown dated April 4, it is noted that 600,000 California voters added their name or updated their information in the last three months through the online registration system alone. Greater voter registration and turnout is an exciting change compared to recent reports on participation levels. However, it comes with additional demands on county resources including printed materials and staffing. We thank you for identifying these demands in advance of the June primary to ensure a successful election in all 58 counties.

Counties are already facing significant election-related cost pressures, as you are well aware. This is due to a host of factors including frequent special elections to fill legislative and congressional vacancies, for which counties do not receive payment, aging equipment and technology, and suspended mandated services that are integral to the running of elections.

The requested \$32 million is reasonable and will greatly benefit counties as well as the millions of Californians who seek to have their voices heard and choices counted. Furthermore, an investment now will help promote successful Election Day outcomes for all who are involved, elections officials and voters alike. In closing, let me extend my sincere appreciation on behalf of CSAC and please do not hesitate to contact me if CSAC can serve as a resource to you and your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Cate".

Matt Cate  
Executive Director