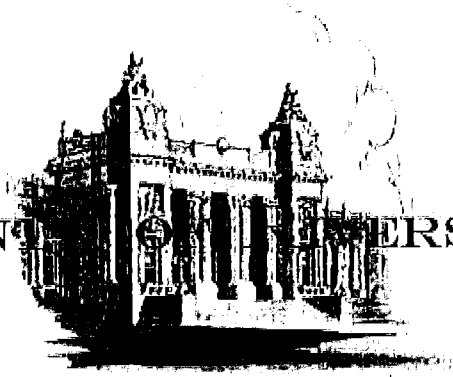


COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	John F. Tavaglione 951-955-1020
District 3 <i>Chairman</i>	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Marion Ashley 951-955-1050

April 2, 2018

The Honorable Jim Cooper, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Richard Roth
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Funding for Voting System Replacement - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Cooper:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for the Governor's budget proposal to provide funding to assist counties in replacing voting systems and associated technology. The \$134.3 million proposed in the Governor's budget will match local investment in much-needed upgrades to county voting systems, providing an opportunity to improve voter participation and outreach across the state.

California counties are responsible for administering federal, state, and local elections. While counties can bill other local governments for their proportional share of administering elections, the state and federal government typically do not pay for their proportional share of elections. The state has provided one-time funding in certain circumstances for elections costs; however, the state does not provide regular funding to counties for elections purposes. In fact, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), in a recent report discussing the roles and responsibilities of the state and counties in the administration of the elections system, suggested that the Legislature consider one-time support to help replace voting systems.

Additionally, the California Voters Choice Act (CVCA) – enacted in SB 450 (Ch. 832, Statutes 2016) – challenges counties to improve voter participation and outreach by (1) authorizing counties to conduct elections in which all voters are mailed ballots and (2) providing voters with the opportunity to vote on those ballots or to vote in person at a vote center for a period of 10 days leading up to election day. Fourteen specified counties are permitted to conduct elections under this system in 2018, while the remaining counties may use this system beginning in 2020. Participation in SB 450 will necessitate an upgraded voter system and modern technology to successfully advance the goals of CVCA; the funding proposed by the Governor would offer needed resources to achieve CVCA objectives.

The Honorable Jim Cooper and Richard Roth
April 2, 2018
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While we appreciate the Administration's acknowledgment of the need for investment in our voting systems, we respectfully suggest that, in order to meet the need for investment statewide, additional resources may be necessary. We support efforts to ensure that adequate funds are available to counties to upgrade voting systems in all parts of the state.

If you have any questions or concerns about Riverside County's support for the Governor's proposed funding for replacement of voting systems and associated technology, please do not hesitate to contact Brian Nestande, Deputy County Executive, at bnestande@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Chuck Washington
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4
Members and Consultants, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4
Riverside County Legislative Delegation