



September 5, 2007

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Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I write to express our continuing concerns with H.R. 811. This bill would require the entire nation to switch to next-generation voting equipment before the presidential election in 2012, which would effectively derail California's already-rigorous and successful election laws, systems testing, and voter accessibility practices.

California's 58 counties have fully complied with the 2002 Help America Vote Act, and have also complied with more rigorous state standards, including the creation of voter verified paper audit trails for each vote cast within the state. Recently, the California Legislature passed, and Governor Schwarzenegger signed legislation to move California's Presidential Primary election to February 5, 2008, the earliest such primary ever held in the state. This bill would create a tremendous fiscal and logistical burden to California's already proven successful election practices.

The California State Association of Counties opposes H.R. 811 because it would impose major new unfunded mandates on state and local governments, which already have had to finance major election administration cost increases in recent years. Additionally, H.R.811 contains a provision that would require outside consultants to conduct recounts during ongoing vote tabulation that could delay the release and certification of final election results and impose cumbersome and untested audit processes.

It is for these reasons that CSAC opposes H.R. 811 and respectfully requests that this bill not be moved until adequate timeframes and funding are incorporated into the bill. Our counties stand ready to assist Congress in determining the consequences and costs associated with this legislation, and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss our position further at your convenience. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 916/327-7500 ext. 506.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul McIntosh'.

Paul McIntosh
Executive Director