



September 2, 2022

VIA Email to the Office of the Governor and Author

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 759 (McCarty) – Elections: county officers – REQUEST FOR GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

The League of Women Voters of California writes to request your signature on AB 759 (McCarty), which will consolidate elections for certain the county offices of District Attorney and Sheriff with presidential general elections. This will encourage more voters to participate in county elections, tap into a more representative electorate, and will increase the legitimacy and accountability of the elected offices.

Democracy is strongest when our representatives are chosen at elections with the highest rates and broadest diversity of voter turnout. Overall, presidential elections attract significantly more voters than midterm elections. Furthermore, midterm electorates include fewer people from underrepresented populations – including youth, Black, Latinx, and Asian American people than do presidential electorates. In recent years California has made great strides in removing impediments to voter participation and expanding the franchise. Ensuring that a

larger and more inclusive pool of voters can vote for candidates who reflect their values is critical to making democracy work.

Furthermore, the League supports allowing local jurisdictions to explore alternative electoral methods that may result in higher engagement and participation in elections. We therefore appreciate the amendment clarifying that only the move to presidential election years will be applicable to both general law and charter counties. This ensures that there is no misunderstanding related to charter counties' freedom to adopt alternative electoral systems (like ranked choice voting), and that they are not required to have separate primary and general elections.

For these reasons, the League of Women Voters of California strongly supports AB 759 (McCarty) and requests your signature. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Carol Moon Goldberg
President