

September 2, 2021

## VIA Email to the Office of the Governor and Author

The Honorable Gavin Newsom Governor of California State Capitol Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 319 (Valladares) – Political Reform Act of 1974: contributions: foreign governments or principals – REQUEST FOR GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

The League of Women Voters of California writes to request your signature on AB 319 (Valladares), which would expand the prohibition of contributions and direct expenditures by foreign entities in Section 83520 of the Government Code to include those made in connection with the election of a candidate to state or local office. This would enable the Fair Political Practices Commission to enforce the restriction against foreign influence in these contests. Although federal law prohibits political contributions by foreign governments and principals, that law has not been effectively enforced.

This legislation supports our mission by combating corruption and undue influence in elections, enabling candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and allowing maximum citizen participation in the political process. Foreign governments and principals do not share the rights of citizens and may have agendas that are not consistent with U.S. interests.

For these reasons, the League of Women Voters of California strongly supports AB 319 and requests your signature. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carol Moon Goldberg

Carol Moan Ablabers

President