



March 27, 2019

The Honorable Thomas J. Umberg  
California State Capitol, Room 3070  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: SB 72 -- SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Umberg:

The California Voter Foundation is pleased to support your SB 72, which expands Election Day registration to every polling site in California.

While California has recently made significant strides to expand access to voter registration, 5.5 million eligible Californians still remain unregistered. Studies repeatedly show that a disproportionate number of eligible, unregistered voters are younger, poorer, people with disabilities, people with limited English proficiency, or people of color. With SB 72's Election Day registration, California takes a proactive step towards closing voter participation gaps and making our democracy more representative. SB 72 would join California with nine states, as well as the District of Columbia, that provide Election Day registration options at all polling places: Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Utah, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

Election Day registration allows eligible voters to register to vote and cast ballots all the way up through Election Day. The process may also be used to update a registration record – such as in the event of a recent move – and cast a ballot that will be counted. The ability to change one's party affiliation on Election Day will be crucial in March 2020, when California will hold its Presidential Primary. In the past, tens of thousands of California voters have experienced grief, confusion and disappointment in presidential primary elections upon discovering on Election Day that they are not properly registered to cast a ballot for the candidate of their choice because of their registered party preference. SB 72 will ensure that **all California voters**, whether residing in Voter's Choice Act counties or counties administering elections in the traditional polling place model, have the equal right and ability to cast a ballot in the Presidential Primary for the candidate of their choice.

Research has shown that Election Day registration benefits voters and election officials. It increases voter turnout, eliminates arbitrary deadlines that turn away voters at the moment of highest interest, improves the accuracy of voter rolls, and assists the registration of geographically mobile, lower-income citizens, young voters, and voters of color.

For these reasons, the California Voter Foundation supports SB 72.

Sincerely,

Kim Alexander  
President & Founder

cc: Members and Committee Staff, Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee