



**ALEX PADILLA**  
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

April 4, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

As California Secretary of State and California's Chief Elections Officer, it is my responsibility to oversee the administration of the upcoming statewide elections. Our data suggests a surge in voter participation in both the Presidential Primary Election in June and the General Election in November. For example, in just the past three months more than 600,000 California citizens have used our online voter registration site to register to vote, or update their registration. Western states that have already conducted their presidential primary election have seen voter turnout for major parties surpass the turnout for the 2012 primary election and approach or equal the voter turnout of the 2008 primary election.

With interest growing rapidly, California's 58 county elections officials will face higher than average costs. Voter registration cards are in high demand – one campaign recently requested 200,000 cards. Also, counties must print additional ballots and ensure that polling places have adequate "crossover" ballots on hand for those parties that conduct open primaries. Counties must also ensure compliance with both language access and voter access required under federal law.

There will be a need for increased staffing resources in many counties. In the coming months, county elections officials must verify a massive number of signatures on initiative petitions for the November election at the same time they are preparing for the June election. Thirteen measures are still in circulation – eight that amend statute and five that amend the constitution. Depending on how many measures go to a full signature count, counties could be required to verify as many as 9.4 million signatures. It is expected that many of these measures will be submitted to counties at, or just prior to, the filing deadline.

The Honorable Jerry Brown

April 4, 2016

Page 2

In addition, we will face higher printing costs for additional voter information guides in June, and much higher printing costs for the General Election. With as many as 21 potential ballot measures, the principal voter guide for the November General Election may be between 208 and 256 pages long. If the Legislature adds three measures, the principal voter information guide could grow to 288 pages. Either way we anticipate printing multiple volumes.

On June 7 and November 8, all eyes will be on California. I am requesting a meeting to discuss these and any other issues to ensure that California counties have the resources and time necessary to conduct smooth and successful elections in the months ahead.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Padilla". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "A" and "P".

Alex Padilla

California Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Kevin de León, Senate President pro Tempore  
The Honorable Jean Fuller, Senate Republican Leader  
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly  
The Honorable Chad Mayes, Assembly Republican Leader