



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Lili Bosse, Mayor

September 5, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
California State Senate, 33rd District
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 568 (Lara) Primary elections: election date. – SUPPORT IF AMENDED

Dear Senator Lara:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to inform you that our city has adopted a position of **SUPPORT IF AMENDED** on your legislation, **SB 568 (Lara)**. The bill in its current form would move California's presidential primary elections from June to March, beginning with the 2020 election.

Under the provisions of **SB 568 (Lara)**, California's primary elections in both Presidential and non-Presidential years would be moved from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June to the third Tuesday in March. The bill also gives the Governor the authority to move the Presidential primary election to an earlier date than the third Tuesday in March by issuing a proclamation.

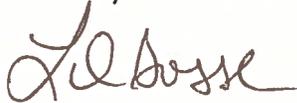
The City of Beverly Hills **SUPPORTS** the bill's goal of ensuring that the voices of Californians are represented in a more meaningful way in choosing a presidential nominee; however, we ask that **SB 568 (Lara)** be **AMENDED** to permit cities that hold their general municipal elections in March of odd-numbered years to change the date of their general municipal election to the subsequent statewide direct or presidential primary without violating Elections Code Section 10403.5(b).

Section 10403.5(b) of the Elections Code currently specifies that no term of office may be increased or decreased by more than 12 months as a result of an ordinance changing election dates. If, under **SB 568 (Lara)**, a city that currently holds its general municipal election in March of an odd-numbered year changes the date of its general municipal election to the date of the subsequent statewide primary election, this change would require the terms of office to be extended by one year and two weeks, thereby exceeding the limits imposed by Elections Code Section 10403.5(b) by two weeks. Our proposed amendment would clarify that the ability for a city to change the date of its general municipal election, per **SB 568 (Lara)**, would supersede the restriction on increasing or decreasing any term of office by more than 12 months.

Such an amendment would provide cities with greater discretion to align the dates of their general municipal elections with statewide elections. It also facilitates cities' efforts to promote voter participation by holding their general municipal elections on dates that are expected to have high voter turnout.

Our proposed amendment would strengthen **SB 568 (Lara)** and help avoid an unintended consequence due to a conflict between the proposed changes in this measure and current law. For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills **SUPPORTS** your **SB 568 (Lara) IF AMENDED**. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lili Bosse

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.