



**2017-18 OFFICERS AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

February 22, 2018

The Honorable Senator Anthony Portantino
California State Senate
State Capitol Building, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814
VIA FAX: 916-651-4025

RE: SB 25 (Portantino) Elections: ballot order.
Notice of Support (As Amended August 29, 2017)

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities® (Division), supports your SB 25 to revise statewide ballot order so that local offices and measures appear first.

SB 25 will correct the unintended consequences of SB 415 (Hueso, 2015) which requires municipal elections to consolidate onto the statewide election by 2020 if the voter turnout for the previous four local elections is "at least 25% less than the average voter turnout for the previous four statewide elections." While the intent of the bill was to increase voter participation in local elections, the bill ultimately forces local elections to the end of what can be a very long statewide ballot once national offices, statewide offices and statewide initiatives are listed. The result of such long ballots often results in "voter fatigue" where voters simply do not vote on items lower on the ballot. This is unfortunate since local elections, including city council seats, school board seats and local revenue measures are the closest form of democracy to voters and tend to impact "everyday life" such as how parks are funded and how community resources are prioritized.

SB 25 is a practical move to engage voters in local elections and ensure local decisions are not lost on statewide and national elections. For these reasons, the Los Angeles County Division supports SB 25.

Sincerely,

Miguel Canales
President, Los Angeles County Division
League of California Cities®

cc: Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org

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