



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 6/9/2017

Agenda Placement: 7A

Napa County Legislative Subcommittee Board Agenda Letter

TO: Napa County Legislative Subcommittee
FROM: Michael Karath for Molly Rattigan - Director
Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs
REPORT BY: Michael Karath, Staff Assistant - BOS - 299-1477
SUBJECT: AB 668 (Gonzalez Fletcher) - Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2018

RECOMMENDATION

Interim County Executive Officer requests discussion of and possible action on AB 668 (Gonzalez Fletcher), the Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2018, that would authorize the issuance and sale of \$450 million in bonds for counties to purchase new voting systems or improve and update their current voting systems. This bill, if passed, will place a \$450 million bond act on the June 5, 2018, statewide primary election ballot.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After the 2000 Presidential election, California and the federal government enacted legislation designed to modernize elections, including providing significant new funding to replace voting systems.

In California; AB 56 (Shelley), signed into law as Chapter 902, Statutes of 2001; authorized the sale of \$200 million in bonds for counties to use for the purchase of updated voting systems. In addition, the state received federal funds to replace voting systems.

AB 668 seeks to enact the Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2018 which, if approved, would authorize the issuance and sale of bonds in the amount of \$450 million for similar purposes as the Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2002. This bill, if passed, will place a \$450 million bond act on the June 5, 2018, statewide primary election ballot.

According to the bill's author, "Many voting machines are a decade old or even more, and need to be modernized in order to ensure our elections continue to be reliable. As voting systems age, the risks of failures or crashes increase. It is essential that investments in upgrading technology are made now, rather than waiting for our machinery to fail and possibly jeopardize electoral outcomes."

CSAC: Support
RCRC: Pending

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2002, authorized the Voting Modernization Finance Committee in the Secretary of State's Office to issue and sell bonds in the amount of \$200 million to improve voting machines and voting systems throughout the state.

The Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2002 authorized \$200 million in bonds for voting system improvements. The law authorized a county to apply to the Voting Modernization Board for money from the proceeds of the sale of bonds:

- (1) to pay for or purchase new voting systems that are certified or conditionally approved by the Secretary of State;
- (2) to research and develop new voting systems, or
- (3) to manufacture the minimum number of voting system units reasonably necessary to test and seek certification or conditional approval of the voting system, or test and demonstrate the capabilities of a voting system in a pilot program.

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CSAC: Support
RCRC: Pending

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . AB 668 - BILL TEXT - VOTING MODERNIZATION BOND ACT OF 2018

B . AB 668 - ASSEMBLY ANALYSIS - Voter Modernization Bond Act of 2018

Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi