



September 18, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: SB 72 -- SUPPORT

Dear Governor Newsom:

The California Voter Foundation strongly supports Senate Bill 72, authored by Senator Tom Umberg, to expand Election Day registration to every polling site in California.

While California has recently made significant strides to expand access to voter registration, 5.3 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 toward closing voter participation gaps and making our democracy more representative. SB 72 would join California with 13 states, as well as the District of Columbia, that provide Election Day registration options at all polling places: Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Additionally, Colorado offers same-day registration at all vote centers statewide.

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 Presidential 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 and urges you to sign this bill into law.

Sincerely,

Kim Alexander
President & Founder