



*Helping achieve an open and accountable government*

September 28, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 2125 (Quirk) – Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Clean Money Campaign is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that has been working on the problems of money in politics in California since 2002, with more than 150,000 supporters across the state who care deeply about improving California's campaign finance system.

On behalf of the California Clean Money Campaign, I am writing with a letter of support for AB 2125 (Quirk) and respectfully request that you sign the measure. AB 2125 would create a Risk-Limiting Audit (RLA) pilot program and direct the Secretary of State to adopt regulations for conducting this procedure. Now more than ever, when there is evidence that foreign powers have been probing the security of our online elections systems infrastructure, ensuring the integrity of our elections is of the utmost importance.

A RLA is a procedure for verifying a machine-tallied election outcome by manually checking a random sample of paper ballots. The number of paper ballots that must be counted depends on the number of votes cast in the election, the closeness of the race, and the discovered error rate of the voting machines. In some particularly close races, an RLA will require a full handcount of the ballots cast in an election. However, in the vast majority of cases, an RLA will require the manual review of far fewer ballots than California's current one percent manual tally.

California Clean Money Campaign believes Risk-Limiting Audits in California have the potential to significantly improve people's confidence in the outcomes of elections. RLAs can provide far greater statistical confidence in the correctness of an electoral outcome, usually at far less cost, than California's current post-election procedures. RLAs are a postelection auditing best practice, endorsed by the Presidential Commission on Election Administration, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, American Statistical Association, and numerous good government and election integrity organizations.

RLAs are already in use to safeguard American elections. RLAs are used in Colorado, Rhode Island, and Virginia, and are authorized for county use in Ohio and Washington. California has itself conducted several successful RLA pilots, including in the primary elections in Orange County just this past June.

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**California Clean Money Campaign**

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AB 2125 extends this successful track record by authorizing a statewide, 2020 pilot where counties may opt-in to using RLAs as a substitute for the present one percent manual tally. This pilot will enable the Secretary of State to adopt regulations to ensure proper and standardized implementation of RLAs. With the lessons learned from this pilot, California will be well-positioned to refine both the enabling legislation and regulations to extend this option indefinitely.

Crucially, AB 2125 does not allow the use of “ballot images,” or scanned images of paper ballots, to conduct an RLA. Comparing machine interpretation of voter intent with a sample of actual, paper ballots (or, where direct recording electronic voting systems are used, the voter-verifiable paper audit trail) is fundamental to the RLA process.

For these reasons we request that you sign AB 2125.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trent Lange". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Trent Lange, PhD  
President and Executive Director  
California Clean Money Campaign