



Mar. 27, 2019

Honorable Senator Mike McGuire
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 27 Presidential primary elections: ballot access. – SUPPORT

Dear Senator McGuire,

Independent California is a non-profit devoted to moving California in a more independent direction. Part of our mission is to ensure that Californians have equal representation in the American system of government, which currently under-represents Californians and dilutes our votes.

SB 27 is a smart approach which allows California to use its leverage in the presidential primary to gain concessions (in this case, tax return disclosure) from potential future U.S. Presidents. While we would of course prefer a presidential election system where all Americans' votes count equally and disclosure of tax returns are mandated at the federal level, we believe this is fairly unlikely to happen without independent action on the part of a state as powerful and important as California.

Former Gov. Brown vetoed a previous version of this bill (SB 149, 2017-2018) on the basis that it might lead to a "slippery slope" where different states impose all sorts of requirements on potential presidential candidates.¹ While we object to Brown's characterization of the process the United States uses to select a president as "our

¹ See Governor's Veto Message, Sep. 15, 2017

democratic system,” we agree with his core point, that passage of this fairly moderate bill could potentially lead to a cascade of events that render that selection process untenable. However, we do not see that as a good reason to veto this bill—on the contrary, it is a reason for Californians to support this bill enthusiastically.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Marin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave Marin
Chair of the Board
Independent California
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