



California State Sheriffs' Association

Organization Founded by the Sheriffs in 1894

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September 2, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 759 – Veto Request

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA), I respectfully request that you veto Assembly Bill 759, which would move the election of county sheriffs and district attorneys from gubernatorial election years to presidential election years. The bill also allows counties to move the election of other county offices than a county superintendent of schools to presidential election years via ordinance.

While proponents point to the notion that more voters on average may vote in presidential elections as a reason to move these contests, there is no guarantee that voters will examine their choices more carefully in a presidential election year or cast more votes in any particular contest. In fact, a longer election ballot could result in voter fatigue and fewer votes cast in "down-ticket" races as it is not uncommon for voters to only vote in certain races, generally at the top of the ballot.

To be sure, there is no guarantee that moving only certain county elections would enhance voter engagement in those races and there is a strong likelihood that voter participation could decrease. Instead, the only sure outcomes are the administrative burden of upending the current election calendar and increased costs due to reconfiguring ballots and elections. For this reason and those stated above, CSSA respectfully urges you to veto AB 759.

Sincerely,

Cory M. Salzillo
Legislative Director

cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarty, California State Assembly