

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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KATHLEEN KRAUSE
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

January 28, 2025

Senate Local Government Committee
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Local Government Omnibus Act of 2025 – SUPPORT

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors in support of the Local Government Omnibus Act of 2025; specifically, the amendment to Government Code Section 26802.5 to add Kern County to the current list of counties authorized to appoint a Registrar of Voters separate from the County Clerk.

Government Code Section 26802.5 has been amended multiple times over the years to add general law counties and provide a local option to Boards of Supervisors related to their governmental structures. Amending the law does not mandate or make any changes but simply provides an option for the Board of Supervisors to take future action. The County Clerk, as ex-officio Registrar of Voters, is an essential and critical function of county government. The position is often combined with other county officers and here in Kern the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters is currently combined with the Auditor-Controller functions. Although the County Clerk and Auditor-Controller often have overlapping data, documents and clientele, the Registrar of Voters typically functions independently from these other responsibilities.

Per current statute, there are 14 counties with the ability to appoint a Registrar of Voters separately from the County Clerk. The need to parse duties often stems from increasing demands of the Registrar of Voters Office. The proposed changes included in the Local Government Omnibus Act of 2025 would add Kern to this list of counties so that the structure of the department can be reviewed in the future by the Board of Supervisors and Kern will be equipped with the flexibility it needs to continue its pursuit of organizational excellence.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support the Local Government Omnibus Act of 2025 and respectfully requests that this Committee advance this measure through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Leticia Perez', with a large, stylized initial 'L' and 'P'.

Leticia Perez, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

CC: Honorable Members, Senate Elections Committee
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Kern County Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
Kern County Counsel
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange