

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

135



**FROM:** Executive Office

**SUBMITTAL DATE:** April 30, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Position on AB 1472 by Assembly Member Jackie Goldberg

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors support AB 1472 and direct the Executive Office and the Board's Sacramento representative to further the Board's position.

**BACKGROUND:** Finding suitable polling places to conduct elections is becoming increasingly difficult. Polling places should be easily identifiable, handicap accessible, clean, safe, have adequate parking, and with the advent of touch screen voting, technology friendly. Public school facilities provide the voting public with all of these opportunities. Existing law requires school boards to allow the use of school facilities for polling places if requested by election officials. AB 1472 promotes the use of schools as polling places by allowing school district governing bodies the following options when allowing the use of the school on election day: 1) continue school in session, 2) designate the day for staff training and development, or 3) close the school to students and non-classified employees.

*Gary M. Christmas*  
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Gary M. Christmas, Legislative Manager

- Consent  Policy
- Consent  Policy

**FINANCIAL DATA:** N/A  
**CURRENT YEAR COST** \$  
**NET COUNTY COST** \$

**ANNUAL COST:** \$  
**IN CURRENT YEAR BUDGET:** Yes/  
**BUDGET ADJUSTMENT:** No/  
**FY:** Yes/  
 No/

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:**

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

**APPROVE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive Office Signature

Department Recommendation:  
Per Executive Office:

Prev. Agn. ref.

Dist.

AGENDA NO.



2003  
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

**BILL NUMBER:** Assembly Bill 1472

**AUTHOR:** Assembly Member Jackie Goldberg

**PRESENT LAW:** Under current elections law, elections officials are required to undertake necessary measures in the locating of polling places to ensure that polling places meet the guidelines promulgated by the Secretary of State for accessibility by the physically handicapped.

Current law also provides that the governing body having jurisdiction over school buildings or other public buildings may authorize the use of its buildings for polling places on any election day. However, if a city or county elections official specifically requests the use of a school building for polling places on an election day, the governing body having jurisdiction over the particular school building must allow its use for the purpose requested.

**PROPOSED LAW:** AB 1472 would provide that when allowing use of a school building for a polling place, the governing body shall do one of the following:

1. Continue school in session, indicating the specific areas of the school grounds suitable for use as a polling place;
2. Designate the day for staff training and development; or
3. Close the school to students and non-classified employees.

AB 1472 requires elections officials to make facility requests in advance of the school year for the governing body to determine whether to keep schools

in session or use the day for staff training or close the campus.

AB 1472 also requires schools to make a telephone line for internet access available for use by local election officials if requested by those officials.

RECOMMENDATION: Support.

BACKGROUND: Finding suitable polling places to conduct elections is becoming increasingly difficult. Polling places should be easily identifiable, handicap assessable, clean, safe, provide adequate parking and with the advent of touch screen voting, technology friendly. Public facilities provide election facilities and the public all of these amenities.

While schools must provide adequate facilities to conduct elections, conducting elections during normal school hours is distracting for students and intimidating to older voters who may not be used to modern school campuses. Additionally conducting elections during normal school hours presents security issues for voters and students. Since public schools remain desirable polling places, AB 1472 would promote the use of schools by allowing school districts to use Election Day as an in-service training day or to close schools.

In addition to providing many advantages to the elections process, the provisions of AB 1472 may encourage teachers, school workers, and students to participate as poll workers.

FISCAL EFFECT: No fiscal impact.

ORGANIZATION POSITIONS: California Election Officials, the California State Association of Counties, and the Secretary of State support AB 1472. There is no recorded opposition.