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March 20, 2018

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 25 (PORTANTINO) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino,

California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) is pleased to support SB 25, which would reorder election ballots so that local offices and ballot measures appear first. CCCA represents 76 cities and over 7.5 million residents.

Over the past several years, the State Legislature has made significant strides to increase voter participation in the state's election cycles. Statutes, such as SB 415 (Hueso 2015) were passed to address declining voter participation, however, consolidating local elections with statewide elections produces long ballots that result in "voter fatigue." According to the Center for American Politics and Citizenship, the average statewide ballot includes 17 elective offices and 5 ballot questions, resulting in lost opportunities for cities to engage its citizenry on important local issues, including city council seats and measures that support their local programs and city services.

SB 25 would ensure local ballots are not lost down the ballot and in the information competition that engrosses statewide and national elections. CCCA is proud to support SB 25 and applauds your work to ensure cities are well positioned to serve our communities.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Davitt
CCCA President
Mayor, La Cañada Flintridge

Lindsey Horvath
CCCA Legislative Committee Chair
Councilmember, West Hollywood