



June 2, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
California State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 568, March Presidential Primary – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Lara:

The California Voter Foundation is pleased to support SB 568, which, if enacted, will move California's Presidential primary election from June to March.

While California is the most populous state in the nation, our voters are routinely denied a say in the outcome of presidential elections. The electoral college creates a system that disproportionately favors voters in less populous states and disadvantages voters residing in states whose registration strongly favors one major party over the other.

Given these disadvantages, and the unlikelihood that the electoral college process will change any time in the near future, the only practical opportunity for California voters' votes to have an impact in the Presidential election is in the Primary election.

Over the past two decades, California has experimented with moving up its primary. While it's true that other states have "leapfrogged" ahead of California's earlier primary, it's also true that those earlier primaries made California a bigger part of the Presidential election process. Allowing our Presidential primary to continue to be held in June is a sure way to minimize the impact of California voters on the presidential election.

Thank you for introducing this important bill. We look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure its success.

Sincerely,

Kim Alexander
President