

Draft – Letter to Legislators

Hon. Evan Low
Hon. Randy Voepel
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Assembly Members Low and Voepel

RE: SUPPORT FOR AB 53, IF AMENDED

On behalf of the County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission (LA County CRC), we write regarding AB 53, which would make the General Election Day in November of even-numbered years a state holiday. While our commission's mandate (Elections Code §§ 21530 - 21535) is unrelated to designating dates as state holidays, we have an urgent concern that your bill could significantly alleviate if amended in a way that we think would further its purposes.

Our urgent concern is that delayed availability of U.S. Census will make it exceedingly difficult for us to do what we are charged with doing by the “map adoption deadline” in state law. That deadline is currently December 15, 2021, based on June 7, 2022 being the next Primary Election Day. But if the Primary Election Day were moved to September 5, 2022, the deadline would become February 12, 2022, giving us two more months to complete our redistricting work. (Census data availability has already been postponed for longer than that.)

September 5, 2022, you may have noticed, is 2022's Labor Day. Labor Day is already a state holiday. The purposes of making an Election Day a state holiday could be served by moving an Election Day to an existing state holiday. In counties like ours, and in other municipalities, Primary Election Days are no less important than General Election Days. Each of our county elections ends on Primary Day if a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

So it seems that moving the statewide Primary Election Day (with which counties consolidate their primaries) from the first Tuesday after the First Monday in June to Labor Day would serve both your interests (in having election days be holidays) and ours (in having more time to fulfill a mandate). We hope you agree that our having enough time to consider public input and carefully draw districts is an important public purpose.

Please let us know if you might amend AB 53 to move the statewide Primary Election Day as suggested here. If you do, expect our support.

Sincerely,

[...]

cc: Assembly Committee on Elections
Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization