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Assembly
California Legislature

GENE MULLIN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, NINETEENTH DISTRICT

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CO-AUTHOR REQUEST

TO: Members of the Legislature

FROM: Assembly Members Gene Mullin and Mark Leno

RE: AB 1294 – Ranked Voting

I would like to invite you to co-author AB 1294, which allows general law cities, general law counties, boards of education, and special districts to use ranked voting systems, specifically Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) and Choice Voting, to elect local officials and legislative bodies. This bill would specify the ranked voting method as it applies to both a single-candidate election and a multiple-candidate election.

Despite growing public interest in using ranked voting systems such as IRV, most local jurisdictions are not able to use ranked voting systems under current law. Today only charter counties or charter cities can use ranked voting, but over three-fourths of cities and counties -- and nearly all districts -- are general law jurisdictions and do not have these options.

In addition, there are no statewide standards for how ranked voting elections should be conducted, creating both the possibility of inconsistent implementations, as well as additional burdens on local officials.

IRV ensures that the winner of a single-winner election has the support of the majority of voters in a single election. By eliminating the need for a costly runoff election it saves local governments a lot of money -- about $2 million per election in San Francisco alone. IRV also eliminates vote-splitting and spoiler effects, both of which undermine the public's confidence in the political process.

We hope you will join with us as a co-author of this legislation so cities and counties can have the flexibility they need to serve their voters.

_____ _____
Type or Print Name of Member Signature

Please return to Darci Sears, Office of Assembly Member Gene Mullin, Room 2163 or fax to 319-2119.

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