

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2015

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND REDISTRICTING

Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, Chair

AB 1535 (Committee on Elections and Redistricting) – As Introduced March 25, 2015

SUBJECT: Elections: petitions.

SUMMARY: Requires a voter who has signed an initiative, referendum, or recall petition, and who subsequently wishes to withdraw his or her name from the petition, to file a written request with the appropriate county elections official that includes the voter's name, residence address, and signature, as specified.

EXISTING LAW authorizes a voter who has signed an initiative, referendum, or recall petition to remove his or her name from the petition by filing a written request with the appropriate county elections official prior to the day the petition is filed.

FISCAL EFFECT: None. This bill is keyed non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose of this Bill:** This is one of the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee's omnibus bills, containing minor and technical changes to provisions of the Elections Code. All of the provisions of this bill are changes requested by the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials.
- 2) **Signature Petition Withdrawal:** Current law authorizes a voter who has signed an initiative, referendum, or recall petition to remove his or her name from the petition by filing a written request with the appropriate county elections official prior to the day the petition is filed. However, current law does not specify what information should be included on the written withdrawal request filed with the county elections official. Consequently, it is difficult and time consuming for county elections officials to confirm the correct voter who filed the withdrawal request.

In an effort to help resolve this issue, this bill requires the written request to remove a voter's name from a petition to include the voter's name, residence address, and signature. Requiring the written withdrawal request to include these pieces of information will make the process more efficient and help county elections officials more easily match the voter with his or her withdrawal request and take the appropriate steps to process the form.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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