



Peace and Freedom Party of California

Legislative Committee

Kevin Akin, Riverside; Mary Lou Finley, San Diego; Dave Kadlecsek, Vice Chair, Santa Clare; Tom Lacey, San Francisco; John Reiger, Sacramento; Teresa Sale, Sacramento; Maureen Smith, Santa Cruz; Alice Stek, Los Angeles; Bill Storm, Sacramento; C. T. Weber, Chair, Sacramento.

April 1, 2020

Senator Thomas J Umberg
State Capitol, Room 3076
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Re: SB 1450 (Umberg)

Oppose unless amended

Dear Senator Umberg,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Peace and Freedom Party of California. Peace and Freedom Party first qualified for the ballot in California over 50 years ago at a time when California only had two choices. Some would argue that because of the way elections are held that we still only have two choices. That is why we have been actively involved in efforts to democratize our election systems.

Peace and Freedom Party opposes SB 1450 unless it is amended. While we agree with you that plurality voting is not appropriate for local nonpartisan elections, and for that matter any election, we do not agree with your solution of forcing counties to use top two elections for non-partisan county offices. We believe that using the top two system in the primary will result in a drastically limited field of candidates for these offices in the November general election when the voter turnout is traditionally greatest. Voters should have the widest field of choices in the election that is much larger, more visible, and much more significant.

To remove our opposition, we would prefer that the top two system not be used in any primary election, thereby allowing a wider field of candidates to go on the general election in November. Instead we would prefer the use of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) at the November general election as a way of making sure that the winning candidate is selected by the widest approval margin. But, in any case local governments should be offered a choice of how to conduct their elections and RCV should be one of the choices.

For these and other reasons we oppose SB 1450 unless it is amended. We hope to work with you and your staff to resolve these problems so that we can either support the passage of, or drop our opposition to, an amended bill. To discuss our position on SB 1450 further, please contact me at 916-320-9186 (mobile) or CTWeberVoters@att.net or our State Chair, John Reiger, at reigers@earthlink.net.

Sincerely,

C. T. Weber

C. T. Weber
Peace and Freedom Party of California
Legislative Committee Chair

cc: Senator Jim Nielson (Vice Chair)
Senator Robert M Hertzberg
Senator Connie M Leyva
Senator Henry I Stern
Darren P Chesin, Chief Consultant