



Peace and Freedom Party of California

Legislative Committee

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April 23, 2021

Honorable Assemblymember Chad Mayes
State Capitol, Room 4098
Sacramento, CA 94249-0042

Subject: AB 446 (Mayes) – Oppose Unless Amended

Dear Assemblymember Mayes:

I am writing to you on behalf of Peace and Freedom Party of California to oppose AB 446 unless it is amended. We had previously voted to support AB 446 because of the section where the votes casts for a party's candidates for a statewide office at the last preceding gubernatorial primary would be reduced to 0.5% of the entire vote for that office. However, when it came to our attention that the proposed reduction was removed, we discussed whether or not we should change our position. We discussed taking a support if amended position because we wanted to continue to work with you, the author, in hopes of getting you to reinstate the removed section. However, if we were to testify on the bill, we would be limited in what we could say. We also discussed taking an oppose unless amended position with the hope that we could present our case to the entire Committee on Elections and then continue to work with you to reinstate the removed section or consider inserting another percentage. We decided to oppose unless amended.

AB 446 also reduces the number of signatures that would be required to qualify a party for an election to 3% of the entire statewide vote at the last preceding gubernatorial election. This section which reduces the qualification for party ballot status, in our opinion, is fine if coupled with the removed section, or even another percent involving a lesser reduction of the current 2%, in order to make it easier for smaller parties to remain on the ballot once qualified. While more parties are healthy, and in fact desirable, it is also more difficult at the 2% level to maintain ballot status as the number of parties increases. This may have the effect of parties being qualified and parties being removed routinely. Our concerns would be not only the confusion among voters to a constant churn of parties coming onto the ballot and then going back off the ballot, but also the extra work put upon county election officials trying to maintain an ever-changing number of parties.

Peace and Freedom Party suggests that the 0.5% vote test be restored along with our support for AB 446. Even a reduction to another percent that is lower than the current 2% may lead to our support. However, to lower the qualification requirement without a lower threshold to maintain that qualification make little since and may only confuses the voters.

Peace and Freedom Party first obtained ballot status in California over 50 years ago in January 1968. We had hoped to bring about many much-needed reforms to our election system, only to watch the system become less democratic over the years. There are so many ways to open up our system and make it truly democratic but those in power resist real change. So, when a small opening appeared, we were happy to support it, but even that was removed.

For these reasons, Peace and Freedom Party opposes AB 446 unless amended. To discuss our position on this bill further, please contact either John Reiger, Legislative Committee Chair at (916) 456-4595 or reigers@earthlink.net, or C. T. Weber, Legislative Liaison, at (916) 422-5395 (message) or CTWeberVoters@att.net.

Sincerely,

John C. Reiger

John C. Reiger
Legislative Committee Chairperson
Peace and Freedom Party of California

C. T. Weber

C. T. Weber
Legislative Liaison
Peace and Freedom Party of California