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MEMO

TO: SENATE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT & REFORM COMMITTEE

FROM: JOHN LEUTZ, CCAO LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 212

DATE: JANUARY 26, 2016

Chairman Coley, Vice-Chairman Seitz, Ranking Minority Member Yuko, and members of the Committee, my name is John Leutz, CCAO Legislative Counsel. I'm here to express support for Senate Bill 212, sponsored by Senator Joe Uecker, which would enable a board of elections to reduce the number of poll workers in a polling location under certain circumstances.

Specifically, the bill provides permissive authority for a board to reduce the minimum number of required precinct election officials from four to two starting in 2017 if the following applies:

- Electronic poll books are utilized; and
- The polling location includes more than one precinct.

The legislation does not change the bipartisan composition of precinct election officials in code; both major political parties will still have representation among poll workers.

As Senator Uecker noted in his sponsor testimony, electronic poll books decrease voter wait times, and in multi-precinct voting locations, the technology facilitates a more efficient process. Plus, if a voter is at the wrong precinct or voting location, the e-poll book will print out the proper location, while some even generate directions to the proper site, too.

The efficiency that has been gained through the use of the centralized check-in and e-poll books is bringing us to the point where four poll workers in each precinct in a multi-precinct polling location are not needed. Moreover, poll workers are our single biggest Election Day expense and recruiting a sufficient number of them can be challenging in some areas. Thus, SB 212 would allow county boards of elections to address these issues where it makes sense.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.



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