



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**OCT 13 2019**

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1036 without my signature.

This bill, which sunsets on January 1, 2027, authorizes the Yolo County Elections Office, in partnership with the Yolo County Office of Education, to conduct a High School Voter Education Pilot Program to increase civic engagement. This bill also makes certain requirements of the Secretary of State related to county voter outreach, registration, and education efforts.

Yolo County voluntarily held a youth empowerment summit in 2017 and in 2019 that included, among other lessons, how to properly fill out a ballot and provided an opportunity for eligible students to register or pre-register to vote. Students received hands-on experience in the democratic process and had the opportunity to interact directly with their elected representatives. In this case, the goal of increased student civic engagement and participation is being met without specific state funding. Consequently, paying local entities to perform activities that they could and should conduct independently of state reimbursement is not fiscally prudent.

This bill may also create an election-related reimbursable mandate of potentially significant costs to the state. Additionally, if the Secretary of State opts to provide grants to local jurisdictions for the voter outreach and education programs prescribed by this measure, and it is determined that Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funding cannot be used for that purpose, this bill may result in General Fund cost pressures.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom