



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2021

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 446 without my signature.

This bill reduces the number of signatures needed on a petition to form a new political party, and allows the name of a proposed political party that fails to qualify as a party to be eligible for use by a different political body in the future. In addition, this bill permits a body that is attempting to form a new political party to request reconsideration if the Secretary of State rejects the proposed party's name.

California prides itself on its diversity. We have worked hard to ensure our elections are fair, transparent, and accessible so all Californians can be represented in this state. Existing law offers prospective new political parties with an alternative qualification process. I am concerned that this bill creates additional burdens for county elections officials to maintain an ever-changing number of political parties and that this bill could create confusion among voters due to the constant churn of parties coming onto, and falling off of, the ballot.

This bill would also likely create a state reimbursable mandate as it requires that, for every political party that qualifies, there would be an additional one to two added variations of each ballot type, with an increase in corresponding workload.



I agree with the author's goal of increasing and diversifying voices and perspectives in our democratic system, but I am not convinced this bill would assist in that endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with several sharp peaks and a long horizontal tail extending to the right.

Gavin Newsom