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SHEEHY STRATEGY GROUP

June 28th, 2022

Honorable Dave Min
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 286 (Min) – Elections: Orange County Board of Education: Oppose

Dear Senator Min:

On behalf of the Orange County Board of Education, I am writing to express our opposition to your Senate Bill 286 (SB 286). The Orange County Board of Education (OCBE) provides educational opportunities for Orange County students, promotes student achievement, and offers leadership, services, and resources for Orange County school districts, educators, and the community.

SB 286 would require the elections for seats on the Orange County Board of Education to be consolidated with the November statewide general election. Orange County is a Charter County that has the authority to adopt a resolution to change their Board of Education elections to occur on the same day as a statewide general election. Orange County does not require a state law to do so. The OCBE has not passed a resolution seeking a change and our County Board of Supervisors have not requested such a resolution. SB 286 is an intrusion into local control over Orange County elections and as such, is completely unwelcome and unnecessary. Other counties in the state of California elect their board members the same as we do in Orange County yet your SB 286 singles us out for this change.

We also oppose SB 286 because it would create a new and significant workload responsibilities and costs for the County Registrar. By mandating the change in county election procedures, the State of California's General Fund will become liable – every election cycle – for the additional costs associated with making this change once a test claim is filed and approved by the Commission on State Mandates. The additional Orange County costs resulting from the bill would include adding an extra ballot card to presidential election cycle ballots to accommodate the additional contests. In addition, there will be information technology costs and significant staff time to make these changes. The Senate Appropriations Committee staff analysis estimated the costs could be hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. We believe this estimate is low.

For all these reasons, we must oppose SB 286. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 213-8998.

Sincerely,

Tom Sheehy

cc: Orange County Board of Education