

AAUW Camarillo Branch

June 18, 2024

Ventura County Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item #93. Time Certain 11:30

Dear Board of Supervisors,

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Camarillo Branch advocates for social justice and public education for all residents of our county. We have been doing so for 60 years; building on community programs, scholarships, and research. One of our basic tenets is supporting voting access for all; providing more, not less, opportunities for voters to express their desires for representation. We have worked many polling centers, trusting a system that has served us well for decades.

Before your Board today is an agenda item to possibly change our long-standing voting system; a system not broken and without any proof of fraudulent actions. Voting is a protected right in this country, one that ensures a fair election and an accurate and efficient voting system. The suggestions to create a Fraud Hotline and Election Inspector; a citizen's Election Oversight Commission; limiting voting to one day (which violates the Federal Voters' Choice Act); hand counting of ballots; and prohibitions on scanning ballots until election day; all imply the decades long system here in our county is broken. Where is the evidence of that? What will be the cost for these changes? More importantly, what is the impact to our voters by limiting their access and convenience of voting that exist with the current practices?

Good government requires more engagement of residents, strong leaders who embrace the public voice; and transparency in all policies that impact the public. Our election system is not broken, has never shown fraudulent practices, and has withstood the tests over the years. We applaud the decades of integrity in our elections, overseen by Phil Schmit, Richard Dean, Mark Lund and now Michelle Asencion. These leaders trusted the voters.

The full report before you today by County Counsel clearly addresses all those issues raised by Restore the Vote Ventura, and clearly notes your limited authority under the laws. Registrar of Voters Michelle Ascencion definitively described her departments roles and responsibilities in a prior meeting, and solidly supports the integrity of the operations. We concur with County Counsel's report and the Registrar's and ask that you do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Trevino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

AAUW Camarillo Branch

Cathy Trevino, President