

May 14, 2015

Hon. Kamala D. Harris
Attorney General
1300 I Street, 17th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Ms. Ashley Johansson
Initiative Coordinator

Dear Attorney General Harris:

Pursuant to Elections Code Section 9005, we have reviewed the proposed initiative (A.G. File No. 15-0013) that replaces the word “Governor” with “President” in the California Constitution.

BACKGROUND

Governor. The chief executive of state or regional government in every state, commonwealth, and territory of the United States of America is referred to as Governor. In California, the Governor has many powers and responsibilities, including: signing into law or vetoing legislation passed by the Legislature, preparing and submitting to the Legislature an annual budget detailing state governmental revenues and expenditures, and nominating individuals to serve in high ranking positions in state government.

President. The term President is used to describe the leader of many national governments and some nongovernmental entities. For example, this term is used for the chief executive of the federal government of the United States of America as well as leaders of nongovernmental entities such as corporate boards of directors and parent-teacher associations. In state government, the chief executive of the University of California holds this title and the Lieutenant Governor is considered the President of the California Senate.

PROPOSAL

The proposed measure changes the title of the chief executive of state government from Governor to President.

FISCAL EFFECTS

Summary of Fiscal Effects. As state and local governments revise official documents and publications, they could incur minor one-time costs to change the name of the chief executive from Governor to President.

- Potential minor one-time costs to state and local government to change the name of the chief executive in government documents.

Sincerely,

Mac Taylor
Legislative Analyst

Michael Cohen
Director of Finance