September 8, 2015

Hon. Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
Chairperson, Committee on Elections and Redistricting
State Capitol, Room 2176
Sacramento, CA 94249-0054

Subject: AB 1020 Voter registration – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Peace and Freedom Party of California to oppose AB 1020 unless it is amended. The Peace and Freedom Party does not object to most of the bill, which makes numerous changes to update laws related to voter registration, in preparation for the implementation of the statewide voter information database. Unfortunately, mixed in with the necessary technical changes are provisions that make the voter lists provided to campaigns and parties much less useful, thus favoring even more political groups that can pay consultants for their own separately maintained lists.

The bill would delete voters with confidential voter status from voter lists provided to parties and campaigns, thus making voter lists provided to campaigns incomplete. Only the confidential residence addresses, phone numbers and email addresses should be omitted, protecting such voters’ confidentiality while still allowing campaigns to have complete lists.

The bill would also authorize the insertion of fictitious names into voter registration information database, thus putting inaccurate information into voter lists provided to campaigns.

The bill would also reduce the number of lists to which political parties are entitled to before elections, so that lists would be either unavailable or out of date at some times when they would normally be used.

For these reasons, the Peace and Freedom Party of California opposes AB 1020 unless it is amended so that it no longer effectively privatizes what has been a public service. To discuss our position on AB 1020 further, please contact me at 916-320-9186 (mobile) or ctwebervoters@att.net, or our State Chair, Debra Reiger, at 916-698-8131 (mobile) or debra.reiger@earthlink.net.

Sincerely,

C. T. Weber
Legislative Committee Chairperson
Peace and Freedom Party of California

cc: Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting
    Hon. Shannon L. Grove, Vice-Chair
    Hon. Travis Allen
    Hon. Mike Gatto
    Hon. Richard S. Gordon
    Hon. Kevin Mullin
    Hon. Henry T. Perea