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Office of the Governor

June 16, 2023

The Honorable Francisco Aguilar
Nevada Secretary of State
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: Assembly Bill 246 of the 82nd Legislative Session

Dear Secretary of State Aguilar:

I am forwarding to you, for filing within the time limit set forth in the Nevada Constitution and without my approval, Assembly Bill 246 ("AB 246"), which is titled as follows:

AN ACT relating to elections; requiring, under certain circumstances, the Secretary of State, county clerks and city clerks to ensure that voting materials and certain other elections information are posted on certain Internet websites and made available in certain languages; requiring the Secretary of State to establish a toll-free telephone number which may be used for a person to receive language interpretation or translation assistance relating to an election; requiring such telephone number to be posted at each polling place and on certain Internet websites and included on sample ballots; requiring the Secretary of State to include certain information related to a registered voter's preferred language on an application to register to vote; requiring county and city clerks to make a good faith effort to appoint election board officers who are bilingual; revising the information relating to registered voters that is required to be included on the statewide voter registration list; requiring, under certain circumstances, a mechanical voting system to list offices, candidates and ballot measures in a voter's preferred language; creating and setting forth the membership and duties of the Language Access Advisory Committee; making an appropriation to the Office of the Secretary of State for certain expenses relating to language access and the establishment of a toll-free telephone number; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

AB 246 is well intended inasmuch as it is critical that individuals are not intimidated by a language barrier on election day. That said, Nevada's current laws sufficiently accomplish the goal of ensuring language accessibility in accordance with Federal law. Moreover, existing Nevada law also grants county and city clerks the authority to provide voting materials in languages even

above the Federal requirement if the clerk "determines there is a significant and substantial need for [such additional] voting materials[.]" *NRS 293.2699*.

Since Nevada is compliant with federal law and local officers are already empowered to provide election materials in additional languages at their discretion, I cannot support this bill.

For these reasons, I veto this bill and return it to you without my signature or approval.

Respectfully submitted,



JOE LOMBARDO
Governor of Nevada

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Stavros Anthony, President of the Senate (without enclosure)
The Honorable Nicole Cannizzaro, Senate Majority Leader (without enclosure)
The Honorable Steve Yeager, Speaker of the Assembly (without enclosure)
Brendan Bucy, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)
Susan Furlong, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)
Brenda Erdoes, Esq., Legislative Counsel Bureau, Director (without enclosure)
Bryan Fernley, Esq., Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)