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Office of the Governor

June 5, 2025

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

Re: Assembly Bill 496 of the 83rd 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 496 ("AB 496"), which is titled as follows:

AN ACT relating to elections; requiring county and city clerks and the Secretary of State to post on the Internet certain information relating to mail ballots and provisional ballots; requiring each county clerk to post monthly on the Internet an alphabetical listing of all registered voters in the county; requiring certain information to be included on the return envelopes for mail ballots; revising provisions relating to access to information concerning provisional ballots; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

AB 496 offers several promising reforms that could strengthen Nevada's election process. Notably, the proposed rules for addressing signature defects would promote consistency across all counties, and requiring telephone numbers for mail ballots could improve voter communication and ballot verification—both welcome enhancements to current law.

However, while these provisions are beneficial, AB 496 also includes mandates that would present serious implementation challenges for local election officials. For example, requiring the monthly publication of an updated, downloadable alphabetical list of all registered voters would place a significant administrative burden on counties, many of which operate with limited staff and resources. Similarly, the requirement to post detailed

mail and provisional ballot data online would necessitate the creation or expansion of secure, user-friendly digital platforms. This is not a one-time effort—it demands continuous investment in technical infrastructure, cybersecurity, and staff training.

Perhaps most concerning, the inclusion of voter identification numbers in publicly accessible lists poses a real risk to voter privacy. As technology evolves, even well-intentioned transparency measures can become vulnerable to misuse. Without robust, forward-looking security protections, such disclosures could expose voters to identity theft or other malicious activities.

Though AB 496 contains several worthwhile ideas, its more demanding provisions raise serious feasibility and security concerns that may compromise the very voter-trust they aim to build, I cannot support it.

For these reasons, I veto this bill and return it 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)
Bonnie Borda Hoffecker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)
Diane Thornton, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Director (without enclosure)
Asher Killian, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)