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Office of the Governor

June 12, 2025

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

Re: Assembly Bill 534 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 534 ("AB 534"), which is titled as follows:

AN ACT relating to elections; revising provisions relating to voter registration and updating voter registration information; renaming certain provisional ballots to "conditional ballots"; revising provisions relating to certain petitions; revising provisions relating to the publication of certain information by a county clerk; revising provisions relating mail ballots; revising provisions relating to the testing of certain technology prior to an election; defining the term "personal knowledge" for purposes of certain challenges; revising provisions relating to risk-limiting audits; revising provisions relating to certain prohibited conduct in or around a polling place; revising provisions relating to mechanical voting systems; authorizing, under certain circumstances, the Secretary of State to adjust the date of the presidential preference primary election; creating the Voter Access Grant Program and the Account for the Voter Access Grant Program; making various other changes relating to elections; and providing other matters properly relating thereto

While AB 534 includes some provisions that may streamline election procedures, it centralizes too much authority in the Secretary of State's office, undermining the local

control that has long defined Nevada's election system. Local election officials—most of whom are elected and directly accountable to their communities—are better equipped to uphold standards that reflect local needs. By empowering the Secretary of State to mandate 24-hour mail ballot processing, set critical deadlines, approve voting system transitions, and control a new statewide grant program, the bill shifts substantial discretion to a single office. This concentration of power risks slower responsiveness and diminished local input. Voters may begin to view election rules as distant, top-down mandates rather than collaborative efforts shaped by their communities—eroding public trust and marginalizing the role of their local elections officials.

Section 24(10) raises concerns about the ability of private individuals to challenge a voter's eligibility based on residency. By requiring personal, firsthand knowledge and excluding third-party or data-based evidence, the bill significantly limits the tools available to identify voters who may no longer be eligible.

Because AB 534 centralizes too much election authority in a single office, inherently weakening the role of trusted local officials and community input, and raises election integrity concerns, 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)