



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 14, 2012

The Honorable Ken Bennett  
Secretary of State  
Capitol Executive Tower, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: House Bill 2826 (consolidated election dates; political subdivisions)

Dear Secretary Bennett,

Today I signed House Bill 2826, which modifies the consolidated election dates for political subdivisions.

In 1996, the Arizona Legislature established consolidated election dates to increase voter turnout and reduce election costs. Arizona Revised Statutes § 16-204 states that "the holding of all elections on certain specific consolidated days is a matter of statewide concern." As H.B. 2826 was amended, the stated goal was to address candidate elections and I support this goal and agree that consolidated elections are a matter of statewide concern. However, this bill impacts other elections throughout the state and may require further examination in the next legislative session.

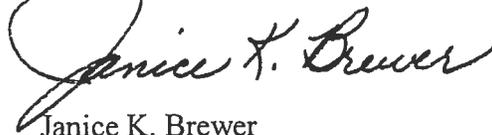
H.B. 2826 preempts all local laws, ordinances and charter provisions that are contrary to the consolidated election schedule and beginning in 2014, the bill will subject "any governmental entity" and "any other district organized under state law" to the consolidated election schedule. Yet the bill exempts all special taxing districts from consolidated elections, including nine districts that are currently subject to the consolidated election dates. These additional changes may require further examination to fully understand the implications on elections throughout the state.

While governmental entities and local election officials affected by this bill have expressed concerns about ballot lengths and increased costs, these were the same arguments raised when the Legislature first enacted the consolidated election schedule and time has shown that it has not hindered the election process. I agree with the Legislature's statement and the

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sponsor's intent to consolidate candidate elections in an effort to increase voter participation and reduce costs. I encourage the sponsor to work closely with the stakeholders to thoroughly review the legislation's full impact prior to the 2014 elections and make any changes to avoid unintended consequences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice K. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Janice K. Brewer  
Governor

cc: The Honorable Andy Tobin  
The Honorable Steve Pierce  
The Honorable Michelle Ugenti