



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**SEP 06 2011**

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 88 without my signature.

This bill mandates that a phonetic transliteration of a candidate's alphabet-based name be provided whenever a translation of the candidate's name into a character-based language is provided on ballot materials.

Existing law, allows local elections officials to establish appropriate policies, including providing transliterations and processing or approving candidate-provided transliterations. Several counties have adopted policies to address the concern raised by this bill, i.e. that candidates are providing names that do not represent their actual name and history in the particular community.

With California's severe fiscal challenges, restraint must be exercised with regard to any new state mandates. I believe this discretion should remain at the local level where a decision can be made based on local needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edmund G. Brown Jr." with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.