



April 3, 2024

Assemblymember Marc Berman
State Capitol
1021 O Street, Suite 8130
Sacramento, CA 95818

RE: AB 2655 – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Berman:

The California Voter Foundation (CVF) is pleased to support your bill, AB 2655, the Defending Democracy from Deepfake Deception Act of 2024, which will help protect California elections by limiting the spread of online disinformation and deepfakes intended to influence elections by deceiving voters or preventing them from voting. If enacted into law, AB 2655 will require a large online platform to:

- block the posting or sending of materially deceptive and digitally modified or created content related to elections, six months before and two months after an election;
- label certain additional content as inauthentic, fake, or false during these specified periods before and after an election; and
- develop procedures for California residents to report content that has not been blocked or labeled in compliance with the act.

AB 2655 would also authorize California residents, the Attorney General, and a district attorney or city attorney to seek injunctive relief against a large online platform for noncompliance with the act, and would also exempt content that is satire or parody.

Voters must have access to reliable information in order to have an incentive to vote and to vote with confidence. However, 2024 marks the first-ever generative artificial intelligence (AI) election year for California and democracies all over the world. The potential for bad actors, be they foreign or domestic, to mislead, confuse and manipulate voters through deceptive audio, video or images leads to the very real possibility that voters will be left simply trusting nothing and forego voting altogether.

California lawmakers have a long history and strong track record of ensuring voters can make informed choices through enhanced campaign finance disclosure laws, truth in committee naming laws, and requiring counties to list supporters for and against ballot measures directly on California ballots. AB 2655 continues California lawmakers' longstanding efforts to empower California voters to make informed, confident choices.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Kim Alexander, President & Founder
California Voter Foundation