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Chairperson Brandtjen and Assembly Campaigns and Elections Committee Members,

Thank you for holding a Public Hearing on AB 264 related to compensation of election officials performing duties during a recount.

This legislation is about transparency and accountability to taxpayers.

Following the 2016 Presidential Election a statewide recount was conducted at the final cost of \$2,005,603. Four years later, a recount of just two counties cost \$2,455,147. Understandably, COVID-19 had an impact on this figure. However, the amount paid to temporary staff in one county alone more than doubled, from \$102,000 to \$243,000. While these two recounts were paid for by the campaigns requesting them, the next one might be on the taxpayer's tab. This bill requires poll workers to be paid at the same rate for a recount as they were for the election under review.

This should not cause undue difficulty as poll workers have historically been just as willing to work on a recount as they are to work on an election.

This bill clarifies that the payments to election workers should remain the same for the general election as well as the recount.

Additionally, the Senate companion, SB 268 has passed the Senate Committee on Elections, Election Process Reform and Ethics. We have included Assembly Amendment 1 to AB 264 in response to concerns raised during the Senate committee process. This amendment provides additional oversight regarding the renting of space to conduct recounts.

I appreciate your consideration of this bill and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.