

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 288 without my signature.

This bill would require a candidate's alphabet-based name to be phonetically translated if the county is required to provide translated ballot materials in a character-based language.

This bill is in response to abuse by candidates that try to use a popular Asian name in order to gain support in that ethnic community. This unscrupulous practice should be prevented; however, a change in state policy is unnecessary. Under current law, local elections officials have the authority to address this fraudulent behavior and to set policies that are appropriate for their unique jurisdictions. For example, the director of elections in San Francisco has established a Chinese name translation policy to address concerns that improper translations were being used by candidates in local races.

I encourage local elections officials to continue to address the concerns raised in this bill at the local level.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger