***NEWS RELEASE***

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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act

CALIFORNIA – (Today Aug. 6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is partnering with the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials are proud to announce that today is the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, which was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on August 6, 1965.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a milestone in national legislation that prohibits discriminatory voting practices from disenfranchising African Americans. The act makes it illegal to require eligible voters to pass literacy tests in order to register to vote.

Within the same year the act was passed, the many key events took place throughout the Civil Rights Movement: Malcolm X was assassinated, the Selma to Montgomery marches occurred, the Watts riots in Los Angeles occurred, and President Johnson issued Executive Order 11246 to enforce Affirmative Action for the first time.

Since its initial passage, the act has expanded its reach with amendments that assist language minorities in the voting process by providing language-specific election materials to jurisdictions with large numbers of language minorities.

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