



March 23, 2021

VIA Online Portal to Author and Assembly Committee on Local Government

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry) – Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval. – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry:

The League of Women Voters of California writes to support ACA 1, legislation that, if approved by the voters, would lower the vote threshold for the approval of local general obligation (GO) bonds and certain special taxes from two-thirds to 55 percent.

The League supports voter approval of local taxes and bond measures by a simple majority vote.

California's cities and counties are dealing with a crisis of homelessness and lack of affordable housing; many face significant unmet infrastructure needs. The two-thirds vote requirement for special taxes and bond measures impedes needed investment in California's future by allowing a small minority of voters to thwart the will of the majority.

Nearly twenty years ago the voters reduced the vote threshold required for passage of school bond measures to 55 percent, leading to an upsurge in successful school bond measures and increased construction of sorely needed new public schools. It is time to apply the same rules to local governments.

The League of Women Voters of California urges passage of ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry), an important step toward giving local governments greater financial resources to solve local problems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Moon Goldberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Moon Goldberg
President