



June 30, 2021

**VIA Online Portal to Author and Senate Committee on Appropriations**

The Honorable Robert Hertzberg  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 313  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SCA 1 — Elections: referenda – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

**The League of Women Voters of California writes to support SCA 1**, which establishes that a “Yes” vote is in favor of the referendum (and against the statute subject to it), and a “No” vote is against the referendum (and in favor of the statute subject to it). Importantly, the amendment also requires the inclusion of the meaning of a “Yes” and a “No” vote on the ballot for a referendum measure.

SCA 1's proposed change is important because the current framing is counterintuitive to voters, causing confusion as to whether they are voting to overturn or preserve a law.

According to a Public Policy Institute of California [October 2020 report](#), 82 percent of likely voters reported confusion due to complicated ballot language. The League believes that SCA 1 helps to ameliorate this problem. It would be improved if the language to appear on the ballot was subject to community review to ensure that it is precise, clear, understandable, and meet standards of readability. For example, framing along these lines might be preferable: “The ballot shall provide that a “Yes” vote means that the voter does not want the law that was passed to go into effect and a “No” vote means that the voter supports the law and wants to keep it.” While we offer that as an example, it is important that language be tested through community review to ensure that voters understand its meaning.

The League supports SCA 1 to improve voters' opportunities to understand the ballot and make informed decisions. Thank you for your leadership in authoring the legislation.

Sincerely,

Carol Moon Goldberg

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

President