



August 31, 2023

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

The Honorable Christopher Ward  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 6350  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

**RE: ACA 13 – Voting thresholds – Support**

Dear Assemblymember Ward:

The League of Women Voters of California writes to strongly support ACA 13, your measure to require that initiatives amending the California Constitution to increase the voter approval requirement for state or local measures be approved only if the proportion of votes cast in favor of the initiative is equal to or greater than the highest voter approval requirement that the initiative itself would impose. ACA 13 would further enshrine the right for local governing bodies to hold elections on advisory questions with approval by a majority vote threshold.

The League has a long-held position that an initiative statute or constitutional amendment that imposes a new requirement for passage of future initiatives should meet the same vote requirement. This protection is a critical bulwark against a growing national trend by regressive forces to restrict direct democracy and defeat the will of the people. Such moves are clearly intended to consolidate power in the few and strongly akin to voter suppression. We have only to look at the recent [victory on Issue 1 in Ohio](#), a crucial win for abortion rights, to understand the importance of ACA 13.

The League of Women Voters of California is in strong support of ACA 13, an essential measure to preserve the freedoms of Californians. Thank you for authoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie Doute". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stephanie Doute  
Executive Director