



**California Special  
Districts Association**  
*Districts Stronger Together*

August 17, 2023

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

**RE: Assembly Constitutional Amendment 13 (Ward) – Support [As Amended August 17, 2023]**

Dear Assembly Member Ward:

The California Special Districts Association (CSDA), representing nearly 1,000 independent special districts throughout the state, is pleased to support your Assembly Constitutional Amendment 13, related to protecting the majority vote. CSDA represents all types of special districts, which provide millions of Californians with essential local services such as fire protection, water, healthcare, recreation and parks, and more.

Under current law, an initiative constitutional amendment that proposes to amend the California Constitution requires a simple majority of voters casting votes in favor of the measure for the amendment to be approved. Notably, this simple majority requirement is irrespective of any of the provisions contained within the proposed constitutional amendment; should the text of the proposed constitutional amendment contain provisions that would otherwise require voter thresholds in excess of a simple majority in the future, those increased vote thresholds may nonetheless be imposed with a simple majority of voters. Phrased another way, this allows a simple majority of voters to insert a three-fifths, two-thirds, four-fifths, or higher vote threshold into the California Constitution, even without the corresponding level of support in terms of votes cast in favor of the original amendment proposal.

ACA 13 would propose to California voters a solution to this quirk in the initiative process: if approved by two-thirds of the California Legislature, California voters would be asked to decide whether an initiative constitutional amendment containing provisions that increase vote thresholds should be required to attain the same proportion of votes in favor of the amendment that the proposed increased vote thresholds would demand. In this way, ACA 13 would ensure that a proposal cannot impose vote thresholds on our communities and our State that exceed the level of support for imposing such thresholds.

ACA 13 protects the democratic process in local communities by ensuring that a simple majority of statewide voters cannot restrict the will of a supermajority of voters in a local community. For these reasons, CSDA is pleased to support Assembly Constitutional Amendment 13. Please feel free to contact me with any questions

Sincerely,

Marcus Detwiler  
Legislative Representative  
California Special Districts Association