

June 15, 2023

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6320
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry) – Local government financing
City of Palo Alto – Notice of Support**

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto and Council majority, I write in support of your Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1 (ACA 1), which lowers the necessary voter threshold from a two-thirds supermajority to 55 percent to approve local general obligation (GO) bonds and special taxes for affordable housing and public infrastructure projects.

Local revenue measures have been placed before voters concerning city, county, school, or special district taxes or bonds. Majority vote tax measures have proven to be much more likely to pass, while just half of the two-thirds vote measures succeeded. School bonds with 55 percent have been the most successful, with four out of every five passing. In contrast, just half of the two-thirds vote measures succeeded. A 55 percent voter threshold for special taxes would have made a dramatic difference. Nearly 80 percent of all two-thirds supermajority measures garnered more than 55 percent of “yes” votes.

ACA 1 provides local governments with a critical tool for infrastructure financing and will create parity between school districts and cities, counties, and special districts so that all local governments have a viable financing tool to address community needs.

The proposed measure also aligns with the City’s general principles by supporting home rule authority and allowing the City greater control of its financial decisions.

For these reasons, the City of Palo Alto is pleased to support ACA 1.

Sincerely,



Lydia Kou
Mayor
City of Palo Alto