



August 28, 2023

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 8320
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry) Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval.
Notice of SUPPORT (07/13/2023)

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry,

The League of California Cities (Cal Cities) is pleased to **support** your measure **ACA 1**, which would lower to 55 percent the voter-approval threshold for cities, counties, or special districts to fund critical public infrastructure and affordable housing.

Maintaining and improving local infrastructure and having an adequate supply of affordable housing is critical for local economic development and quality of life. However, a major discrepancy exists between state and local governments when seeking voter approval for such investments. When the state seeks voter approval for a statewide measure – such as past voter approvals of measures to extend the income tax or the recently approved housing bond – it requires a simple majority, but when a city or county seeks voter approval for a similar investment they face a stringent two-thirds vote threshold. This makes no sense.

The law, however, is different for school construction. Nearly 23 years ago, the state's voters agreed (Prop. 39 of 2000) that the two-thirds threshold was too strict for investments in school construction and lowered that threshold to 55 percent. That model has worked well over the past two decades. Cities need similar flexibility when seeking voter approval for investments in public infrastructure and affordable housing.

ACA 1 offers voters an opportunity to consider treating investments in local infrastructure and affordable housing in a similar manner as schools. California voters have demonstrated – through their past approval of major state school, housing, and water bonds – that they understand the importance of investing in their future. Let's pass ACA 1 and provide voters with an opportunity to weigh in on local investments on infrastructure and affordable housing – issues that are so critical to the state's future, prosperity and quality of life.

For these reasons, Cal Cities **supports** ACA 1. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 738-9062 or btriffo@calcities.org.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Triffo", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ben Triffo
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist