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September 12, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 412  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: ACA 13 (Ward): Voting thresholds – SUPPORT** *(as amended September 11, 2023)*

Dear Senator Portantino:

Larry Klein  
Mayor

Omar Din  
Vice Mayor

Russ Melton  
Councilmember

Alysa Cisneros  
Councilmember

Richard Mehlinger  
Councilmember

Murali Srinivasan  
Councilmember

Linda Sell  
Councilmember

On behalf of the City of Sunnyvale, we strongly urge your Support of ACA 13 (Ward) when this measure is heard in your Senate Appropriations Committee.

ACA 13 would require any constitutional amendment proposed by initiative that increases a voter approval threshold for future measures, be approved by the same proportion of votes cast as the measure would require. The measure would also preserve the right of cities, counties, and special districts to place advisory questions of the ballot to ask voters their opinion on issues.

Under current law, any ballot measure approved by a majority of voters can selectively require a future measure to pass with a supermajority of the vote. At the local level, this has made it unnecessarily difficult to pass revenue measures dedicated to critical services, such as homelessness and housing, fire, public safety, and roads. ACA 13 addresses this issue by simply requiring any initiative that increases a voter approval threshold to pass by that same voter threshold. ACA 13 is a fair proposal that protects the principles of democracy and majority rule.

Current City of Sunnyvale policy supports efforts to amend the California Constitution to require a simple majority vote for adoption of any ballot measures (Council Policy 7.0F(5) and ensure local governments' revenue sources are protected and predictable (Council Policy 7.0B(5)).



September 12, 2023

For these reasons, we would appreciate your support of ACA 13 (Ward). Thank you for your consideration of our position. Please do not hesitate to contact me or David Carnahan, City Clerk, [dcarnahan@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:dcarnahan@sunnyvale.ca.gov) or 408-730-7918, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry Klein".

Larry Klein  
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor  
The Honorable Chris Ward, State Assembly  
The Honorable Aisha Wahab, State Senate  
The Honorable Josh Becker, State Senate  
City Council  
Kent Steffens, City Manager  
Teri Silva, Assistant City Manager  
Seth Miller, League of California Cities, Peninsula Division Public Affairs  
Manager, [smiller@calcities.org](mailto:smiller@calcities.org)  
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, [cityletters@cacities.org](mailto:cityletters@cacities.org)