



City of Mission Viejo

Office of the Mayor and City Council

Brian Goodell
Mayor

Trish Kelley
Mayor Pro Tem

Wendy Bucknum
Council Member

Bob Ruesch
Council Member

Cynthia Vasquez
Council Member

August 29, 2023

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

**RE: ACA 13 (Ward) Protect and Retain the Majority Vote Act
City of Mission Viejo – Notice of Support**

Dear Assembly Member Pellerin:

On behalf of the City of Mission Viejo, I write to offer our support of ACA 13 (Ward), which requires any constitutional amendment proposed by initiative, which increases a vote requirement for future measures, to be approved by the same proportion of votes cast as the measure would require. The measure would also preserve the right of cities to place advisory questions on the ballot to ask voters their opinions on issues.

Under current law, a simple majority of voters (50% plus 1 vote) may vote to require a super majority (for example, 66 and 2/3%) voter approval for future action. This framework has given disproportionate power to a small number of voters, with a little more than 1/3 of the voters being able to prevent the enactment of laws that a majority of voters agree upon.

This framework has made it unnecessarily difficult to pass revenue measures dedicated to critical services such as homelessness and housing, fire, public safety, and roads. For example, from 2001-2018, city revenue measures with a 2/3 vote requirement have enjoyed only a 51% passage rate, compared to a 70% passage rate of all local revenue measures over the same period of time. The status quo has prevented cities from providing desperately needed services.

Furthermore, this measure protects a useful tool in determining voter sentiment regarding the use and purpose of tax revenues. A ballot measure qualified for the November 2024 ballot seeks to prohibit the advisory measures from being placed on the same ballot as a local tax initiative. This works to decrease transparency about what the electorate feels funds should be used for.



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ACA 13 addresses this issue by simply requiring any initiative that enhances a voter requirement to pass by that same voter requirement. ACA 13 is a good government, fair proposal that protects the principles of democracy and majority rule.

For these reasons, the City of Mission Viejo supports ACA 13.

Sincerely,



Brian Goodell, OLY
Mayor

cc: Mission Viejo City Council
Assembly Member Kate Sanchez

