



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 18, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Senate Bill 268 – Enhanced Transparency for Local Tax Measures

Dear Governor Newsom,

As Mayor of the City of Long Beach, I write to express strong support for Senate Bill 268. SB 268, which was approved by the State Legislature, proposes to amend recently enacted ballot label requirements, which have proven problematic for educating voters on bond issues and tiered tax rates.

Existing state law requires the 75-word ballot label include an estimate of the amount of revenue generated by the proposed measure annually, the rate of the tax to be levied at each tax tier, and the duration of the tax to be levied. While these requirements were recently established with the intent of increasing transparency, the new rules have resulted in less transparency because of voter confusion, and a limited opportunity to provide education on ballot labels. A more appropriate location for voter education is the voter information guide, which accompanies each election cycle.

SB 268 provides local jurisdictions with the opportunity to educate voters on bond issues and tiered tax rates by including this information in the voter information guide, where education is not limited to 75-words. Further, SB 268 requires that the explanation the financial impact of a bond issuance or tiered tax rate include education about how revenue estimates could change over time. SB 268 provides real transparency.

For these reasons, I support SB 268 and respectfully request your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Scott Wiener, California State Senate, 11th District
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, California State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District

562.570.6801 | mayor@longbeach.gov | @LongBeachMayor
411 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, California 90802