



**MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA**  
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 14, 2021

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

**Re: Support for AB 1177 (Santiago)—California Public Banking Option Act**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I urge your signature on AB 1177, the California Public Banking Option Act. AB 1177 will provide immediate economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by establishing the California Public Bank (BankCal), the first State universal consumer banking program in the country. BankCal will provide free bank accounts and debit cards, directing its lending model toward an equitable economic recovery.

Long Beach currently offers many services intended to provide financial and labor opportunities to underserved populations. The City is committed to promoting economic inclusion through strategies such as the Long Beach Guaranteed Income Pilot Program, Kiva loan program, and the Pacific Gateway workforce development center. This legislation would support these efforts by providing accessible banking services for unbanked and underbanked populations in California.

The City supports policies that increase access to economic opportunities for low-income communities to advance economic equity. On April 4, 2017, the Long Beach City Council approved the Draft Blueprint for Economic Development (Blueprint). The Blueprint focuses on advancing a 10-year vision of making Long Beach a city of opportunity for workers, investors, and entrepreneurs. In the Blueprint, the City tasked itself with identifying opportunities to increase access to traditional banking services in West Long Beach and North Long Beach. AB 1177 provides a critical financial resource to meet this goal.

Bridging the economic divide is a policy priority for the City. Establishment of a State universal consumer bank, as AB 1177 proposes, would allow the City to catalyze vital economic opportunities for underserved residents. For these reasons, the City requests your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia  
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly  
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70<sup>th</sup> District

562.570.6801 | [mayor@longbeach.gov](mailto:mayor@longbeach.gov) | [@LongBeachMayor](https://www.instagram.com/LongBeachMayor)  
411 West Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, California 90802