



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 11, 2021

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Assemblymember, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry)—Local Government Financing: Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure: Voter Approval

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of ACA 1. This constitutional amendment will lower the necessary voter threshold from a two-thirds supermajority to 55 percent to approve local general obligation bonds and special taxes for affordable housing and public infrastructure projects. ACA 1 would provide Long Beach with a more realistic financing option to fund an increase in the supply of affordable housing, and to address the numerous local public infrastructure challenges cities are facing.

The City supports policies that promote the development of affordable and accessible housing. Between 2014 and 2019, the City facilitated the construction of 1,694 new affordable units, preserved nearly 2,000 units, rehabilitated 367 units, and passed the voter-supported Measure A to fund infrastructure and public safety improvements. In addition, the City has developed inclusionary zoning and tenant assistance policies and has almost 1,300 affordable units in the development pipeline. To achieve the same or greater levels of affordable housing production moving forward, it is critical to provide opportunities for additional funding sources. ACA 1 would help the City achieve this goal.

ACA 1 will create a viable financing tool to help address important community needs for affordable housing and public infrastructure. This proposal also preserves local voters' control over how their tax dollars are spent, since voters would still need to overwhelmingly support a bond or special tax (with 55 percent for it to be approved). Rising housing costs are impacting nearly all California communities. ACA 1 not only allows local officials to have a greater role in funding local housing and infrastructure needs, but it gives Long Beach residents a tool to directly impact their communities.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
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