



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
California State Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

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 2017 and 2022, the City facilitated the construction of 593 new affordable units, preserved 96 units, and rehabilitated 66 units. In addition, the City has adopted inclusionary zoning and tenant assistance policies and has almost 760 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 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 also gives Long Beach residents a tool to directly impact their communities.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports ACA 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District