

April 3, 2019

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

**RE: ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry) Local Government Financing. - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Curry:

The County of Monterey is pleased to support ACA 1, which would reduce the voter threshold for approval of bond and special tax measures that help fund critical infrastructure and affordable housing projects.

The California Constitution currently requires a two-thirds vote at the local level for both general obligation bonds and special taxes, regardless of what the city, county, or special district proposed to use the funds for. However, local school districts can seek approval for bonded indebtedness with only a 55% vote threshold for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of schools.

Communities should be able to choose for themselves the level of taxation and services they would like. ACA 1 will give them that opportunity, and will create parity with school districts so that cities, counties, and special districts have a viable financing tool to help address important community needs for affordable housing and public infrastructure. Local voters would still need to overwhelmingly support a bond or special tax in order for it to be approved, thus protecting voters' control over how their tax dollars are spent. The bill also provides specific requirements for voter protection, public notice, and financial accountability.

For these reasons, Monterey County supports your bill. Please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy advisor, Jennifer Capitolo of Nossaman LLP at [jcapitolo@nossaman.com](mailto:jcapitolo@nossaman.com) or 916-930-7706, if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

John M. Phillips  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Bill Monning  
Senator Anna Caballero  
Assemblymember Mark Stone  
Assemblymember Robert Rivas  
California State Association of Counties