

**PROPOSED DRAFT FOR COUNCIL REVIEW**

September 5, 2023



CITY OF SAN PABLO  
*City of New Directions*



**BY PERSONAL COURIER/U.S.REGULAR MAIL**

Honorable Chris Ward  
Member, California State Assembly  
78<sup>th</sup> District  
1021 O Street, Room 6350  
Sacramento, CA 95814

With copies to:

Honorable Buffy Wicks  
Member, California State Assembly  
14<sup>th</sup> District  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Member, California State Senate  
9<sup>th</sup> District  
1021 O Street, Suite 8630  
Sacramento, CA 95814, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT FOR ACA 13 (WARD) – VOTING THRESHOLDS**

Dear Honorable State Legislators:

On September 5, 2023, the San Pablo City Council voted to formally support the proposed ACA-13 (Ward) measure which would require any constitutional amendment proposed by state-wide initiative that increases a vote requirement for future measures, be approved by the same proportion of votes cast as the measure would require. ACA-13 would also preserve the right of cities to place advisory questions of the ballot to ask voters their opinion on issues.

Under current law, a simple majority of voters (50% plus 1 vote) may vote to require a super majority (i.e. 66 and 2/3<sup>rd</sup> %) voter approval for future action. This framework has given disproportionate power to a small number of voters, with a little more than 1/3 of the voters being able to prevent the enactment of laws that a majority voters agree upon.

In fact, at the local level, this has made it unnecessarily difficult to pass local revenue measures supported by local voters dedicated to funding critical municipal services, such

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Re: SUPPORT FOR ACA 13 (WARD) – VOTING THRESHOLDS  
September 5, 2023  
Page 2

as homelessness and housing, emergency medical services, fire protection services, community policing, and roads. For example, from 2001-2018, local city revenue measures with a 2/3 vote requirement have enjoyed only a 51% passage rate, compared to a 70% passage rate of all local revenue measures over the same period of time. The status quo has prevented local cities from providing desperately needed critical local services.

ACA 13 addresses this issue by simply requiring any initiative that enhances a voter requirement to pass by that same voter requirement. ACA 13 is a good government, fair proposal that protects the principles of democracy and majority rule.

For these above stated reasons, the City of San Pablo City Council **supports** ACA 13.

If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me directly at [AbelP@sanpabloca.gov](mailto:AbelP@sanpabloca.gov), or San Pablo City Manager Matt Rodriguez at [MattR@sanpabloca.gov](mailto:MattR@sanpabloca.gov).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely:

Abel Pineda, Mayor  
City of San Pablo

cc: San Pablo City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney