



## FLOOR ALERT

September 13, 2023

TO: Members, California State Senate

**SUBJECT: ACA 13 (WARD) VOTING THRESHOLDS  
OPPOSE – AS AMENDED SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

The California Chamber of Commerce and the undersigned are **OPPOSED** to **ACA 13 (Ward)** as amended on September 11, 2023. This proposal aims to amend the California Constitution as to require a higher voter approval requirement for citizen-proposed ballot initiatives that seek to increase protections for adoption of new taxes but does not impose that same voting threshold burden for tax increases placed on the ballot by the Legislature or local governments. This allows elected officials the ability to more easily raise taxes and limits the ability of voters to reduce taxes.

A ballot measure slated for the November 2024 ballot proposes, among other things, to address an appellate court decision that stretched legal reasoning to allow local proposed tax increases placed on a ballot by voter initiative to be approved by a majority vote rather than the historic two-thirds voter approval requirement. Since the repair of this court decision would restore the two-thirds vote threshold, under the terms of **ACA 13**, the ballot measure would require a two-thirds statewide vote to prevail.

Comparatively, a pending constitutional amendment in the Legislature, ACA 1, would reduce the voter threshold to approve higher taxes from two-thirds to 55% voter approval, yet would only need a majority of voters to approve this measure if placed on the ballot instead of 55% voter approval. The only distinction between this measure and the currently pending ballot initiative referenced above, is the Legislature will have placed it on the ballot, not citizens. This inconsistent application of voter approval creates a concerning and unfair balance between the Legislature's ability to raise taxes and the voters' ability to utilize the initiative process to check local government and the Legislature's authority.

For these reasons, we **OPPOSE ACA 13 (Ward)**.

Sincerely,



Preston Young  
California Chamber of Commerce  
on behalf of

Anaheim Chamber of Commerce  
Brea Chamber of Commerce  
California Chamber of Commerce  
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce  
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce  
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce  
Dana Point Chamber of Commerce  
Danville Area Chamber of Commerce  
Fontana Chamber of Commerce  
Fremont Chamber of Commerce  
Gateway Chambers Alliance  
Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce  
Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce  
Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce  
La Cañada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce  
Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce  
Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce

Lodi Chamber of Commerce  
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
Mission Viejo Chamber of Commerce  
National Federation of Independent Business  
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce  
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce  
Orange Chamber of Commerce  
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce  
Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce  
Paso Robles Templeton Chamber of Commerce  
Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce  
The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Brawley  
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce  
Tulare Chamber of Commerce  
Vacaville Chamber of Commerce  
Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce  
Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce  
Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce

cc: Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor  
Eric Warmoth, Office of Assemblymember Ward  
Scott Matsumoto, Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee  
Cory Botts, Senate Republican Caucus