



July 31, 2023

The Honorable Chris Holden, Chair
State Assembly, Committee on Appropriations
1021 O Street Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ACA 1 — Support (as amended on July 13, 2023)

Dear Chair Holden:

The City of Santa Rosa is pleased to support your ACA 1, which would place a constitutional amendment before the voters to lower the voter threshold to approve certain taxes and general obligation bonds for affordable housing, permanent supportive housing and public infrastructure projects.

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

Currently, to enact a specific tax measure, two-thirds of the electorate needs to vote in the affirmative. This important constitutional amendment would lower that threshold to 55 percent majority to approve such a housing-specific tax. This would align current law as approved by voters in 2000 with Proposition 39, which amended the Constitution to use the 55 percent approval mark for school districts to issue general obligation bonds. Additionally, this legislation also continues important accountability measures to ensure any housing-related measure has a citizen's oversight committee.

According to the City's Housing Element there is a limited stock affordable to low-income households. The maximum affordable rent for a very low-income, four-person household is approximately \$1,400 a month. The median monthly rent of a two-bedroom unit is \$2,560; out of reach of very low-income households.

The City Council's 2023-2024 citywide goals, adopted on May 23, identified housing for all economic levels in the community as the City Council's number one goal. Achieving this goal will require expanding the housing stock and offering a wider range of housing choices for residents of Santa Rosa. This measure will enable Santa Rosa to meet the growing housing needs of our community.

As a "pro-housing designated" city, we are proud to support this important constitutional amendment. Should you have any questions please contact our legislative advocate, Alyssa Silhi, with the Renne Public Policy Group, at (916) 974-9270.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers, Mayor