



August 25, 2023

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

RE: ACA 13 (Ward) Voting Thresholds -- Notice of SUPPORT (As Amended 8/17/2023)

Dear Chair Holden:

The City of Santa Rosa supports ACA 13 (Ward), which would require any constitutional amendment proposed by initiative, which increases a vote requirement for future measures, be approved by the same proportion of votes cast as the measure would require. The measure would also preserve the right of cities to place advisory questions on the ballot to ask voters their opinion on issues.

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

Under current law a simple majority of voters (50% plus 1 vote) may vote to require a super majority (for example, 66 and 2/3%) 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 of voters agree upon.

DIANNA MACDONALD
Vice Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ
VICTORIA FLEMING
JEFF OKREPKIE
CHRIS ROGERS
MARK STAPP

In fact, at the local level this has made it unnecessarily difficult to pass revenue measures dedicated to critical services such as homelessness and housing, fire, public safety, and roads. The status quo has prevented cities, like Santa Rosa, from providing desperately needed services supported by the majority of residents.

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 reasons, we are pleased to support your ACA 13. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Alyssa Silhi with Renne Public Policy Group at (916) 974-9270.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers
Mayor