

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments
Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee**

June 14, 2024

Agenda Item 3a

**Constitutional Amendment to Lower Vote Threshold to Fifty-Five Percent for
Infrastructure Bonds**

Subject:

Revises Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 1 (Aguiar-Curry, 2023) to place on the November 2024 ballot a constitutional amendment to institute a 55 percent vote threshold for housing and infrastructure bonds.

Background:

Last year, the state Legislature approved ACA 1, placing it on the November 2024 ballot. This constitutional amendment would allow voters to pass local/regional bonds and special taxes for housing and public infrastructure by a 55 percent vote instead of the current two-thirds threshold. “Public infrastructure” includes transportation improvements, hospitals, water and sewer facilities, parks, flood control and public safety facilities, among others.

MTC and ABAG strongly supported ACA 1 and dedicated significant staff time to securing its passage. Recent voter surveys have indicated a lack of support for the special taxes portion of the constitutional amendment. This constitutional amendment would replace ACA 1 with a very similar measure minus the special taxes provision. The Legislature must pass it by June 27, 2024 to meet the Secretary of State’s qualifying deadline for the November ballot.

Recommendation:

Support / ABAG Executive Board Approval

Support / Commission Approval

Discussion:

Based on multiple polls conducted by EMC Research, it seems clear that a 55 percent vote threshold is critical to securing passage of the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority’s pending ballot measure for a \$20 billion regional housing bond. This constitutional amendment is carefully crafted to increase the likelihood voters will approve the 55 percent threshold; therefore, staff recommends a support position.

Known Positions:

Support

None known

Oppose

None known

Attachments:

None



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