

March 15, 2019

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: ACA 1 – Local Government Financing
Affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry:

SPUR supports Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1 (ACA 1), which would lower the voter approval requirement from a two-thirds supermajority to a 55 percent supermajority for local affordable housing and public infrastructure funding measures.

SPUR (San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association) is a member-supported nonprofit organization that promotes good planning and good government. We bring people together from across the political spectrum to develop solutions to the big problems our cities face. With offices in San Francisco, San Jose and Oakland, we are recognized as a leading civic planning organization and are respected for our independent and holistic approach to urban issues.

Since Proposition 39 was approved by voters in 2000, local school districts have enjoyed a 55 percent voter approval threshold for school facilities bonds. In addition, statewide bond measures only require a simple majority of votes to pass. It is imperative that local measures for affordable housing and infrastructure also enjoy the 55 percent voter approval threshold in order to create a more democratic standard that accurately reflects the will of a supermajority of voters to address local needs.

We have seen several critical funding measures in the Bay Area pass with over 60 percent of the vote but fall just short of the two-thirds majority, delaying the creation of affordable housing that is needed by our current and future residents. ACA 1 would restore fairness to the process and help address the state's housing needs.

Thank you for your leadership in tackling our housing shortage and affordability crisis by ensuring that local governments have the tools and local voters have the ability to approve investments in their own communities to help meet the need for more affordable housing.

Sincerely,



Alicia John-Baptiste
President & CEO

