September 6, 2023

THE HONORABLE {SENATOR OR ASSEMBLYMEMBER} {NAME}

CALIFORNIA STATE {SENATE/ASSEMBLY}

{STREET ADDRESS}

RE: OPPOSE ACA 13 WHICH PREVENTS VOTERS FROM RESTORING PROPOSITION 13

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

Please oppose ACA 13 (Ward/Rivas) when it comes before you for a vote in the final week of the Legislative Session as this measure is specifically meant to stop voters from restoring Proposition 13’s historic taxpayer protections.

**ACA 13 seeks to chip away at Proposition 13** and will only make home ownership, renting an apartment, and/or running a small business more challenging for Californians struggling to make ends meet.

In 1978, Proposition 13 established the 2/3 voter approval requirement for enacting all local taxes for special purposes, whether proposed by a local elected body or by citizen initiative. This requirement was reinforced by voters when they approved Prop 218 in 1996.

Under the recent controversial *Upland* decision, lower courts have interpreted Prop 13’s 2/3 voter approval requirement as inapplicable to special local tax measures proposed by citizen initiative.

If ACA 13 becomes law, it will be much more difficult for Californians to restore this critical Proposition 13 protection that courts took away via the *Upland* decisionor any future court decision that further undermines Proposition 13.

Many of the same groups pushing for ACA 13 have utilized the *Upland* loophole to successfully push special local tax measures like Measure ULA in Los Angeles which raised taxes on multi-family and single-family residential properties.

**ACA 13 undermines the voice of California’s voters.** The Legislature shouldn’t be attempting to change the rules just to avoid an outcome with which it might disagree. ACA 13 ONLY applies to CITIZEN initiatives, not those put on the ballot by the Legislature. If ACA 13 were in effect in 1978, Prop. 13 itself would have failed even though it received more than 64% approval from the statewide electorate.

ACA 13 seeks to remove power from voters to hasten and make permanent the erosion of Proposition 13.

**Please support Proposition 13 – please VOTE NO ON ACA 13**.

Respectfully,

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