

Sample Support Letter - AB 699 (Catherine Stefani)
Enhanced Transparency for Local Tax Measures
Please submit a support letter on letterhead here: <https://calegislature.ca.gov/Advocates/>

April XX, 2025

The Honorable Catherine Stefani
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 699 (Catherine Stefani) – Enhanced Transparency for Local Tax Measures - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Stefani,

On behalf of **[Name of your organization]** I would like to express support for Assembly Bill 699 (Stefani), which will expand transparency for local bonds and tax measures while addressing problematic ballot label requirements.

The existing law is creating significant voter confusion and threatening the ability of local agencies to meet community needs across California for education, housing, health, flood protection, climate resiliency, transportation and more. Local bonds and tax measures are the primary source of funding to address community needs and state policy priorities, such as addressing California’s housing affordability and homelessness crisis and implementing the new transitional kindergarten grade level. Problematic ballot requirements are preventing us from partnering with our local communities to fund and construct the critical infrastructure needed to achieve these vital goals.

AB 699 expands transparency for local tax and bond measures by providing the option to include key financial measures in the voter information guide, while amending ballot label requirements that have proven problematic for tiered tax rates and bond authorizations.

Specifically, this bill will allow a jurisdiction placing a measure that imposes or increases tiered tax rates or authorizes the issuance of bonds on the ballot to include the words “See voter guide for measure information statement” in the ballot label. AB 699 requires a local jurisdiction selecting this option to specify the reasons for doing so in the resolution calling the election.

AB 699 will improve financial disclosures for local bonds and create new disclosures for tiered tax rates in the voter information guide, helping voters better understand the potential financial impacts of a proposed tax measure. This change will enable local jurisdictions to provide enhanced information in the voter information guide rather than on the 75-word ballot label, which does not provide enough space for appropriate context and explanation, ultimately causing confusion among voters.

AB 699 will protect the ability of local agencies and communities to support housing, schools, roads, hospitals, flood protection, fire protection, and other vital public services, while ensuring accurate, clear cost information is provided to voters.

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For these reasons, we support your legislation and commend your leadership on a priority policy topic impacting all Californians.

Sincerely,

[Your Name and Title]