

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # \*B-1

Urgent

Routine

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO   
(Information Attached)

AGENDA DATE May 15, 2012

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Adopt a Resolution Supporting Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 23, an Amendment to the California Constitution Lowering the Voter Threshold to 55 Percent for Local Transportation Sales Tax Measures

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adopt a resolution supporting ACA 23, an amendment to the California Constitution lowering the voter threshold to 55 percent for Local Transportation Sales Tax Measures.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

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BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2012-232

**THIS ITEM WAS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA.**  
**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.**

Approval to Adopt a Resolution Supporting Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 23, an Amendment to the California Constitution Lowering the Voter Threshold to 55 Percent for Local Transportation Sales Tax Measures.

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**DISCUSSION:**

Assembly Constitutional Amendment, (ACA) 23 would lower the constitutional vote requirement for approval of a special tax to provide funding for local transportation projects from two-thirds to a 55 percent majority. This bill (ACA 23) would authorize cities, counties, and special districts to impose a general tax for general governmental purposes with the approval of a majority of the voters.

Previous voter approved measures include Constitutional requirements of tax measures that were initiated with the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, and solidified with the passage of Proposition 218 in 1996. Today, local governments and transportation agencies are meeting new demands for cleaner air, reduced congestion, and improved transit opportunities while facing uncertain state funding sources. ACA 23 would provide local government and residents with the ability to make vital investments in local transportation projects while providing economic stimulus to their region. Further, in order to renew or establish new funding sources, local governments face the daunting task of obtaining a two-thirds approval of voters. Despite having the support of a strong majority of the community, these measures are at the mercy of a small minority of the voters and often fail by narrow margins.

According to the American Public Transportation Association for every \$1 invested in public transportation generates approximately \$4 in economic returns. Every \$1 billion invested in public transportation creates or supports 36,000 jobs. Every \$10 million in capital investments in public transportation yields \$30 million in increased business sales. Every \$10 million in operating investments yields \$32 million in increased business sales. Public transportation not only gets people to work, it puts people to work.

ACA 23 will help provide funds for cities and counties to help fix potholes, repair dangerous road conditions and improve the safety of children walking or biking to school. The amendment will help speed up highway safety and traffic relief projects, and expand and improve mass transit systems. The local sales tax measures are subject to an annual audit and standard accounting practices to ensure the projects they provide are delivered on time and on budget.

**POLICY ISSUE:**

This action is consistent with the Board's priorities to support the efficient delivery of public services and effective partnerships.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

There is no staffing impact associated with this item.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

David Jones, Chief Executive Office, Telephone: (209) 652-1177.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Date: May 15, 2012

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:**

**A RESOLUTION OF STANISLAUS COUNTY SUPPORTING ACA 23, AN AMENDMENT TO THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION LOWERING THE VOTER THRESHOLD TO 55 PERCENT FOR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX MEASURES IN STANISLAUS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, maintaining transportation and transit infrastructure is the interest of all county residents, and;

WHEREAS, locals sales tax measures help make our roads safer and reduce traffic by improving mass transit, highways and local roads, and;

WHEREAS, Assembly Constitutional Amendment 23, which would amend California's Constitution to lower the voter threshold to 55 percent for local transportation sales tax measures - is based on the principle that taxes paid at the gas pump should be used for transportation purposes, and;

WHEREAS, with our neglected transportation system needing attention, California has the third worst deteriorated roads in the nation, and more than more than 6,000 of the state's bridges and overpasses are structurally deficient or no longer meet highway safety or design standards, and;

WHEREAS, local transportation sales taxes provide a stable and ongoing source of transportation funding that will make it possible to plan for our future transportation needs, and;

WHEREAS, ACA 23 will help provide funds for cities and counties to help fix potholes, repair dangerous road conditions and improve the safety of children walking or biking to school, and;

WHEREAS, such an amendment will help speed up highway safety and traffic relief projects, and expand and improve mass transit systems, and;

WHEREAS, local sales tax measures are subject to an annual audit and standard accounting practices to ensure the projects they provide are delivered on time and on budget, and;

WHEREAS, by speeding up transportation projects thousands of new construction and other jobs

will be created, our economy will be stimulated and every dollar invested in our highways will result in almost four times that in economic benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS AS FOLLOW:

SECTION 1. That Stanislaus County endorses and promotes the objectives and projected outcomes of an amendment to California's Constitution lowering the voter threshold to 55 percent for local transportation sales tax measures, and;

SECTION 2. That Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors urge voters to support an amendment to California's Constitution lowering the voter threshold to 55 percent.