

ACA 1-AGUIAR-CURRY (55% BILL) FAILS PASSAGE ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR

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TO: CLA MEMBERS/ SYSTEMS/ NETWORK CONTACTS
FROM: Mike Dillon and Christina DiCaro, CLA Lobbyists
RE: News From the Capitol

ACA 1-AGUIAR-CURRY (55% BILL) FAILS PASSAGE ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR *Author assessing next steps*

This afternoon Assemblywoman Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters) took up her ACA 1 on the Assembly Floor, where it subsequently failed when it came up 8 votes short for passage. The measure would lower the local vote threshold for construction bonds and special taxes from the current two-thirds vote threshold to 55%. The measure applies to various local government projects such as roads, water, housing, public libraries, broadband, etc.

ACA 1 required 54 "aye" votes for passage when it was taken up on the Floor this afternoon. However, when the vote was taken, only 46 Assemblymembers were willing to cast an "aye" vote, while numerous members abstained. Several of the abstentions were attributed to legislators who represent districts where voter registration is very tight and the legislator may have survived a recent close, bruising election. The motivation for other abstentions was unclear as a couple of legislators who promised to vote "aye" held off their "aye" vote. This was a disappointing turn of events, not only for the Assemblywoman and her staff – who have worked extremely hard on passage of this measure – but also for the formidable stakeholder group of local government, union, and affordable housing advocates who have actively lobbied the bill. We joined with several of the stakeholders to visit "undecided" legislator's offices this afternoon, as the bill remained "on call" for an hour and a half.

Ms. Aguiar-Curry attempted to "lift the call" at 3:25 p.m. but the vote remained at 46. The Presiding Officer noted that the bill had failed, due to a lack of votes, and Assemblywoman Aguiar-Curry was granted "Reconsideration." If she determines that she can round up a sufficient number of votes in the coming days, Assemblywoman Aguiar-Curry may take up ACA 1 on the Floor again. (The 2019 legislative session concludes on September 13.)

What makes the true assessment of the vote count difficult is that several legislators wanted to hold off and not cast their "aye" vote until they could tell that the author was closer to a 51st or 52nd vote. Additionally, after the final vote was taken, several legislators who were recorded as voting "aye" moved to "not voting" or from "not voting" to "no" during a process known as "vote changes and add-ons."

Assemblywoman Aguiar-Curry received praise from her colleagues on the Floor for her work on the issue, with Assemblyman Todd Gloria offering, "extreme respect to the member from Winters, California." In her opening statement on the Floor, Assemblywoman Aguiar-Curry noted that "local governments have lost critical tools like redevelopment....Let's empower local governments to tackle their priorities. All I ask for is your support to let the voters decide." Special thanks to Assemblymembers Jim Frazier, David Chiu, Jim Wood, Lorena Gonzalez, Rob Bonta, Todd Gloria, Bill Quirk, and Adrin Nazarian for speaking in support of ACA 1 on the Floor.

At this point in time, we will await word from Assemblywoman Aguiar-Curry's office regarding next steps and we will continue to update you regarding any outreach efforts or "calls to action" if the author determines that effort is needed.