

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CA 94706
www.AlbanyCA.org

Bismarck Obando
Director of Public Affairs, League of California Cities
1400 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 20, 2023

RE: Letter Opposing Initiative 21-0042A1

On March 20, 2023, the City of Albany voted to oppose Initiative 21-0042A1, a deceptive, developer-sponsored proposition aimed for the November 2024 statewide ballot that would significantly jeopardize cities' ability to provide essential services and infrastructure for our residents.

The measure includes undemocratic provisions that would make it more difficult for local voters to pass measures needed to fund local services and projects and would limit voter input by prohibiting local advisory measures where voters can express a preference on how they want their local tax dollars spent.

This measure creates new constitutional loopholes that allow corporations to pay far less than their fair share for the impacts they have on our communities, including impacts on local infrastructure and our environment.

This measure also may make it much more difficult for state and local regulators to issue fines and levies on corporations that violate laws intended to protect our environment, public health and safety, and our neighborhoods.

Unless defeated, the measure puts billions of dollars currently dedicated to local services at risk, and could force cuts to fire and emergency response, law enforcement, public health, parks, libraries, affordable housing, services to support homeless residents, mental health services, and more.

The measure benefits wealthy corporations and real estate developers while decimating our local communities and neighborhoods.

As one example in the City of Albany, passage of Initiative 21-0042A1 would nullify its passage of Measure K in 2022 because it does not include a sunset. Measure K authorized a property tax to generate revenue to restore funding for emergency medical services and advanced life support as well as new firefighter positions to bring staffing per capita back to median among cities.

Proponents of Initiative 21-0042A1 seek to have it both ways by not providing a sunset for Proposition 13, which would require it to be placed before the voters for reauthorization, which would likely require it to be restructured for fairness to improve economic equity, but rather requiring all tax measures to include a sunset.

You may list the City of Albany in formal opposition to Initiative #21-0042A1 and include our city as part of the growing coalition of public safety, labor, local government, infrastructure advocates, and other organizations throughout the state opposed to this deceptive proposition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Tiedemann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aaron Tiedemann
Mayor
City of Albany

Cc: BallotMeasures@calcities.org and SCaygill@calcities.org