



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

MEMBER  
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
**CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD**

September 7, 2016

Governor Jerry Brown  
ATTN: Michael R.O. Martinez, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary  
Governor's Office, Legislative Unit  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1891 (DABABNEH) – SCHOOL DISTRICTS: SPECIAL TAXES: EXEMPTIONS ▪ REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE ▪**

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing to respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 1891, which would simplify the process for senior citizens 65 years and older to claim a school parcel tax exemption if available on a one-time basis.

Currently, many school districts that provide parcel tax exemptions for seniors require a new exemption request to be filed every year. Not surprisingly, this leads to confusion and the loss of the exemption because seniors mistakenly believe they have already filed the claim or become suspect of the offer's validity. AB 1891 clears up this confusion and reduces the burden on seniors by allowing them to complete the opt-out form just once in order to permanently receive the parcel tax exemption.

According to the [California State Plan on Aging](#), California's population of people 60 and older has grown rapidly over the past century. Between 1980 and 2000, the number of older adults in California grew from 3 million to 4.7 million, an increase of 57 percent. This trend will continue as the number grows to 8.5 million by 2020, an increase of 81 percent from 2000. By 2050, it is estimated that nearly 25 percent of Californians will be 60 or older.

It is important for the exemption claim process be as straightforward and simple as possible for our growing senior population. At a time when seniors are increasingly vulnerable to fraud from persons posing as government officials—from fake IRS phone calls to deceptive mailers—seniors are increasingly and rightfully wary of offers to save money if they just fill out paperwork and provide personal information. Furthermore, given the anticipated growth in the senior population, a one-time claim will simplify administration costs. For these reasons, I respectfully request your signature on this measure.

Sincerely,

GEORGE RUNNER  
1<sup>st</sup> District