



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

MEMBER
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD

May 31, 2016

Senator Robert Hertzberg, Chair
Senate Committee on Governance and Finance
State Capitol, Room 408
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1891 (DABABNEH) – SCHOOL DISTRICTS: SPECIAL TAXES: EXEMPTIONS ▪ SUPPORT ▪

Dear Senator Hertzberg,

I am pleased to support 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.

We need 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 only they 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 this reason, I urge your support when AB 1891 is heard in your committee on June 8.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Runner".

GEORGE RUNNER
1st District