



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

MEMBER
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD

March 22, 2013

The Honorable Roger Dickinson
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: OPPOSE AB 243 (Dickinson)

Dear Assembly Member Dickinson,

I must respectfully oppose your Assembly Bill 243. The passage of a local bond measure is accompanied by an increase in property taxes until the bond reaches maturity. The two-thirds voter approval requirement was created in order to ensure that if a local government wishes to obligate future generations to pay increased taxes to repay the debt, the need to incur the debt has reached a high level of consensus with voters. This is a sound practice of budgeting that should not be weakened.

It appears that the true intent of this and similar measures is to make it easier for local governments to issue bonds and force future taxpayers to pay for them. Since Californians already pay some of the highest tax rates in the nation, I oppose efforts to make it even easier to raise taxes in the future.

Rather than devising new schemes to take more money from the pockets of hardworking California taxpayers, the Legislature ought to spend its time finding ways to improve the state's economy and business climate.

Sincerely,

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

GEORGE RUNNER
Second District