



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

MEMBER
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD

January 28, 2013

The Honorable Ellen Corbett
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: OPPOSE SCA 9 (Corbett)

Dear Senator Corbett,

I must respectfully oppose your Senate Constitutional Amendment 9. The two-thirds voter approval requirement for special taxes is an important feature of Proposition 13 which Californians have valued for thirty-five years. The two-thirds requirement was created in order to ensure that if a local government wanted to earmark funds resulting from a voter-approved tax increase, the earmark had to have reached a level of general consensus with voters. General tax increases without earmarks can be approved by a simple majority of voters. This is a sound practice of taxation and 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 raise taxes. 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,

GEORGE RUNNER
Second District