

Assembly Constitutional Amendment

No. 4

Introduced by Assembly Member Frazier
(Coauthor: Senator Wolk)

February 27, 2015

Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 4—A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment to the Constitution of the State, by amending Section 4 of Article XIII A thereof, and by amending Section 2 of Article XIII C thereof, relating to taxation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACA 4, as introduced, Frazier. Local government transportation projects: special taxes: voter approval.

The California Constitution conditions the imposition of a special tax by a city, county, or special district upon the approval of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the voters of the city, county, or special district voting on that tax, except that certain school entities may levy an ad valorem property tax for specified purposes with the approval of 55% of the voters within the jurisdiction of these entities.

This measure would provide that the imposition, extension, or increase of a special tax by a local government for the purpose of providing funding for local transportation projects, as defined, requires the approval of 55% of its voters voting on the proposition. The measure would also make conforming and technical, nonsubstantive changes. This measure would also provide that it shall become effective immediately upon approval by the voters and shall apply to any local measure imposing, extending, or increasing a special tax for local transportation projects submitted at the same election.

Vote: 2/3. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

1 *Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring,* That the
2 Legislature of the State of California at its 2015–16 Regular
3 Session commencing on the first day of December 2014, two-thirds
4 of the membership of each house concurring, hereby proposes to
5 the people of the State of California that the Constitution of the
6 State be amended as follows:

7 First— That Section 4 of Article XIII A thereof is amended to
8 read:

9 SEC. 4. ~~Cities, Counties and special districts,~~ *Except as*
10 *otherwise provided by Section 2 of Article XIII C, a city, county,*
11 *or special district, by a two-thirds vote of the qualified electors of*
12 ~~such district its voters voting on the proposition,~~ *may impose*
13 ~~special taxes on such district a special tax within that city, county,~~
14 *or special district, except an ad valorem taxes tax on real property*
15 *or a transaction transactions tax or sales tax on the sale of real*
16 *property within such City, County that city, county, or special*
17 *district.*

18 Second— That Section 2 of Article XIII C thereof is amended
19 to read:

20 SEC. 2. ~~Local Government Tax Limitation.~~ *Notwithstanding*
21 *any other provision of this Constitution:*

22 (a) ~~All taxes A tax imposed by any local government shall be~~
23 ~~deemed to be is either a general taxes tax or a special taxes. Special~~
24 ~~purpose districts tax. A special district or agencies agency,~~
25 ~~including a school districts, shall have district, has no power~~
26 ~~authority to levy a general taxes tax.~~

27 (b) ~~No A local government may shall not~~ *shall not* impose, extend, or
28 increase any general tax unless and until that tax is submitted to
29 the electorate and approved by a majority vote. A general tax ~~shall~~
30 ~~is not be~~ *is not* deemed to have been increased if it is imposed at a rate
31 not higher than the maximum rate so approved. The election
32 required by this subdivision shall be consolidated with a regularly
33 scheduled general election for members of the governing body of
34 the local government, except in cases of emergency declared by
35 a unanimous vote of the governing body.

36 (c) Any general tax imposed, extended, or increased, without
37 voter approval, by any local government on or after January 1,

1 1995, and prior to the effective date of this article, ~~shall~~ may
2 continue to be imposed only if *that general tax is* approved by a
3 majority vote of the voters voting in an election on the issue of the
4 imposition, which election ~~shall be~~ *is held within two years of the*
5 ~~effective date of this article~~ *no later than November 6, 1998,* and
6 in compliance with subdivision (b).

7 (d) ~~No~~ *(1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2), a*
8 ~~local government may~~ *shall not* impose, extend, or increase any
9 special tax unless and until that tax is submitted to the electorate
10 and approved by ~~a two-thirds vote of the voters voting on the~~
11 ~~proposition~~. A special tax ~~shall~~ *is not be* deemed to have been
12 increased if it is imposed at a rate not higher than the maximum
13 rate so approved.

14 (2) (A) *The imposition, extension, or increase of a special tax*
15 *by a local government for the purpose of providing funding for*
16 *local transportation projects under its jurisdiction, as may*
17 *otherwise be authorized by law, requires the approval of 55 percent*
18 *of the voters voting on the proposition. A special tax for the*
19 *purpose of providing funding for local transportation projects is*
20 *not deemed to have been increased if it is imposed at a rate not*
21 *higher than the maximum rate previously approved in the manner*
22 *required by law.*

23 (B) *For purposes of this paragraph, “local transportation*
24 *project” means the planning, design, development, financing,*
25 *construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement,*
26 *acquisition, lease, operation, or maintenance of local streets,*
27 *roads, and highways, state highways and freeways, and public*
28 *transit systems.*

29 Third— This measure shall become effective immediately
30 upon approval by the voters and shall apply to any local measure
31 imposing, extending, or increasing a special tax for the funding of
32 local transportation projects that is submitted at the same election.