



CITY COUNCIL

**Darryl Moore**

Councilmember District 2

**07**

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 5, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmember Darryl Moore, District 2  
Subject: Support SCA 7, Local Library Funding

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution supporting SCA 7 for local library funding, which enables local governments to pass special taxes and bonds to support the operations of their public libraries by lowering the voter threshold for these measures from two-thirds to 55 percent.

BACKGROUND

The passage of Proposition 13 in 1978 has stifled California's investment in its future (education, libraries and many other essential local services) since Prop 13 has heavily restricted property tax revenues. Additionally, Prop 13's requirement for a two-thirds voter approval for all non-ad valorem taxes has made it exceedingly more difficult to fund these services through alternative means. SCA7 is aimed at making it easier for local jurisdictions to raise money for their public library systems. The measure would do so in a number of different ways:

1. The measure would create an additional exception to the 1% limit for a rate imposed by a city, county, city and county, or special district to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund public library facilities, that is approved by 55% of the voters of the city, county, city and county, or special district, as applicable.
2. The measure would authorize the imposition, extension, or increase of a special tax by a city, county, city and county, or special district for the purpose of funding public libraries, upon the approval of 55% of its voters voting on the proposition, and would also make conforming changes to related provisions.
3. The measure would similarly lower to 55% the voter-approval threshold for a city, county, or city and county to incur bonded indebtedness, exceeding in any year the income and revenue provided in that year, that is in the form of general obligation bonds issued to fund public libraries.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Unknown

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Darryl Moore, District 2

981-7120

Attachments: 1) Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

IN SUPPORT OF SCA 7, LOCAL LIBRARY FUNDING

WHEREAS, our nation's school, academic, public and special libraries play a vital role in supporting the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, libraries often serve as community gathering places and as a place to receive personal service and assistance; and

WHEREAS, libraries are a key player in the national discourse on intellectual freedom, equity of access, and narrowing the "digital divide"; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that libraries play such a vital role in our society, funding for public libraries has been dwindling due to limitations put on one of the most reliable sources of income for local governments, property taxes; and

WHEREAS, while Prop 13 still limits the amount of property taxes that local governments can collect, SCA 7 would make it easier for local jurisdictions to pass special assessments to fund public library services and facility improvements by reducing voter approval requirements from 2/3<sup>rd</sup> to 55%.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council supports our public library system and SCA 7 for making it easier for our citizenry to demonstrate their support of our local libraries by taxes themselves to improve this critical service.