



April 18, 2017

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Honorable Marc Berman
Chair, Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee
1020 N Street, Room 365
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: Assembly Bill 467 (Mullin). Local transportation authorities. Transactions and use taxes.
Support – As amended April 17, 2017
Hearing Date to be Set – Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Berman:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is pleased to support Assembly Bill 467 (Mullin) related to voter materials for a proposed local transportation tax. AB 467 will offer the option to use online postings in lieu of hardcopy printing while maintaining the more traditional means for voters to receive a full printed plan at no cost. AB 467 will maximize county resources without limiting voter access to information.

Current law requires that transportation authorities make specific materials available to voters when seeking to establish or extend a transaction and use tax designated for transportation purposes. Under Public Utilities Code Section 180203(c), this includes the full language of the ballot measure in the sample ballot and the entire adopted transportation tax expenditure plan in the voter information handbook (also known as the county voter information guide). Transportation expenditure plans are publicly available documents that are formally adopted by a transportation authority prior to the election. They are separate from the ballot measure language.

In the 2016 election, twelve counties sought voter approval for a local transportation tax. Associated printing costs for the transportation tax expenditure plan alone ranged from \$18,000 in Humboldt County to \$1.6 million in Santa Clara County, adding as many as 30 pages to the voter information handbook in some counties. Current law provides that the printing costs can be deducted from the new revenue collected from the tax when the measure is successful. For counties where voters reject the tax, the cost is borne by the county general fund. This creates an additional burden and further limits potential resources for critical transportation projects and other county programs and services, including elections administration.

AB 467 offers an optional alternative that mirrors existing election laws, which permit local measures to be posted online in lieu of printing. AB 467 would provide voters complete access to the tax expenditure plans through a common practice for retrieving information without leaving behind a more traditional means for distribution by mail. For these reasons, CSAC is pleased to support AB 467. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our position at (916) 650-8133.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dorothy Johnson'.

Dorothy Johnson
Legislative Representative

cc: Honorable Kevin Mullin, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee
Lori Barber, Consultant, Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus