

California State Senate

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SENATOR
KELLY SEYARTO
THIRTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



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September 12, 2025

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Veto Request – Assembly Bill 699

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing today to respectfully request that you veto Assembly Bill 699.

This bill, if implemented, would allow proponents of local tax and bond measures to choose how specific financial information appears on the ballot label. By removing critical details, such as tax rates, duration, and annual revenue estimates, from the ballot itself and shifting them to a separate document, the bill makes it harder for voters to understand the true cost of proposed tax increases or bond debt at the very moment they are asked to decide.

Under current law, the ballot label must clearly provide voters with essential financial information, ensuring transparency and accountability when they consider new tax or bond proposals. AB 699 undermines this standard by granting proponents the ability to obscure or downplay key fiscal impacts, leaving voters without a complete and immediate picture of what is at stake.

Californians deserve full and transparent information before committing to long-term financial obligations. Weakening that standard not only risks eroding public trust in the democratic process, but also creates precedent for ballot materials that are less informative and more susceptible to manipulation.

Californians face some of the highest tax burdens in the nation, and it is imperative that voters continue to have clear and accessible information when considering additional financial commitments. AB-699 makes it harder, not easier, for voters to make informed decisions.

I respectfully request that you veto AB-699. Please feel free to contact me should any questions arise at (916) 651-4032.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Seyarto", written in a cursive style.

Kelly Seyarto
Senate District 32