



February 21, 2023

Bismarck Obando
Director of Public Affairs, League of California Cities
1400 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter Opposing Initiative 21-0042A1

On March 2, the City of Indian Wells will be voting to oppose Initiative 21-0042A1, a deceptive, developer-sponsored proposition aimed for the November 2024 statewide ballot that would significantly jeopardize cities' ability to provide essential services and infrastructure for our residents.

The measure includes undemocratic provisions that would make it more difficult for local voters to pass measures needed to fund local services and projects and would limit voter input by prohibiting local advisory measures where voters can express a preference on how they want their local tax dollars spent.

This measure creates new constitutional loopholes that allow corporations to pay far less than their fair share for the impacts they have on our communities, including impacts on local infrastructure and our environment.

This measure also may make it much more difficult for state and local regulators to issue fines and levies on corporations that violate laws intended to protect our environment, public health and safety, and our neighborhoods.

Unless defeated, the measure puts billions of dollars currently dedicated to local services at risk, and could force cuts to fire and emergency response, law enforcement, public health, parks, libraries, affordable housing, services to support homeless residents, mental health services, and more.

The Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act will take billions of dollars away from local government services statewide, and Indian Wells is no exception. Indian Wells receives revenues in categories discussed in the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act. These categories include (1) fees and charges, (2) taxes, and (3) fines and penalties. **Collectively, these revenues comprise 94% of all Indian Wells' General and Special Revenue Funds.** Voter limitations, sunset provisions, and actual cost limitations not only serve to limit revenues in Indian Wells, but they also limit voter needs.



Furthermore, the Act creates unnecessary administrative and financial burdens to maintain compliance.

The measure benefits wealthy corporations and real estate developers while decimating our local communities and neighborhoods.

You may list the City of Indian Wells in formal opposition to Initiative #21-0042A1 and include our city as part of the growing coalition of public safety, labor, local government, infrastructure advocates, and other organizations throughout the state opposed to this deceptive proposition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna Griffith".

Donna Griffith, Mayor
City of Indian Wells

cc: Assembly Member Greg Wallis
Senator Steve Padilla
Congressman Ken Calvert
Joe A. Gonsalves & Sons
Erin Sasse, League Regional Manager
League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org