

CLA “Day In the District” 2019 – Legislative Issues

ACA 1-Aguiar-Curry (Local government financing) - Support

CLA is supporting ACA 1 by Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry which would reduce the local vote threshold for the approval of public infrastructure local bond and special tax measures from the current two-thirds vote to a 55% majority. This measure would potentially benefit all types of public infrastructure, including but not limited to parks, flood control, libraries, streets, water quality, and broadband.

Public libraries are flourishing and usage continues to be at an all-time high for all demographics, so it is critically important that library facilities are safe, ADA compliant, and sizeable enough to serve their patrons and the myriad services that public libraries provide.

The last general obligation bond measure passed by the state to fund library new construction or renovation was in 2000, and it authorized \$350 million in bonds for this purpose. Recent assessments of the statewide need for public library construction projects were in excess of \$4 billion.

Where: *This bill will be heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee and the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee. Date TBA.*

Budget Items: Zip Books and Lunch at the Library – Support

CLA is supporting two items in Governor Newsom’s 2019-2020 Budget that will increase funding for important library programs under the State Library:

\$1 million in “one-time money” (*) under the California Library Services Act for “Zip Books.” These funds would allow patrons to access specific online marketplaces, have the book delivered to their home, and then return the book to the library once finished with the item. The \$1 million is intended to largely keep the programs in place that were instituted last year.

\$1 million in “one-time money” to support “Lunch at the Library,” which provides lunch to thousands of children and teens in California who are in need of a nutritious meal, as well as learning and enrichment programs, during the summer months. According to the State Library, in 2017, public libraries served 228,500 meals at 164 sites in California. This money is intended to support and improve existing sites and recruit new sites.

WHERE: *These two issues will be heard in the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance on April 30 and the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance on May 2.*

(*) = “one-time money” means it must be spent in Budget year 2019-20, versus an ongoing appropriation.