



March 17, 2009

Honorable Jared Huffman, Member  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3120  
Sacramento, CA 95814


RE: ACA 9 – Support

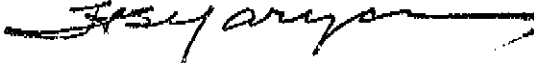
Dear Assemblymember Huffman:

The Riverside Sheriffs' Association, which represents over 3,200 rank and file deputy sheriffs, sheriffs, deputy probation officers, law enforcement investigators and counselors, coroners and bailiffs – the entire law enforcement team in Riverside County - supports your bill, ACA 9.

Recently, the state has used bond financing to help close major shortfalls in its General Fund Budget. If easily obtained, such bond financing would be utilized as a common practice. However, voting percentages by the voters control bond spending plus the state has a tradition of using bonds *only* to finance major capital outlay projects such as roads, educational facilities, prisons, parks, water projects, and public infrastructure-related projects. While not overturning such strict controls, Assembly Constitutional Amendment 9 addresses some flexibility issues and changes in the 1% limit for a rate imposed by a city, county, or city and county to service bonded indebtedness, incurred to fund specified public safety improvements. ACA 9 lowers that requirement to 55% of voters voting to incur bonded indebtedness in the form of general obligation bonds to fund specified public improvements. We approve its further delineating public improvements, changes made in voting results, and specific accountability standards.

Very truly yours,

  
Pat McNamara  
President

  
Timothy H. B. Yaryan  
Legislative Counsel and Advocate