

Hall, Jennifer

From: Ana Charco [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 12:20 PM
To: eComment
Cc: Hernandez, Johnathan; Phan, Thai; Lopez, Jessie; Penaloza, David; Bacerra, Phil; Amezcua, Valerie
Subject: LHA_LOS- Agenda Item #16
Attachments: LHA_LOS- Take Action on Supermajority RSO and JCEO.pdf.pdf

Dear Mayor Amezcua and City Councilmembers,

I am submitting the attached Letter of Support for Agenda Item #16 on behalf of Latino Health Access.

Have a great day,
Ana Charco (She/Hers/Ella)

CEA Department | Policy Associate

Latino Health Access

[REDACTED]
Santa Ana CA 92701
[REDACTED]

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Latino Health Access

Santa Ana, CA 92701

September 29, 2023

Mayor Amezcua and City Councilmembers
20 Civic Center Plaza
Santa Ana, CA 92701
ecomment@santa-ana.org

RE: SUPPORT ITEM 16 -Take Action on the Requirement of a Supermajority Approval for Future Amendments to the Rent Stabilization Ordinance and Just Cause Evictions Ordinance

Dear Mayor Amezcua and City Councilmembers,

For 30 years, Latino Health Access has been proudly working alongside community residents to bring health, equity, and sustainable change to underserved communities through education, services, consciousness-raising, and civic participation. We strive to provide culturally appropriate health-related services and programming to address urgent health concerns while also empowering individuals in low-income, low-opportunity areas to transform their environments and create positive changes in their homes and communities. Therefore, Latino Health Access supports the council in taking action to amend the City's Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO) and Just Cause Eviction Ordinance (JCEO) to require a supermajority approval for future amendments.

The RSO and JCEO were enacted with the primary goal of safeguarding the rights of tenants within the city. They aim to prevent arbitrary rent increases and unjust evictions, thus ensuring housing stability and security for Santa Ana residents. These ordinances reflect our commitment to providing affordable and stable housing in Santa Ana, especially at a time when housing affordability is a critical issue. We believe that it is essential for the council to take action on the proposed amendment to require a supermajority approval for future amendments to the RSO and JCEO.

The proposed supermajority requirement for amending the ordinance serves several crucial purposes:

- **Stability and Consistency:** The RSO and JCEO is designed to provide long-term stability and predictability for tenants. Frequent changes or amendments to the ordinance can disrupt this stability. Requiring a supermajority vote ensures that any modifications are thoroughly considered and less vulnerable to individual and short-sighted political interests.
- **Tenant Protection:** This ordinance is fundamental to protecting the rights and security of tenants. By implementing a supermajority requirement, we are adding an extra layer of protection against potential weakening or dilution of tenant rights. This helps ensure that any changes made to the ordinance are well-founded and genuinely in the best interests of our residents.
- **Community Consensus:** Requiring a supermajority vote encourages broader community consensus on any proposed changes. It ensures that multiple perspectives are considered and that the decision to amend the ordinance is made with the utmost care and attention to its potential impacts.
- **Policy Continuity:** Housing policies should be consistent over time to provide stability and predictability for landlords and tenants alike. Requiring a supermajority for amendments reinforces the idea that changes to this vital ordinance should be infrequent and well-justified.



Latino Health Access

Santa Ana, CA 92701

In light of these considerations, we strongly encourage the council to deliberate upon the available choices in Agenda Item #16 , which either confirm or revise the RSO and JCEO with the stipulation of requiring a two-thirds approval from all council members for any future ordinance amendments. Among the five proposed options, we firmly believe that Option 2 and Option 3 represent the most robust safeguards for our tenants. These options demand prompt action on the proposed supermajority amendment, ensuring that the hard work our community has invested in defending the RSO remains validated. Options 2 and 3 offer a means to sustain the sense of security within our community that has been diligently cultivated over time. It is our responsibility as public servants to prioritize the well-being of our residents, and Option 2 and Option 3 will help maintain and uphold the integrity of the ordinance and, more importantly, ensure that the ultimate goal of protecting tenants' rights and security is consistently met.

Sincerely,

America Bracho
CEO Latino Health Access