



## City Manager's Office

“Working with our community to create positive impact through service with heart.”

May 15, 2024

League of California Cities  
c/o Public Affairs Department  
1400 K Street, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: Letter Opposing Initiative 21-0042A1**

The City of Watsonville opposes Initiative #21-0042A1, a November 2024 statewide ballot proposition. The measure is a significant threat to local control and voters' rights that could jeopardize funding for vital services. In no uncertain terms, the Watsonville City Council on May 14, 2024, adopted a “Resolution of the City Council of the City of Watsonville Declaring its Opposition to Initiative No. 21-0042A1, the Tax Protection and Government Accountability Act” for reasons listed below.

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, which could force residents and taxpayers to pay more to maintain services.

The measure puts billions of dollars currently dedicated to local services at risk, and could force cuts to fire and emergency response, law enforcement, services to support homeless residents, and more.

The measure is also an attack on voters' rights, containing undemocratic provisions that would make it more difficult for local voters to pass measures to fund local services, provisions that retroactively cancel measures recently passed by voters, and provisions that prevent voters from passing advisory measures that provide direction on how they want their local tax dollars spent.

Furthermore, the measure contains intentionally vague and restrictive language that will encourage hundreds of frivolous lawsuits against cities and local governments — costing taxpayers millions and blocking investments, development, and long-term planning.

Specifically, the measure would threaten the City's Measure R, the Community Investment Tax Measure. This new funding source is expected to generate over \$5.2 million annually. Funding will boost the capacity of the Parks, Library, and Streets departments, enabling them to enhance and receive additional funding for new programming, infrastructure, and street projects within the City.

You may list the City of Watsonville 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,

Vanessa Quiroz-Carter  
Mayor  
City of Watsonville