



CALIFORNIA CONTRACT CITIES ASSOCIATION



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March 14, 2025

Assemblymember Gail Pellerin
Chair, Assembly Elections Committee
1020 N Street, Room 365
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 351 - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Pellerin,

The California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) writes to express our support of Assembly Bill 351 (McKinnor), which reforms The Levine Act and raises the threshold for campaign contributions from \$500 to \$1,500.

In 2022, SB 1439 (Glazer) extended contribution limitations for state and local agencies to local elected officials with the intent to curb special interest groups' influence on local decision-making. Since then, there have been numerous attempts by legislators to reform what many now see as a broken policy. SB 1439 has created more concerns about "dark money" in local elections and severely limited candidates' ability to run successful campaigns. Further, compliance with SB 1439 has cost local governments millions of dollars, resources which would be better spent on priorities like public safety, housing, and homelessness programs.

While SB 1243 (Dodd) made slight improvements to the Levine Act last year - raising the threshold from \$250 to \$500 - more needs to be done to establish fair campaign contribution provisions for local elected officials and provide them with much needed relief. For this reason we strongly encourage the committee to vote in support of AB 351.

CCCA represents 80 cities throughout California. For more than 65 years, CCCA's mission has been to advance the benefits of the contracting model and strengthen local control. With collaborative governance as a focal point, CCCA has advanced its mission through education, advocacy, networking, and legislative access to protect and enhance the quality of life for more than 7.5 million residents. As a matter of policy, our organization supports and defends the rights of cities on policy issues pertinent to them. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our support of AB 351.

Yours in service,

Marcel Rodarte, Executive Director

CC: Members of the Assembly Elections Committee