



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Julian A. Gold, M.D., Mayor

July 12, 2023

The Honorable Gail Pellerin  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Elections  
1020 N St, Suite 365  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 24 (Umberg) Political Reform Act of 1974: public campaign financing  
City of Beverly Hills – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Pellerin:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you in SUPPORT of SB 24 (Umberg), which allows, if approved by the voters, state and local governments to offer public campaign financing programs.

Currently, local jurisdictions such as general law counties, special districts, and general law cities, do not have the option to set up public fund for campaign financing, while charter cities do have such an option if approved by the voters. Currently, five charter cities (Berkeley, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Francisco) have successful public financing systems in place. Voters in Berkeley approved Measure W in 2022 by 74 percent to offer public financing and in 2011 voters in the City of Los Angeles approved Measure H by 65 percent, showing overwhelming approval for public campaign financing by registered voters. Unfortunately, other local governments do not have the option to enact these same policies.

In 2016, bipartisan supermajorities of the legislature passed, and Governor Jerry Brown signed, SB 1107 (Allen), which would have removed the ban and given local governments and the state this option; however, courts ruled the question must be put before the voters due to Proposition 73. In 1988, 58 percent of the voters supported Proposition 73, which placed limits on campaign contributions, prohibited the use of public funds for election campaigns, and prohibited elected officials from using public funds to send mass mailings.

SB 24 will restore control to local governments and the state by giving counties, special districts, general law cities, and the state the same option that charter cities currently have to enact public financing of campaigns. If passed, this measure would be placed on the November 2024 ballot for voter approval.

SB 24 will give all local governments the opportunity to enact systems of public financing of campaigns that work for them. It is for these reasons that the City of Beverly Hills is proud to support SB 24 (Umberg) and respectfully requests your AYE vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian A. Gold". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a faint, illegible background.

Julian A. Gold, M.D.  
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Thomas J. Umberg, Senator, 34th District  
The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator, 24th District  
The Honorable Rick Zbur, Assemblymember, 51st District  
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange