

# California State Senate

CAPITOL OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 305  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4016  
FAX (916) 651-4916

SENATOR.GROVE@SENATE.CA.GOV

SENATOR  
SHANNON GROVE  
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER  
SIXTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICES  
5701 TRUXTUN AVE., SUITE 150  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309  
TEL (661) 323-0443  
FAX (661) 323-0446

7248 JOSHUA LANE  
YUCCA VALLEY, CA 92284  
TEL (760) 228-3136  
FAX (760) 228-2462



September 23, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of SB 268 (Wiener)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully write to request your veto of SB 268, which repeals, for specified local ballot measures, the requirement for the ballot label to state the amount of money to be raised annually and the rate and duration of the tax to be levied. The bill also specifies that in the place of this information, local governments may instead state on the ballot label: "See voter guide for tax rate information."

As you likely know, this bill repeals AB 195 (Obernolte) from 2017. Proponents of SB 268 (including a coalition of local government agencies) argue that AB 195 confused voters and that this contributed to the failure of a number of bonds in the 2018 elections.

I suggest to you that the extent to which AB 195 resulted in fewer tax and bond measures being approved can be easier explained by the fact that voters were educated and informed -- not confused -- by the additional fiscal information. When presented with the actual cost of the proposed measure, and how much it will impact their own family's budget, voters were less willing to voluntarily assume those burdens. Cynically, proponents of AB 195 seem to believe that voters should be left in the dark about the actual cost of proposed measures, so they can be tricked into voting for the measure based on a one-sided, overly-rosy description of its claimed benefits. This view is antithetical to our form of government, which depends upon the consent of the governed for its legitimacy.

I actually believe that a more informed electorate is a better electorate. As such, we ought to not be reducing the amount of information available or to be making that information more difficult to uncover.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Grove". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "G".

Shannon Grove  
Senate Republican Leader