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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

10 APR -8 PM 3:29

# CITY OF OAKLAND

## AGENDA REPORT

TO: Office of the City Administrator  
ATTN: Dan Lindheim  
FROM: Council President Jane Brunner  
DATE: April 15, 2010

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRACY ACT,  
AN INITIATIVE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2010 BALLOT, THAT WOULD  
REQUIRE ALL STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON REVENUE AND  
BUDGET BE PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE**

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### SUMMARY

This is an initiative proposed by U.C. Berkeley Professor George Lakoff for the November 2010 Ballot that, if passed, would amend the State Constitution to require all California state legislative actions on revenue and budget be passed by a simple majority vote (50 + 1). Currently, the California State Constitution requires that all budget and revenue legislation pass both the Assembly and the Senate with a 2/3 vote.

The lack of majority rule in the legislature has made it difficult for the legislature to raise the revenue needed to address serious financial conditions in the state. A recent consequence of the current 2/3 vote requirement is that a minority of legislators has prevented the passage of legislation that could help California meet critical needs in health care, education, physical infrastructure, and public safety.

The effect of the current 2/3 rule is that local governments, cities, counties, and school districts have had to reduce necessary services and functions with adverse consequences on Californians. By changing the 2/3 vote requirement to a simple majority vote requirement, the legislature's ability to pass budget and revenue legislation that could benefit Californians would be enhanced.

### SUPPORTERS OF THE CA. DEMOCRACY ACT INITIATIVE

According to the official website for Professor Lakoff's initiative, [www.californiansfordemocracy.com](http://www.californiansfordemocracy.com), as of March 16, 2010, this initiative is supported by the following elected officials and government entities:

John Garamendi, U.S. Congressman  
George Miller, U.S. Congressman  
Diane Watson, U.S. Congresswoman  
Bill Lockyer, Treasurer of the State of California  
Darrell Steinberg, President Pro Tempore, CA. Senate  
Alberto Torrico, Assembly Member Majority Leader

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Mark DeSaunier, CA. State Senator  
Mark Leno, CA. State Senator  
Jenny Oropeza, CA State Senator  
Curren Price, CA State Senator  
Steve Bradford, CA Assembly Member  
Julia Brownley, CA Assembly Member  
Joan Buchanan., CA Assembly Member  
Mike Davis, CA Assembly Member  
Hector De La Torre, CA Assembly Member  
Mary Hayashi, CA Assembly Member  
Jerry Hill, CA Assembly Member  
Dave Jones, CA Assembly Member  
Ted Lieu, CA Assembly Member  
Bill Morning, CA Assembly Member  
Nancy Skinner, CA Assembly Member  
Sandre Swanson, CA Assembly Member  
Tom Torlakson, CA Assembly Member  
Liz Figueroa, Former CA State Senator

Partial list

Berkeley City Council  
Berkeley Unified School District  
Oakley City Council  
San Francisco Board of Education  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

#### **ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSING THE CA. DEMOCRACY ACT**

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

No fiscal impact.

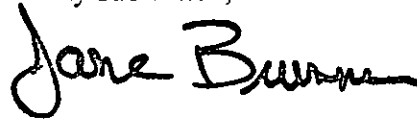
#### **RECOMMENDATION**

A resolution supporting the California Democracy Act should be adopted as soon as possible to encourage Oakland residents to support this initiative for the November 2010 ballot.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Pass this resolution supporting the California Democracy Act.

Respectfully submitted,



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Jane Brunner  
President, City Council

Prepared by:  
Margaret Fujioka  
Policy Analyst for Council President Jane Brunner

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE  
RULES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE:

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