



April 28, 2023

Members Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee
Senator Steven M. Glazer, Chair

SCA 3

SUPPORT

Members of the Committee,

Election Integrity Project® *California*, Inc. (EIPCa) **Supports SCA 3** as written and amended as of the date of this letter.

Since the Florida “hanging chad” debacle of 2000, there has been a growing skepticism and mistrust of the integrity of the electoral process in every state. Warranted or not, this feeling has grown powerfully in the last 23 years, facilitated by the unwillingness of elections officials to take the concerns seriously and provide the transparency that would easily dispel the mistrust.

One very big concern of a broad spectrum of California citizens is the power that a highly partisan individual such as the Attorney General has to potentially misrepresent the purpose, description and even financial impact of an initiative and either confuse or mislead the electorate. People are willing to lose if they know the process is fair, but when there is a belief, as in recent elections, that the playing field is imbalanced by a deceptive title and summary, anger and distrust are the result.

One way to begin to rebuild trust is to put this process into the hands of an individual or group that is dedicated to non-partisan, neutral analysis. The Legislative Analyst Office of California does an excellent job of evaluating and explaining proposals without bias. Asking them to create title and summary would add very little to their workload since they are evaluating these proposals anyway.

Whether the Attorney General is doing the job honestly or not is not the question. The **public’s perception** today is that a less partisan individual or group should have the power of title and summary.

Let’s begin to rebuild trust. EIPCa urges a YES vote on SCA 3.

Sincerely,

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