



Green Party of Sacramento County
County Council
P.O. Box 7531, Citrus Heights, CA 95621
www.sacgreens.com

August 16, 2019

Senator Henry Stern

Assemblymember Ian Calderon

California State Senate

State Capitol, Room 4076

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: OPPOSE SB 681 (Local referenda and charter amendments: withdrawal)

Dear Senator Stern and Assemblymember Calderon,

On behalf of the Green Party of Sacramento County, I am writing to register our OPPOSITION to SB 681, "Local referenda and charter amendments: withdrawal."

"All political power is inherent in the people," reads the California State Constitution, as it addresses a very important facet of our democratic process and rights as voters (Article II, section 1), "Government is instituted for their protection, security, and benefit, and they have the right to alter or reform it when the public good may require."

SB 681 seeks to amend CA Elections Code in a way which would nullify the will of registered voters who have signed petitions for ballot initiatives. This is a direct challenge to this Constitutional right of the People of the state of California to alter or reform legislation. Political power is derived from *our* consent, *our* civic engagement and *our* electoral participation.

We are opposed to this bill for the following reasons:

- SB 681 takes the rights away from the people who signed petitions and who collected signatures
- SB 681 is unconstitutional, contradicting both the CA Constitution as well as the US Constitution, "Petition Clause" of the First Amendment

- A withdrawal of an initiative of the People should not be decided on by three or fewer people once enough signatures are verified!
- SB 681 could stop people from signing petitions in the future, which would be a devastation to our rights as voters!
- SB 681 would foster a culture of underhanded deals by the proponents and government that the public knows nothing about

For these reasons, we urge the members of the Committee to uphold Democracy and uphold our constitutional rights by OPPOSING SB 681, and we thank you for taking the time to read our testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Castor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicole Castor

and on behalf of Robert Coplin, co-author

County Council of the Green Party of Sacramento County