



## CALIFORNIA LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

June 23, 2026

Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas  
Chair  
Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 6740  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **AB 1383 WILL DO DEEP DAMAGE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCES**

Dear Senator Smallwood-Cuevas,

We, the undersigned, write with grave concern about the legislature's attempt to unwind some of the strongest PEPRA provisions guarding local government pension funds through Assembly Bill 1383 by Asm. Tina McKinnor.

If AB 1383 is enacted, local governments across California will face severe fiscal strain, including service cuts, credit downgrades, and impossible budget tradeoffs as rising pension obligations crowd out core public services. We know this because California has been down this road before and taxpayers and local governments are still paying the price.

The Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) was enacted in 2013 to protect public employee retirement accounts while ensuring local governments stay financially solvent over the long term. It is essential that California not repeat the mistakes that led to the pension crisis created in 1999 by Senate Bill 400 that ultimately necessitated the enactment of PEPRA.

Those reforms were not arbitrary constraints. They were the product of careful actuarial thinking and the lessons learned from the SB 400 disaster. The underlying reality has not changed: California cannot continue to expand pension benefits it lacks the fiscal capacity to fund.

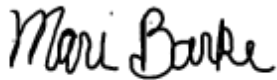
Now, AB 1383 threatens to unravel PEPRA's common-sense pension protections, including the employee contribution requirement, without providing any new funding to local governments.

While the bill's author describes AB 1383 as targeted relief for public safety workers facing recruitment and retention challenges, the bill would instead create long-term financial burdens that could result in employee layoffs, service insolvency for local governments, and even unfunded pension obligations when local governments face fiscal collapse.

We are deeply committed to fair compensation and pension benefits for the dedicated men and women who serve in California's public safety workforce. However, if the legislature genuinely believes that public safety compensation needs to improve, there are fiscally responsible ways to accomplish that goal that do not create tens of billions of dollars in long-term unfunded liabilities, including increasing base pay, offering signing bonuses, or improving working conditions.

Without access to an independent analysis of the long-term impacts of the proposal, including a full actuarial analysis from CalPERS, or a real plan to pay for these dramatic increases in pension costs, we respectfully but firmly oppose AB 1383.

Sincerely,



Mari Barke  
Director  
California Local Elected Officials (CLEO)  
President  
Orange County Board of Education



Lisa Lane Barnes  
City Clerk  
City of Huntington Beach



Steve Campos  
Trustee Area 1  
Perris Union High School District



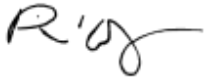
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Candy Olson  
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Redlands Unified School District



Maya Phillips  
Board of Education Member  
Ramona Unified School District



John Quintanilla  
Trustee  
Rosemead School District



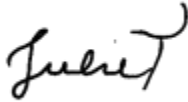
Sonja Shaw  
Board President  
Chino Valley Unified School District



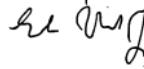
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