

## SB 830 (Arreguín/Wiener) Analysis and Recommendation

**TITLE:** Public Transit Revenue Measure District: revenue measure: election procedures

**AUTHORS:** Senators Jesse Arreguín (D-Berkeley) and Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco)

**CO-AUTHORS:** Senator Josh Becker (D-Menlo Park); Assemblymembers Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland), Patrick Ahrens (D-Sunnyvale), Anamarie Ávila Farias (D-Martinez), Steve Bennett (D-Ventura), Marc Berman (D-Menlo Park), Mia Bonta (D-Oakland), Matt Haney (D-San Francisco), Liz Ortega (D-San Leandro), Gail Pellerin (D-Santa Cruz), Catherine Stefani (D-San Francisco), and Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City)

**SPONSORS:** Bay Area Council, San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA), Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 1021, San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), South Bay Labor Council

**RECOMMENDATION:** Support

**BACKGROUND:** Senate Bill (SB) 63 (Chapter 740, Statutes of 2025) established the Public Transit Revenue Measure District (PTRMD), consisting of the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and the City and County of San Francisco and governed by the same board that governs the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). The bill also authorized a sales tax to be levied in the counties that comprise the PTRMD to support public transit operations and local county transportation priorities. The sales tax can be placed on the ballot by a vote of the PTRMD board or by a qualified voter initiative for a period of 14 years, subject to voter approval at the November 3, 2026, general election.

Assembly Bill (AB) 773 (Chapter 664, Statutes of 2023) established election procedures for districts that contain more than one county. These procedures assign certain duties to the elections official for the “lead county,” defined as the county with the most voters within the district boundaries. These duties include coordinating with the other counties in the district to set deadlines for submitting arguments for and against a district measure, selecting which arguments will be published in the county voter information guides, and transmitting the selected arguments to the other counties in the district for inclusion in their county voter information guides.

**PURPOSE:** SB 830 would make changes to election procedures for the regional transportation revenue measure authorized by SB 63.

First, the elections official for each of the five counties that make up the PTRMD would be required to select, from the proposed arguments submitted for and against the measure, those to be included in their county’s voter information guide. The bill also sets an order of preference and priority, similar to the priority frameworks already existing in state law for statewide propositions and county measures, for the elections official to select arguments to publish if more than one is submitted. First priority goes to the measure’s bona fide proponents or sponsors, second to a bona fide association of citizens, and finally to individual voters who are eligible to vote on the measure. According to the author, allowing different arguments across counties is needed because the measure is structured as a variable tax rate of 0.5 to 1%, and counties will be receiving different amounts of return to source funding to support local transportation priorities.

Second, SB 830 would specify that the measure shall be identified on the ballot as the “Regional Transit Measure” and appear immediately after statewide measures and before all other local measures.

According to the author, this bill must be enacted by July 3 to give adequate time for elections officials to make changes to materials in advance of the November 3 election. Thus, the bill contains an urgency clause that would make it go into effect immediately upon signature by the Governor.

This bill does not make any changes to the expenditure plan, financial efficiency requirements, and accountability measures that were included in SB 63 after a stakeholder engagement process.

**DISTRICT IMPACT:** If approved by the voters, the sales tax authorized by SB 63 would generate revenue that would support BART operations, starting with approximately \$75 million in the last quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 and increasing to approximately \$310 million beginning in FY 2028. Additionally, BART can work with counties to potentially secure a portion of return to source funds to support BART service or other District projects.

**KNOWN SUPPORT/OPPOSITION: Support:** Bay Area Council (co-sponsor), SAMCEDA (co-sponsor), SEIU 1021 (co-sponsor), SPUR (co-sponsor), South Bay Labor Council (co-sponsor), 350 Bay Area Action, Abundance Network, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 57, Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit), All Home, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), American EV Jobs Alliance, AFSCME Local 3916, AFSCME Local 3993, ATU Local 1555, Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) San Francisco, California State Legislative Board of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers - Transportation Division (SMART-TD), Coalition for Clean Air, East Bay for Everyone, East Bay Housing Organization, East Bay Leadership Council, El Cerrito Richmond Annex Walk & Roll, Greenbelt Alliance, National Union of Healthcare Workers, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Public Advocates, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, San Francisco Transit Riders, SEIU State Council, Seamless Bay Area, Senior & Disability Action, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, ST Forward, Streets for All, Sunflower Alliance, Sustainable San Mateo County, SV@Home Action Fund, Transbay Coalition, Transform, Transport Workers Union (TWU), Walk Bike Berkeley, Walk San Francisco, Westside Family Democratic Club of San Francisco

**Oppose:** None known at this time.

**STATUS:** Passed Assembly Committee on Elections (6-0) on June 17; now awaiting action on the Assembly floor.

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 18, 2026  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 4, 2026  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 2, 2025  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 10, 2025  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 23, 2025  
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 24, 2025

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 830**

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**Introduced by Senators Arreguín and Wiener  
(Coauthor: Senator Becker)**

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Wicks)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ahrens, *Ávila Farías*, *Bennett*, Berman,  
Bonta, Haney, Ortega, *Pellerin*, Stefani, and Wilson)

February 21, 2025

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An act to amend Section 67740 of the Government Code, relating to ~~transportation~~: *transportation, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 830, as amended, Arreguín. Public Transit Revenue Measure District: revenue measure: election procedures.

Existing law creates the Metropolitan Transportation Commission as a local area planning agency for the 9-county San Francisco Bay area with comprehensive regional transportation planning and other related responsibilities. Existing law establishes the Public Transit Revenue Measure District, governed by the same board that governs the commission, with jurisdiction extending throughout the boundaries of

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the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, and Santa Clara, and the City and County of San Francisco. Existing law authorizes a retail transactions and use tax applicable to the entire district to be imposed by the board of the district or by a qualified voter initiative for a duration of 14 years, and in specified amounts, subject to voter approval at the November 3, 2026, statewide general election. Existing law establishes specified procedures for that election, including a requirement that the elections officials of the counties where the measure will appear on the ballot mutually agree to use the same letter designation for the measure.

This bill would revise those election procedures by, among other things, instead requiring the measure to be identified on the ballot by the designation “Regional Transit Measure” in each county included in the district and by requiring *each county elections official* in the district to select, from among the submissions of proposed arguments in favor of, and against, the measure, the arguments to be included in the county voter information guide of ~~each~~ *that* county, as specified.

*This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.*

Vote: ~~majority~~<sup>2/3</sup>. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 67740 of the Government Code is  
 2 amended to read:  
 3 67740. (a) If the board of the district or a qualified voter  
 4 initiative proposes a measure for the approval of a tax ordinance  
 5 adopted pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 67730),  
 6 the board of supervisors for each of the counties that comprise the  
 7 district shall call a special election on the tax ordinance. The special  
 8 election shall be consolidated with the November 3, 2026,  
 9 statewide general election and the tax ordinance shall be submitted  
 10 to the voters of each county comprising the district.  
 11 (b) For the purpose of the placement of a tax ordinance on the  
 12 ballot, the Public Transit Revenue Measure District is a “district,”  
 13 as defined in Section 317 of the Elections Code. A measure  
 14 proposed by the board that requires voter approval or a qualified  
 15 initiative measure proposed for the district by the voters of the  
 16 counties comprising the district shall be submitted to the voters of

1 the counties that are contained in the district, in accordance with  
2 the provisions of the Elections Code applicable to districts,  
3 including Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 9300) of Division  
4 9 of the Elections Code.

5 (c) If the measure is proposed by a qualified voter initiative,  
6 after the petition has been filed, the county elections officials shall  
7 examine the petition in accordance with subdivisions (a) and (b)  
8 of Section 9308, or subdivisions (a), (b), and (c) of Section 9309,  
9 of the Elections Code. It is the intent of the Legislature that county  
10 elections officials shall cooperate with the district elections official  
11 to resolve any issues arising from the counting or verification of  
12 signatures.

13 (d) ~~(1)~~ Notwithstanding any provision of the Elections Code,  
14 the legal counsel for the district shall prepare an impartial analysis  
15 of the measure. Each county included in the district shall use the  
16 election materials provided by the district, including the exact  
17 ballot question, impartial analysis, and the full text of the ballot  
18 measure, for inclusion in the county voter information guide.

19 ~~(2) (A)~~

20 (e) ~~(1)~~ Except as provided in ~~subparagraph (B)~~, *paragraph (2)*,  
21 the lead county of the district, as defined in paragraph (1) of  
22 subdivision (b) of Section 9611 of the Elections Code, shall  
23 perform those duties specified in Section 9611 of the Elections  
24 Code to be performed by a lead county.

25 ~~(B)~~ ~~The district shall select, from among the submissions of~~  
26 ~~proposed arguments in favor of, and against, the measure, the~~  
27 ~~arguments to be included in the county voter information guide of~~  
28 ~~each county. The district may select different arguments in favor~~  
29 ~~of, and against, the measure, signed by different authors, for each~~  
30 ~~county included in the district.~~

31 *(2) (A) Notwithstanding any provision of the Elections Code,*  
32 *an individual voter who is eligible to vote on the measure or a*  
33 *bona fide association of citizens, or a combination of those voters*  
34 *and associations, may file a written argument for, or against, the*  
35 *measure. The authors shall submit those arguments to the elections*  
36 *official of the county in which the authors want the arguments*  
37 *printed in the county voter information guide. Each county*  
38 *elections official in the district shall select, from among*  
39 *submissions of proposed arguments in favor of, and against, the*

1 *measure, the arguments to be included in the county voter*  
2 *information guide of that county.*

3 *(B) If more than one argument for or more than one argument*  
4 *against the measure is submitted to a county elections official, that*  
5 *official shall select one of the arguments in favor and one of the*  
6 *arguments against the measure for printing and distribution to the*  
7 *voters. In selecting the argument, the county elections official shall*  
8 *give preference and priority in the order named to the arguments*  
9 *of the following:*

10 *(i) The individual voter or bona fide association of citizens, or*  
11 *a combination of those voters and associations, who are the bona*  
12 *fide sponsors or proponents of the measure.*

13 *(ii) Bona fide associations of citizens.*

14 *(iii) Individual voters who are eligible to vote on the measure.*

15 *(C) In order to enable the county elections official to determine*  
16 *whether it qualifies as a bona fide association of citizens, an*  
17 *organization or association submitting an argument for or against*  
18 *the measure shall submit with its argument a copy of one of the*  
19 *following:*

20 *(i) Its articles of incorporation, articles of association,*  
21 *partnership documents, bylaws, or similar documents.*

22 *(ii) Letterhead containing the name of the organization and its*  
23 *principal officers.*

24 *(iii) If the organization or association is a primarily formed*  
25 *committee established to support or oppose the measure, its*  
26 *statement of organization filed pursuant to Section 84101.*

27 *(D) In selecting an argument from among bona fide associations*  
28 *of citizens, the county elections official shall not consider the type*  
29 *of documentation submitted pursuant to subparagraph (C) or the*  
30 *form of the association.*

31 *(E) Each county shall be responsible for providing arguments*  
32 *to authors for rebuttal purposes and translating the arguments*  
33 *and rebuttals submitted to that county, except if the same argument*  
34 *or rebuttal is submitted to more than one county, then translation*  
35 *shall proceed consistent with subdivision (f).*

36 ~~(e)~~

37 *(f) If two or more counties included in the measure are required*  
38 *to prepare a translation of ballot materials into the same language*  
39 *other than English, the county that contains the largest population,*  
40 *as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, among*

1 those counties that are required to prepare a translation of ballot  
2 materials into the same language other than English, shall prepare  
3 the translation or authorize the district to prepare the translation,  
4 and that translation shall be used by the other county or counties,  
5 as applicable.

6 ~~(f)~~

7 (g) (1) Notwithstanding Section 13116 of the Elections Code  
8 or any other law, in each county included in the district the measure  
9 shall be identified on the ballot by the designation “Regional  
10 Transit Measure” instead of under the name of the district.

11 (2) Notwithstanding Section 13109 of the Elections Code or  
12 any other law, in each county included in the district the measure  
13 shall appear on the ballot immediately after statewide ballot  
14 measures submitted to the voters and before all other local ballot  
15 measures submitted to the voters.

16 ~~(g)~~

17 (h) The county clerk of each county shall report the results of  
18 the special election to the district. If the approval threshold required  
19 by the California Constitution at the time of the election is  
20 achieved, the measure shall take effect in the district in accordance  
21 with the requirements of this title. For purposes of determining  
22 whether the measure is approved, the approval threshold shall be  
23 assessed based on the cumulative vote within the entire district,  
24 and not separately within each county comprising the district.

25 ~~(h)~~

26 (i) (1) Notwithstanding Section 10520 of the Elections Code,  
27 the district shall reimburse each county that comprises the district  
28 from funds made available pursuant to Section 67750 only for the  
29 incremental costs incurred by the county elections official related  
30 to submitting the measure to the voters with proceeds from the  
31 measure.

32 (2) For purposes of this subdivision, “incremental costs”  
33 includes both of the following:

34 (A) The cost to prepare a translation of ballot materials into a  
35 language other than English by any county, as described in  
36 subdivision ~~(e)~~. (f).

37 (B) The additional costs that exceed the costs incurred for other  
38 election races or ballot measures, if any, appearing on the same  
39 ballot in each county in which the measure appears on the ballot,  
40 including both of the following:

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- 1 (i) The printing and mailing of ballot materials.
- 2 (ii) The canvass of the vote regarding the measure pursuant to
- 3 Division 15 (commencing with Section 15000) of the Elections
- 4 Code.

5 *SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the*  
6 *immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within*  
7 *the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall*  
8 *go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:*  
9 *In order for this act to take effect in time for the November 3,*  
10 *2026, statewide general election, it is necessary that this act take*  
11 *effect immediately.*

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