



CITY OF LA VERNE CITY HALL

3660 "D" Street, La Verne, California 91750-3599
www.cityoflaverne.org

September 11, 2025

Honorable Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via email
Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov

RE: Support for Senate Bill 443 (SB 443): Retirement: Joint Powers Authorities.

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City of La Verne, we must respectfully urge you to sign SB 443 (Rubio) into law.

SB 443 provides important flexibility under the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) for joint powers authorities (JPAs) to offer retirement benefits consistent with those of their member agencies. This ensures long-serving public employees who are not new members under PEPRA may maintain continuity of their retirement benefits when transitioning into a JPA, while still preserving PEPRA's requirements for new employees.

The Cities of La Verne and Covina are in the process of establishing a joint powers authority to operate a regional public safety dispatch center. This collaboration is designed to enhance emergency response, improve efficiency, allow resource sharing, and generate cost savings while raising the overall standard of public safety services delivered to our communities. However, this type of regional initiative can only succeed if employees are able to transition into the JPA without losing the retirement benefits they have earned over many years of dedicated service.

SB 443 directly supports La Verne's efforts to modernize and regionalize critical public safety services by removing unnecessary barriers to JPA formation while maintaining the integrity of statewide pension reform. This legislation strikes the right balance between fairness for employees and accountability for agencies.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your signature on SB 443.

Sincerely,

Tim Hepburn
Mayor

C: City Council
Ken Domer, City Manager

