

Coalition for Veterans Housing
YES on the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act
2014

“No one who has served our country should ever go without a safe, stable place to call home.”
—U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Background

California has the largest veteran population in the US, with almost two million veterans calling California home—a number that is expected to rise by over 200,000 when the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq wind down. California also has more homeless veterans than any other state, with 25 percent of homeless veterans in the nation residing in the state.

To address this issue, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. signed the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2014 by Speaker John A. Pérez (D-Los Angeles), giving California voters in June 2014 the opportunity to repurpose \$600 million in existing veterans’ bond funds to respond more effectively to the housing needs of today’s veteran population and their families.

In addition to providing better housing options for today’s diverse and expanding veteran population, the Measure backed by the California Association of Veteran Services Agencies and the Corporation for Supportive Housing, expands on proven and cost-effective supportive housing and service models that will reduce veterans’ homelessness, leverage public and private dollars, and decrease other public costs such as health care and incarceration expenditures. If voters approve of the initiative next year, California will be at the forefront of the nation’s efforts to end veteran homelessness by 2015.

**Supporters of AB639
Veterans Housing & Homeless Prevention Bond Act 2014**

(List in formation and needs to be approved)

U.S. Vets	City of Burbank
New Directions, Inc.	American Legion-Dept. of California
LA County Board of Supervisors	AMVETS-Dept. of California
CA Assoc. of Countries	VFW-Dept. of California
AFSCME	Vietnam Veterans of America-CA State
Swords to Plowshares	Council
CA Labor Federation	Western Center on Law & Poverty
Housing California	CA Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
CA Building Industry Association	City of Rancho Murrieta
Burbank Housing Development Corp.	County of Del Norte
City of Oakland	LA Regional Reentry partnership
State Building and Construction Trades	California Medical Association
Council	JP Morgan Chase
CA Service Employees Int. Union (SEIU)	CA Attorney General's Office
League of California Cities	Santa Clara County
The Salvation Army Haven	CA Nurses Association
United Way of Greater Los Angeles	City of Sacramento
California Special Districts Association	LA Area Chamber of Commerce
San Diego Housing Federation	City of Azusa
CA Professional Firefighters	Assoc. of CA Health Care Districts
LA Business Leaders Task Force	City of San Jose
United Native Housing Development	CA Judges Association
Corporation	San Diego Housing Commission
LA County Sheriff's Department	LA Homeless Services Authority
Assoc. of LA Deputy Sheriffs	San Bernardino County
Riverside Sheriff's Association	City of Whittier
LA Police Protective League	CA Treasurer Bill Lockyer
LA County Probation Officers Union	City and County of San Francisco
Affirmed Housing Group	St. Anthony Foundation
Butte County Board of Supervisors	County Alcohol and Drug Program
CA Conference of Carpenters	Administrators Association of CA
CA Hospital Association	Veterans Village of San Diego
Century Housing Corp.	Southern CA Gas Company
City of Los Angeles	San Diego Gas & Electric
CA Housing Consortium	CA Association of Food Banks
CA State Sheriffs Assn.	
Urban Counties Caucus	

What the Press Has Been Saying

Los Angeles Times

Brown Signs Bills to Aid Veterans (October 2013)

“Brown, a Democrat, signed a veterans housing bill in a traditional Republican city with a large military presence (San Diego), ‘I know some folks in this part of the state are a little skeptical about what we do up there in the state Capitol,’ he said, surrounded by veterans and public officials. ‘But today, we’re doing something really good, and the people behind me are making it happen, for veterans, for families, for our future.’”

The San Diego Union-Tribune.

Veterans Get Boost From Brown (October 2013)

“‘This is California’s opportunity to lead the nation and demonstrate what other states can do to provide housing to homeless vets and their families,’ said Assemblyman John Perez, D-Los Angeles, who carried Assembly Bill 639 to put the issue before voters. Brown and Perez noted that the state’s existing bond authority for veterans’ housing has ballooned because of a lack of demand, yet thousands of other former members of the military are homeless or struggling to pay the rent. The money would be used to mostly work with nonprofit housing agencies.’”

NBC SAN DIEGO

Governor Signs Bill to Help Homeless Veterans (October 2013)

Assembly Bill 639, authored by Assembly Speaker John Perez (D-Los Angeles) would create veterans housing communities. These communities would also offer services, including mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment and job training. ‘We’ve all been to war and returned safely, but many of our comrades have not. They brought their war back home with them, and they’re still fighting for their lives,’ said Steve Peck, president of U.S. Vets and a Vietnam veteran himself.”

San Francisco Chronicle

September 2013

“The most significant state bill designed to help homeless veterans, AB 639, was pushed by Assembly speaker John Perez, who has been visiting hospitalized service personnel recently. The bill would fill in the gaps left by the original ballot measure. The bill is on the governor’s desk. Approval in both houses of the Legislature was almost unanimous. For reasons that should be obvious, the governor should sign it. Vets who served us and returned home to find that civilian life doesn’t necessarily guarantee a place to live deserve a better welcome.”



A Billion in Unspent Aid Isn’t Helping Homeless Vets (September 2013)

“It’s a national embarrassment that so many of the military men and women who served in wars overseas come back and don’t have homes of their own or even places to sleep. California voters want to help veterans get decent homes, but their good intentions have fallen flat because of the government’s ineffectiveness...Brown should sign this bill (AB 639) now. Too many military men and women who have represented the United States in troubled times, in hostile situations and with families waiting back home, are in need of new beginnings. This would be the governor’s salute to them.”

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

Give Voters A Chance to Help Homeless Veterans (September 2013)

“Gov. Jerry Brown can take a crucial step in that direction by signing Assembly Bill 639, which would let voters decide next June whether to redirect bond money to build adorable housing for homeless and low-income veterans. An estimated 19,000 veterans in California are homeless, about one-fourth of the country’s entire homeless vet population. There’s also a danger that the number could grow as the military demobilizes with the end of the Afghanistan war.”

Our organization joins the Veterans Housing Coalition in supporting the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act 2014

Organization Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City*: _____ State*: _____ Zip*: _____

Contact: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Yes, Veterans Housing Coalition can publicly use and list the above organization as supporting the Veterans Housing Coalition and the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2014. We authorize listing out organization on campaign material, include website, mail, and/or any collateral material. (Please Check Box)

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

For questions, please call the campaign office at (213) 346-0400