



## **For Immediate Release**

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# **CA Supreme Court Voids Taxpayer Protection Act in Another Win for Measure ULA**

## **Ruling Clears the Way for L.A. City Leaders to Fully Fund ULA Programs**

Los Angeles, CA — Today, the California Supreme Court voted unanimously to protect Measure ULA by removing the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Initiative (TPA) from the November ballot. If passed, the TPA would have been disastrous for California, not only voiding ULA—which a majority of Angelenos voted for in 2022—but making it exponentially harder to fund critical services like police and fire departments, schools, and road and infrastructure maintenance across the state.

The TPA is sponsored by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. and the California Business Roundtable, the same special interest groups that campaigned against ULA and have sustained a loud and steady drumbeat of resistance since voters approved it. The TPA would have changed California state law to require a two-thirds majority vote to pass special taxes, and it would have voided special taxes adopted after January 2022, including ULA.

According to **Supreme Court Justice Goodwin Liu**, the TPA “would substantially alter our basic plan of government” and therefore necessitate an amendment to the California constitution. The United to House LA (UHLA) coalition submitted an amicus brief that was referenced in key oral arguments leading up to the ruling.



“Today’s decision is an important win for vulnerable communities and the foundations of good government,” said **California Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Los Angeles)**. “Voters have organized and passed local measures like ULA in Los Angeles to address critical needs across our state. I’m grateful that the Supreme Court has affirmed those efforts by rejecting this irresponsible and deceptive ballot initiative.”

“The Building Trades trust the people of California and our initiative process,” says **Ernesto Medrano, Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council**, which represents 150,000 skilled union members in 48 local unions and district councils. “This misguided measure was actually an end run around democracy, and would have made it almost impossible for citizens to vote in a clear majority fashion for much-needed investments in infrastructure, education and housing, like Measure ULA.” He added, “The court’s ruling was careful and conservative. Their respect for the state constitution is clear.”

In November 2022, 57.7% of Los Angeles voters passed ULA, also known as the “mansion tax,” because they understood the necessity of a long-term plan to solve Los Angeles’ affordable housing crisis. ULA levies a one-time transfer tax on properties that sell for over \$5 million to create a permanent funding stream for affordable housing creation—capital Los Angeles has lacked, until now. Approximately 70% of money raised by ULA must be put toward affordable housing construction and acquisition.

The win comes at a critical time, as Los Angeles city leaders fine-tune the budget for fiscal year 2024-25. Eliminating this challenge to ULA at the ballot clears the way to fully fund all 12 ULA programs, designed to comprehensively address the urgent need to create more housing while also preventing homelessness. Since ULA’s implementation in April 2023, these programs have helped more than 11,000 vulnerable renters stay in their homes through emergency rental aid and legal assistance and funded hundreds of new affordable housing units.

“My family is so happy with this ruling. It protects Measure ULA, which was there for us when we needed rental assistance to keep us from falling into homelessness,” said **Yolanda Evangelista, resident of South Central LA and recipient of ULA’s emergency rental assistance program.**



“Today's ruling is fantastic news for the city! From funding tenant protections to building more housing, ULA funds have been game changing for Los Angeles,” said **Los Angeles City Councilmember Nithya Raman, Chair of the Housing and Homelessness Committee**. “I am so delighted we can now move full steam ahead with this vital work.”

“We are excited to continue the great work with city partners to implement Measure ULA,” said **Joe Donlin, Director of the United to House LA coalition**. “Already, ULA has helped fund construction of nearly 800 new affordable homes, producing 10,000 construction jobs for Angelenos. We are ready to advance this work even further in the coming months, as ULA begins funding bold new projects, including a citywide social housing program.”