

## Requirements for Approving Key Legislative Actions in California

California's Constitution lays out rules for adopting a wide variety of legislative actions, from passing the budget, to increasing or reducing taxes, to overriding the Governor's veto. Certain actions need only a simple majority vote of both houses of the Legislature, while others require a two-thirds vote. Most actions require the Governor's signature, and some need voter approval. In an effort to shed light on basic policymaking processes in California, the following table summarizes the requirements for approving key legislative actions.

	Legislative Vote Requirement: Simple Majority or Two-Thirds?	Governor's Signature Required?	Voter Approval Required?		Legislative Vote Requirement: Simple Majority or Two-Thirds?	Governor's Signature Required?	Voter Approval Required?	
<b>BUDGETS AND SPENDING</b>					<b>CHANGES TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION</b>			
Pass a budget bill				Amend or revise the state Constitution				
Pass a budget-related (trailer) bill per Proposition 25 of 2010: Must contain an appropriation Must be identified in the budget bill May take effect immediately				Withdraw a proposed constitutional amendment or revision that the Legislature has placed on the ballot for voter approval				
Approve a General Fund appropriation for public schools				Move, to a subsequent election, a proposed constitutional amendment or revision that the Legislature has placed on the ballot for voter approval				
Pass any other bill that contains a General Fund appropriation				Call a constitutional convention				
<b>REVENUES</b>				<b>CHANGES TO LAWS ENACTED BY VOTERS THROUGH THE INITIATIVE PROCESS ("INITIATIVE STATUTES")</b>				
Impose or increase a state tax				Amend or repeal an initiative statute*				
Impose or increase a state fee				<b>OTHER</b>				
Reduce or eliminate a state tax or fee				Pass an urgency bill (takes effect immediately) Does not apply to budget bills or budget-related bills that comply with Proposition 25 of 2010				
Reallocate property tax dollars within a county among cities, the county, and special districts				Override Governor's veto (bill or appropriation)				
<b>BONDS</b>				Make changes affecting travel and living expenses for members of the Legislature				
Pass a general obligation (GO) bond measure								
Pass a lease-revenue bond measure								

\* The California Constitution allows the Legislature to pass a majority-vote bill that amends or repeals an initiative statute. However, any such bill must be approved by the voters unless the initiative waives this requirement. In practice, initiative statutes often allow lawmakers to pass amendments, typically by a two-thirds vote, without voter approval if such changes would *further the purpose* of the initiative. Other types of changes, including repeal, typically remain subject to voter approval.  
Source: Budget Center analysis of California Constitution; Legislative Analyst's Office; Senate Bill 202 (Hancock, Chapter 558 of 2011)