

School Bonds*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Draft for Consideration

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Members: Packard, Anderson, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen

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Deadline to Request Reconsideration: TBD

The Way It Is Now: The San Francisco Unified School District (School District) builds, maintains, upgrades and repairs its facilities using money from various sources, primarily from voter-approved bond measures, but also from local parcel taxes and developer fees. The San Francisco Board of Education oversees the School District and appoints a superintendent of schools, who is responsible for managing the day-to-day administration of the district.

Under State law, before a school district can issue general obligation bonds, voters must be provided with a list of school facilities that will benefit from those bond funds. State law also requires school districts issuing those bonds to create an independent citizens' oversight committee and to conduct an annual, independent audits. State law prevents school districts from using bond funds for teacher and administrator salaries or operating expenses.

Property tax revenues are used to pay the principal and interest on general obligation bonds.

The Proposal: Proposition ___ would authorize the School District to borrow up to \$744,250,000 by issuing general obligation bonds. These funds may be used to repair and upgrade any School District site to:

- address health and safety risks by fixing damaged buildings and removing hazardous materials;
- repair and replace major building systems, including electrical, heating, water, sewer, lighting, security, and fire sprinkler systems;
- build or renovate common, administrative or athletic areas such as kitchens, theaters, auditoriums, gymnasiums, locker rooms, and offices;
- make seismic upgrades;
- improve accessibility for people with disabilities;
- make technology upgrades;
- modify building interiors, such as classrooms, and exteriors, such as playgrounds, fences and gates, fields and bleachers, and landscaping;
- add or expand existing classrooms or school buildings;
- replace temporary classroom facilities with permanent structures;
- construct new schools;
- incorporate environmentally sustainable design in the outdoor areas at certain sites; and
- perform other work necessary to comply with any applicable codes or regulations.

**Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*

The School District may use up to \$100 million of the bond funds to renovate or construct classroom, rehearsal, or performance spaces for the District Arts Center, including relocating the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts. The School District may also use up to \$5 million to fund construction of below-market housing for teachers and other educational professionals it employs.

The School District would create an independent citizens' oversight committee to report to the public about the use of bond funds. The Board of Education would also conduct an annual, independent audit regarding the use of these bond funds.

Proposition ___ would require an increase in the property tax to pay principal and interest on the bonds. This measure requires the approval of 55% of the votes cast.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want the School District to issue up to \$744,250,000 in general obligation bonds to

- address health and safety risks by fixing damaged buildings and removing hazardous materials;
- repair and replace major building systems, including electrical, heating, water, sewer, lighting, security, and fire sprinkler systems;
- build or renovate common, administrative or athletic areas such as kitchens, theaters, auditoriums, gymnasiums, locker rooms, and offices;
- make seismic upgrades;
- improve accessibility for people with disabilities;
- make technology upgrades;
- modify building interiors, such as classrooms, and exteriors, such as playgrounds, fences and gates, fields and bleachers, and landscaping;
- add or expand existing classrooms or school buildings;
- replace temporary classroom facilities with permanent structures;
- construct new schools;
- incorporate environmentally sustainable design in the outdoor areas at certain sites; and
- perform other work necessary to comply with any applicable codes or regulations.

The bond expenditures would be subject to oversight by an independent citizens' committee and annual, independent audits.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want the School District to issue these bonds.