

Ballot Simplification Committee

**Approved Digest –by: Packard, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen, 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 2, 2010
Requests for Reconsideration due by 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2010**

Earthquake Bond (*working title only, subject to change*)

The Way It Is Now:

In the event of an earthquake or major disaster, the City relies on its fire and police departments to provide emergency response. These departments depend on a variety of facilities and infrastructures which include:

- An Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS) that provides a dedicated high-pressure water supply system for fighting fires. It includes a reservoir, pipes, cisterns, pump stations and high-pressure fire hydrants. This system, built in response to the 1906 earthquake, is deteriorating;
- Neighborhood fire stations;
- Neighborhood police stations; and
- The Police Command Center.

Both the Southern District police station and the Police Command Center are housed in the Hall of Justice at 850 Bryant Street. A study commissioned by the City indicates that these facilities are not expected to be operational after a major earthquake.

With the approval of the voters, the City may issue general obligation bonds to pay for capital projects such as building or renovating fire and police stations and the AWSS. Property tax revenues pay for the principal and interest on general obligation bonds.

The Proposal: Proposition ___ is a bond measure that would authorize the City to borrow up to \$412,300,000 by issuing general obligation bonds for capital projects to improve the City's fire, earthquake and emergency response.

Projects funded by the bond proceeds could include:

- Upgrades to the City's Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS), including renovations and seismic retrofitting.
- Construction, renovation and seismic retrofitting of fire stations.
- Construction of a new Public Safety Building in Mission Bay. This building would house the Police Command Center, the Southern District police station, and a new neighborhood fire station.

The Mayor and the Board of Supervisors would review proposals and approve the final list of projects.

Proposition ___ would require the Citizen's General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee to provide independent oversight of the spending of bond funds. One-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of these funds would pay for the Committee's audit and oversight.

Proposition __ would allow an increase in the property tax to pay for the bonds. It would permit landlords to pass 50% of the resulting property tax increase to tenants.

Two-thirds of the voters would have to approve this measure for it to pass.

A “YES” Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want the City to issue up to \$412,300,000 in general obligation bonds, subject to independent oversight and regular audits, for construction, renovation, and seismic retrofitting of fire and police department buildings and infrastructure. Landlords would be allowed to pass 50% of the increase in property taxes to tenants.

A “NO” Vote Means: If you vote “no,” you do not want the City to issue these general obligation bonds for construction, renovation, and seismic retrofitting of fire and police department buildings and infrastructure.

word count: 450 [suggested word limit: 300]