

**Ballot Simplification Committee - DRAFT for Consideration on Wednesday,
August 3, 2011**

School Bonds *(working title only, subject to change)*

THE WAY IT IS NOW:

The San Francisco Unified School District (School District) owns or leases over 130 schools and other facilities. The School District builds, maintains and repairs its properties using money from various sources, including local taxes, fees, and revenues from voter-approved bond measures.

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 ___ is a bond measure that would authorize the School District to borrow up to \$531 million to repair and upgrade a list of over 50 schools and other facilities throughout the City.

For these listed schools and facilities, the School District would use this money to:

- address health and safety risks by fixing damaged items and removing hazardous materials;
- repair and replace major building systems, including electrical, heating, water, sewer, lighting, security, and fire sprinkler systems;
- improve accessibility for people with disabilities;
- repair and build playgrounds and fields;
- make necessary seismic upgrades;
- if practical, replace temporary facilities and classrooms with permanent structures;
- if practical, replace an existing facility with a new facility; and

- perform other work necessary to comply with any applicable codes or regulations.

The School District would use \$10 million of the funds for environmentally sustainable design, materials, and products. The School District also would use \$1.5 million to plan for future bonds and perform outreach with groups affected by the projects that this bond measure would fund.

The School District would create an independent citizens' oversight committee to report to the public about the use of bond funds. The School District's Board of Trustees would also conduct an annual, independent audit regarding the use of these bond funds. The School District would not be allowed to use bond funds to pay for teacher and administrator salaries or operating expenses.

Proposition __ would require an increase in the property tax to pay principal and interest on the bonds. A 55% majority vote is required to approve school bonds.

A “YES” VOTE MEANS: If you vote "yes," you want the School District to issue \$531 million in general obligation bonds to repair and upgrade its schools and facilities by addressing health and safety risks, repairing and replacing major building systems, improving accessibility for people with disabilities, repairing and building playgrounds and fields, making seismic upgrades, replacing facilities and classrooms with permanent or new structures where practical, replacing existing facilities and classrooms, and performing other work necessary to comply with any applicable codes or regulations, 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.

word count: 503 [suggested word limit: 300]