

## **Ballot Simplification Committee**

**FINAL Approved Digest – 12:50 p.m. on Wednesday, August 3, 2011 – Packard, Fraps, Fasick, Jorgensen, Unruh**

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

**Any Requests for Reconsideration were due Thursday, August 4, 2011, at 1:00 p.m.**

#### **THE WAY IT IS NOW:**

The San Francisco Unified School District (School District) owns or leases over 160 schools and other facilities. The 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.

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 annual, independent audits. State law prevents school districts from using general obligation 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 \$531 million by issuing general obligation bonds. These funds would be used to repair and upgrade more than 50 school facilities 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;
- replace temporary classroom facilities with permanent structures, if determined to be more practical than repairing them;
- replace an existing facility with a new facility, if determined to be more practical than repairing it; and
- perform other work necessary to comply with any applicable codes or regulations.

The School District would set aside up to \$5 million of the funds to create outdoor learning environments and up to \$5 million to implement the use of environmentally sustainable materials and products. It also

would set aside up to \$1.5 million for future bond planning and for communication with all groups affected by the projects funded by this bond measure.

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 Education would also conduct annual, independent audits. The School District would not be allowed to use bond funds to pay for teacher and administrator salaries or operating expenses.

Proposition \_\_\_ would allow for an increase in the property tax, if needed, 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 \$531 million in general obligation bonds to repair and upgrade its school 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 classrooms and facilities with permanent or new structures where practical, and performing 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.

word count: 510 [suggested word limit: 300]