

**Ballot Simplification Committee – DRAFT for Consideration on Monday, February 24, 2014**  
**Earthquake Retrofit Bond** *(working title only, subject to change)*

**The Way It Is Now:**

The City owns and operates infrastructure, buildings, and other facilities for earthquake safety and emergency response, including:

- Neighborhood police and firefighting stations;
- The Police Department's Traffic Company and Forensic Services Division;
- A Medical Examiner's Office; and
- An Emergency Firefighting Water System ("E.F.W.S."), which provides a dedicated water supply system for fighting fires, and includes a reservoir, pipes, cisterns, pump stations and high-pressure fire hydrants.

These facilities do not meet current building code earthquake standards.

The City borrows money to pay for certain large capital projects by selling general obligation bonds and uses property tax revenues to pay the principal and interest on those bonds.

The City's Citizen's General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee is a nine-member body that monitors the City's spending of funds generated by the sale of general obligation bonds. The Mayor, the Board of Supervisors ("Board"), the Controller, and the Civil Grand Jury appoint the members of this committee.

**The Proposal:**

Proposition \_\_ is a general obligation bond measure that would authorize the City to sell up to \$400 million in bonds to improve certain City earthquake safety and emergency response facilities.

The bond proceeds could fund:

- The improvement and retrofitting of neighborhood police and firefighting stations;
- The design and construction of a seismically secure structure for the Police Department's Traffic Company and Forensic Services Division;
- The design and construction of a seismically secure structure for the Medical Examiner's Office;
- The renovation and upgrading of E.F.W.S. and related facilities; and

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

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 the bond funds would pay for the committee's audit and oversight functions.

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

**A “YES” Vote Means:** If you vote "yes," you want to allow the City to sell up to \$400 million in general obligation bonds to finance the construction, improvement, and seismic retrofitting of certain facilities for earthquake safety and emergency response, subject to independent oversight and audits.

**A “NO” Vote Means:** If you vote “no,” you do not want to allow the City to sell these bonds.

word count: 408 [suggested word limit: 300]