

Ballot Simplification Committee

FINAL Approved Digest –by: Packard, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen, Unruh, Fri., March 12, 2010

Requests for Reconsideration were due by 10:15 a.m. on Friday, March 12, 2010

School Facilities Special Tax (*working title only, subject to change*)

The Way It Is Now: The San Francisco Unified School District (the District) operates the City's public schools and some child care centers. The District builds, repairs and upgrades its buildings using money from various sources, including voter-approved bond measures and a special property tax. State law allows local government agencies such as the District to form a special community facilities district and collect a special tax if the tax is approved by two-thirds of the voters in the district.

In June 1990, the voters adopted a special tax on property to pay for repairs and other improvements to school and child care center buildings damaged by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and to ensure that buildings were maintained in the future. That tax will expire this year. The current annual special tax on single-family residential and non-residential parcels is \$32.20, and the annual special tax on multi-family residential parcels is \$16.10 for each dwelling unit. The tax has not been adjusted for inflation. The 1990 measure authorized the District to spend up to \$12 million of the special tax proceeds each year.

The Proposal: Proposition ___ would authorize a special property tax that extends and modifies the special tax adopted in 1990. The District could use the tax for:

- Seismic upgrading and structural strengthening of the District's school and child care center buildings;
- Repairing or replacing fire and other safety systems;
- Upgrading and repairing buildings, including paying salaries and benefits for employees working on these upgrades; and
- Expenses such as the cost of planning and design and the collection of taxes.

The tax would last for 20 years and the maximum tax rates would be adjusted each year for inflation. For the first year, the tax on single-family residential and non-residential parcels would be up to \$32.20 per year, and the tax on multi-family residential parcels would be up to \$16.10 per year for each dwelling unit. The measure would authorize the District to spend up to \$16 million per year.

Dwelling units with residents 65 years old and older would be eligible for an exemption from the tax.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to renew the special tax to pay for seismic upgrades and other safety improvements to School District facilities. The maximum tax rate would be adjusted for inflation.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to renew this special tax.

word count: 393 [suggested word limit: 300]