

Draft suggestions from Department of Public Works

Ballot Simplification Committee – DRAFT for Consideration on Monday, February 24, 2014

Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Bond (working title only, subject to change)

The Way It Is Now:

In the event of an earthquake or major disaster, San Francisco residents and businesses rely on the fire and police departments to provide emergency response, requiring safe and secure infrastructure. These include:

- A dedicated Emergency Firefighting Water System;
- Neighborhood police and fire stations;
- Medical Examiner facilities; and
- The Police Motorcycle unit and Crime Lab.

These deteriorating facilities do not meet today's building code earthquake standards and are not expected to remain operational when a major disaster strikes.

The City's 10-year Capital Plan identifies the repairs and relocation of public safety facilities and infrastructure as a high priority. With voter approval, the City may issue general obligation bonds to pay for capital projects, such as upgrading fire and police stations and the Emergency Firefighting Water System. Property tax revenues fund the General Obligation bonds.

Proposition A is subject to independent oversight of all expenditures by the Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee.

The Proposal:

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

The bond proceeds could fund:

- upgrades to the Emergency Firefighting Water System;
- improvements to neighborhood police and firefighting stations;
- construction of a seismically secure structure for the Medical Examiner; and
- Construction of a seismically secure structure for the Motorcycle Police and Crime Lab.

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

Proposition A would require the independent Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee to oversee the bond expenditures. One-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the proceeds would pay for the committee's audit and oversight functions.

This measure requires two-thirds of voter approval 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 public safety and emergency response facilities, 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 to fund earthquake safety and emergency response improvements.