

School Bonds

A

PROPOSITION A

Shall the San Francisco Unified School District modernize and repair up to 64 additional school facilities to health, safety, instructional and accessibility standards, and where applicable, replace portable trailers with permanent classrooms; upgrade bathrooms, science labs, plumbing, electrical and other building systems; replace heating and ventilation systems; and renovate classrooms, with proceeds from the issuance of up to \$450,000,000 in bonds, at legal interest rates, with guaranteed annual audits, and citizens' oversight to monitor expenditures?

YES ←  
NO ←  

Digest

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

THE WAY IT IS NOW: The San Francisco Unified School District maintains over 160 buildings. The District builds, maintains and upgrades its schools using money from various sources, primarily from voter-approved bond measures, but also from local parcel taxes and developer fees. The District is also eligible to receive additional funds from the State to build or upgrade its schools if, among other requirements, the District provides money for these projects.

In 2003, the voters approved a \$295 million bond measure to modernize 30 schools and to set aside \$15 million for a proposed building for the School of the Arts.

THE PROPOSAL: Proposition A would authorize the District to borrow up to \$450 million by issuing general obligation bonds. The money would be used to modernize 64 additional School District facilities not included in the 2003 bond proposition by:

- improving health and safety standards, including installing fire sprinkler systems, repairing elevators and replacing drinking fountains;
- making building repairs such as fixing bathrooms and repairing or replacing electrical and plumbing systems;
- improving accessibility for students with disabilities by installing ramps, signs, assistive listening devices and making other needed repairs and replacements;
- performing needed environmental improvements, including removing materials containing asbestos;

- repairing portable trailers or replacing portable trailers with permanent classrooms; and
- creating outdoor areas for hands-on environmental learning.

Of the \$450 million, the District would set aside \$15 million for a proposed building for the School of the Arts. In addition, \$2 million would be set aside for planning and analyzing for further building modernization and disability access.

The District would not start some parts of these projects unless it receives additional funds from the State.

Proposition A would require the District to create a Citizens' Oversight Committee to review and report to the public on whether funds are being spent only for those projects included in this bond. State law requires an annual audit.

Principal and interest on general obligation bonds are paid from property tax revenues. Proposition A would require an increase in the property tax. A 55 percent majority is required to approve school bonds.

A "YES" VOTE MEANS: If you vote "yes," you want the District to issue \$450 million in general obligation bonds to modernize 64 School District facilities.

A "NO" VOTE MEANS: If you vote "no," you do not want the District to issue these bonds.

Notice to Voters:

The "Controller's Statement" and "How 'A' Got on the Ballot" information on this measure appear on the opposite (facing) page.

THIS MEASURE REQUIRES 55% AFFIRMATIVE VOTES TO PASS.

ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST THIS MEASURE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW THIS PAGE. THE FULL TEXT BEGINS ON PAGE 72.
SOME OF THE WORDS USED IN THE BALLOT DIGEST ARE EXPLAINED ON PAGE 62.

