

Schools Improvement and Safety Bond*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Approved Digest
On: Tuesday, July 23, 2024
Members: Packard, Anderson, Wong, Wang

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: 3:00pm on Wednesday, July 24, 2024

The Way It Is Now: The San Francisco Unified School District (School District) operates the San Francisco public school system and educates more than 49,500 students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. The School District builds, repairs and maintains its facilities, primarily using funds from voter-approved bond measures, as well as from local parcel taxes and developer fees.

In order to issue general obligation bonds, the School District must provide voters with a list of types of projects on which the funds will be spent.

Under State law, school districts cannot use bond funds for teacher and administrator salaries or operating expenses.

The most recent school bond was approved by voters in 2016. 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 \$790 million by issuing general obligation bonds. The School District may use these bond funds to improve, repair and upgrade any of its sites to:

- address health and safety risks by making seismic upgrades, improving accessibility for people with disabilities, fixing damaged buildings and removing hazardous materials;
- repair and replace major building systems, including electrical, heating, water, sewer, lighting, security and fire sprinkler systems;
- modify building interiors, such as classrooms, and exteriors, including playgrounds, fences and gates, fields and bleachers, and landscaping;
- add or expand existing classrooms or school buildings, including portable classrooms and transitional kindergarten facilities;
- upgrade security and technology infrastructure;
- build or renovate common, administrative or athletic areas, such as kitchens, student nutrition facilities, theaters, auditoriums, gymnasiums, locker rooms, offices, transportation facilities and infrastructure, warehouses, and buildings and grounds facilities;
- construct a new central food hub;
- replace temporary classroom facilities with permanent structures;
- perform work necessary to comply with applicable codes or regulations.

The School District would be required to create an independent citizens' oversight committee to review and report on the use of these bond funds.

Proposition ___ may require an increase in the property tax 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 up to \$790 million in general obligation bonds to improve, repair and upgrade School District sites, and to build new facilities.

**Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want the School District to issue these bonds.