

## **Schools Improvement and Safety Bond\***

**Digest** by the Ballot Simplification Committee

**Status:** Draft for Consideration  
**On:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024  
**Members:** Packard, Anderson, Wong, Wang

**Deadline to Request Reconsideration:** TBD

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**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 through 12th grade each year. The School District builds, maintains, upgrades and repairs its facilities. In doing so it uses money from various sources, primarily from voter-approved bond measures, and also from local parcel taxes and developer fees. The San Francisco Board of Education oversees the School District and appoints a superintendent of schools, who is responsible for managing the day-to-day administration of the district.

Under State law, before school districts can issue general obligation bonds, they must provide voters with a list of projects and the types of work on which the funds will be spent. State law also requires school districts issuing those bonds to create an independent citizens' oversight committee and to conduct an annual, independent audits. State law prevents school districts from using bond funds for teacher and administrator salaries or operating expenses.

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 repair and upgrade any of its sites to, among other things:

- 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, and make technology upgrades;
- 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 to address food insecurity and provide healthy food options for all students;
- replace temporary classroom facilities with permanent structures;
- upgrade security and technology; and
- perform other work necessary to comply with any applicable codes or regulations.

*\*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.*

The School District would create an independent citizens' oversight committee to report to the public about the use of bond funds. The Board of Education would also conduct an annual, independent audit regarding the use of these bond funds.

Proposition \_\_\_ would 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 construct new facilities.

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