

Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Bond*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Draft for Consideration
On: Monday, November 25, 2019
Members: Packard, Anderson, Girardin, Patterson

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: TBD

The Way It Is Now: The City owns and operates facilities that service public safety and respond to emergencies, including earthquakes. These facilities include:

- An Emergency Firefighting Water System and related facilities, which provides a dedicated water supply system for fighting fires, and includes a reservoir, pipes, cisterns, pump stations and high-pressure fire hydrants;
- Fire and police facilities and infrastructure, including neighborhood stations;
- The 911 Call Center; and
- Other public facilities and infrastructure needed for effective disaster response.

The Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee oversees the spending of general obligation bond proceeds.

The Proposal: Proposition ___ is a bond measure that would authorize the City to borrow up to \$628,500,000 by issuing general obligation bonds to pay for capital improvements to facilities and infrastructure related to earthquake safety and the City's emergency response and recovery in the event of an earthquake.

Projects funded by the bond proceeds could include construction, acquisition, improvement, renovation, retrofitting and completion of:

- the Emergency Firefighting Water System and related facilities;
- Firefighting facilities and infrastructure, including neighborhood stations and a training facility;
- Police facilities and infrastructure, including neighborhood stations;
- Improvements to the 911 Call Center; and
- Other public facilities and infrastructure the City needs for effective disaster response.

Proposition ___ would allow an increase in the property tax to pay for the bonds, if needed. The City has a non-binding policy to keep the property tax rate from City general obligation bonds below the 2006 rate by issuing new bonds as older ones are retired and the tax base grows. Landlords would be permitted to pass through up to 50% of any resulting property tax increase to tenants, subject to individual hardship waivers.

Proposition ___ also would require the Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee to review the spending of bond proceeds.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want the City to issue \$628,500,000 in general obligation bonds to finance the construction, acquisition, improvement, renovation, and seismic retrofitting of the Emergency Firefighting Water System, firefighting facilities and infrastructure, police facilities and infrastructure, the 911 Call Center, and other infrastructure and facilities that provide disaster response, and related costs necessary or convenient for the foregoing purposes, subject to independent oversight and audits.

**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 City to issue these bonds.