



CSFC Member Call to Action: **Proposition 51/Sell School Bonds Advocacy**

Proposition 51/Sell School Bonds Budget Request

CSFC has joined efforts to ask the Legislature to increase the size of state school bond sales in FY 2018-19. We need your help in our advocacy efforts!

The Governor is proposing to sell \$640 million in state school bonds in FY 2018-19. This amount is insufficient; schools have already submitted over \$3.2 billion in new construction and modernization projects to the Office of Public School Construction.

CSFC is asking the Legislature to:

- Sell an additional \$2.36 billion in K-12 school bonds, in addition to the proposed \$640 million, for a total of \$3 billion in FY 2018-19.
- Include budget language to require at least \$3.0 billion in projects be processed for State Allocation Board (SAB) apportionment in FY 2018-19.

We need your help!

Please assist CSFC by doing the following:

- **Pass a county board resolution** in support of increasing the speed and size of state school bonds (sample resolution template attached).
- **Draft a letter for your legislative representatives** identifying the dollar amount of projects in your county that may be funded with \$640 million versus those that may be funded with \$3 billion in bond sales in FY 2018-19. (Sample letter template is attached; visit the CSFC website for county-specific project data.)
- **Complete the CSFC Member Survey** re: County Office Proposition 51 Projects (survey questions attached; submit responses electronically at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSFCProp51MembershipSurvey)

All Politics is Local

We need your voice, representing your local communities, to raise awareness about this issue with the Legislature. Your participation will provide substance and context to CSFC's advocacy efforts.

Thank you!

Sample County Board of Education Resolution in Support of Accelerating the Distribution of Proposition 51 School Facilities Funds

WHEREAS, Article IX Section 5 of the California Constitution finds public education is a State responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Article 1 Section 28 of the California Constitution states that public schools shall be safe, secure and peaceful; and

WHEREAS, county offices of education are a critical part of the education infrastructure, serving a diverse population of students that typically require specialized facilities, smaller classes, and support services; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the State of California have, since 1982, consistently approved statewide school construction and modernization bond measures to provide resources through programs contained in the Lease-Purchase Program and School Facility Program, Title 1, Division 1, Part 10, Chapters 12 and 12.5 of the Education Code; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2016, voters of California passed Proposition 51 that authorized the State of California to sell \$9 billion worth of statewide school facilities bonds; and

WHEREAS, county offices of education do not have the authority to issue local bonds and often lack local resources for facilities projects; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has played a critical role in helping county offices of education meet their facilities needs, providing county offices of education with over \$1 billion in funds since 1998 under Division 1, Part 10, Chapter 12.5 of the Education Code; and

WHEREAS, by December 5, 2017, there was a more than \$3.2 billion backlog in project applications filed by school districts and county offices of education seeking state bond funds; and

(Optional) WHEREAS, the _____ County Office of Education has \$_____ in facilities needs which may be partially funded by State bonds; and

(Optional) WHEREAS, the _____ County Office of Education has submitted applications for at least \$_____ in state grant funds; and

(Optional) WHEREAS, school districts in _____ County have submitted applications worth at least \$_____ in state grant funds; and

WHEREAS, it has been more than one year since voters approved \$7 billion for K-12 state school bonds in Proposition 51, and only approximately \$600 million of K-12 Proposition 51 funds will be sold in 2017-18; and

WHEREAS, only \$640 million in school bonds funds are proposed to be sold in FY 2018-19; and

WHEREAS, this current pace of school bond sales does not meet the \$3.2 billion backlog of applications submitted by school districts and county offices of education across the state; and

WHEREAS, an average of more than 90% of previous statewide school bond funds were committed within four (4) years of the measure's passage; and

WHEREAS, at the current pace of state school bond sales, it will be almost a decade before 90% of Proposition 51 K-12 funds will be committed; and

WHEREAS, school districts and county offices of education face rising construction cost inflation the longer the state delays bond sales to fund the submitted applications backlog, resulting in fewer students having access to new and renovated classrooms from Proposition 51; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 98 and the new Local Control Funding Formula are intended to improve educational achievement for all students but do not provide dedicated facilities funding; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that quality school facilities have a positive impact on student academic performance, attendance and teacher job satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition for Adequate School Housing proposes, and the County School Facilities Consortium supports, \$3.0 billion in Proposition 51 bond sales in FY 2018-19 to fund most of the \$3.2 billion application backlog as of December 2017, so that school districts and county offices of education receive the resources voters promised to adequately serve students, families and their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ County Board of Education calls on the State of California to process and apportion \$3.0 billion in School Facility Program application backlog by December 31, 2018, and to sell \$3.0 billion in Proposition 51 state school bonds during 2018-19 to honor the will of California voters.

Adopted by the Governing Board of the (insert name of county board of education) on (insert month) (date), 2018.

Signature (Governing Board Secretary)

Date

Please forward a copy of the signed resolution to the County School Facilities Consortium and Coalition for Adequate School Housing by emailing it to jcontreras@m-w-h.com.

Sample COE Letter – County-wide Impacts of Insufficient School Bond Sales

The Honorable NAME [Your Legislative Representatives]
California State Senate/Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request to Increase School Bond Sale Amounts in FY 2018-19 Budget

Dear NAME:

On behalf of the _____ County Office of Education, I am writing to ask for your support to increase the amount of voter-approved Proposition 51 state school bonds to be sold in FY 2018-19. The Governor's budget proposal includes \$640 million in FY 2018-19. This amount is woefully inadequate to meet the need of schools and county offices of education, which have already submitted School Facility Program project applications worth over \$3.2 billion to the Office of Public School Construction.

When voters approved Proposition 51 in November 2016, it had been ten years since the last state school bond was authorized. Bond authority for constructing and renovating school facilities had been exhausted since 2012. Since that time, the demand for state support for school facilities has increased as districts address aging buildings and enrollment growth, while striving to create learning environments that provide a 21st Century education.

Because of the significant school facilities needs across our state and within our county, we are asking the Legislature to:

- Sell an additional \$2.36 billion in K-12 school bonds, in addition to the proposed \$640 million, for a total of \$3 billion in FY 2018-19.
- Include budget language to require at least \$3.0 billion in projects be processed for State Allocation Board (SAB) apportionment in FY 2018-19.

Districts in _____ County have submitted School Facility Program project applications to the state worth over \$_____ [insert dollar amount from county data set]. The Governor's proposed budget would fund only approximately \$_____ of these projects. Attached, please find data showing the projects in our county that may be funded by the Governor's \$640 million bond sale proposal, in contrast to the projects that may be funded by a \$3 billion bond sale. At the current rate, it may be five years before some of these projects receive funding.

These projects would have a real and meaningful impact on our schools and local communities. When voters approved Proposition 51, they expressed their desire to prioritize the construction and renovation of California's schools. Schools in our county will use state funds to leverage local dollars, maximizing taxpayer and community investments. Some districts do not have the local resources to complete needed projects on their own and depend upon the state to ensure safe, educationally appropriate facilities for their students. The School Facility Program is especially important to county

offices of education, because they do not have the authority to issues local bonds and lack access to capital resources. County offices of education directly serve a diverse population of students on a regional basis, including those in special education, alternative education, and court school programs.

[You may choose to add information about a specific project that would have a significant impact on a local district and community, or information about the challenges that a particular district is facing.]

Every day, increasing interest rates and construction costs reduce the state's buying power; the longer the delay, the fewer facilities we will be able to deliver to our communities using Proposition 51 funds and local match dollars. A delay in allocating Proposition 51 funds is not consistent with the will of voters, who understand the critical need to repair and build schools in their own communities.

We urge you to consider the impact a delay in administering Proposition 51 funds will have on our school districts and local communities. On behalf of the students, teachers, and community members in _____ County, we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

NAME

Please provide a copy of your letter to Jessica Contreras (jcontreras@m-w-h.com) at the County School Facilities Consortium.



CSFC Member Survey: County Office Prop 51 Projects

CSFC is asking its members to complete a survey regarding each county office of education's (COE's) plan to participate in the School Facility Program under Proposition 51. This will help us understand the universe of COE projects that may be affected by policy and budget proposals, and your answers will help inform CSFC's advocacy efforts. It will also help us understand the demand for COE state-supported facilities projects in the near future under Proposition 51 as well as a future bond.

1. Have you submitted a project(s) to OPSC since 2013?
 - Please indicate how many projects.
2. If so, please describe *each* project. Include the following information for each project:
 - Project type: New Construction, Modernization, Charter, CTE
 - Is the project on the Workload List? The Unfunded List?
 - Financial Hardship request
 - Separate site/design request
 - Educational program/students served and project scope
 - Estimated total cost of project, and anticipated state share
3. Do you plan to submit a project to OPSC within the next two years?
4. If so, please identify the following for each project:
 - Project type: New Construction, Modernization, Charter, CTE
 - Financial Hardship request
 - Separate site/design request
 - Educational program/students served and project scope
 - Estimated total cost of project, and anticipated state share
5. Are you using or do you plan to use bridge financing for projects that have already been submitted to OPSC or that you plan to submit?
 - If so, please describe what instrument(s) you are using or considering.
6. Absent state funds, will your COE be able to complete these projects?
 - Please describe why.
7. Let's dream big for a minute. Please describe a COE facilities project for which you would like to request state funding but are unable. Please include the reason you can't access state funds: no eligibility for the project; the state doesn't fund that type of program or facility (administrative facility, early childhood education); your project is not as competitive compared to others (CTE, charter), etc.

Please fill out our survey online via Survey Monkey:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSFCProp51MembershipSurvey