Proposition 13: Bonds for Schools and Colleges

Pros & Cons

General Obligation Bond

Caution: This is not an attempt to confuse voters with the existing Proposition 13. Propositions are numbered in a set cycle and 13 was the next number in the sequence when this one qualified for the ballot.

Background

- Local school districts float most bond issues, from 2006 to 2016; there were no statewide measures.
- In 2016, Prop. 51 was passed as a statewide measure but it did not include pre-school or state colleges and universities.
- Some of the Prop. 51 funds are not yet spent, but the state has already received applications far exceeding the amount available.
- The first come, first served application system currently used favors larger and richer districts.

What would Proposition 13 do?

- Prop 13 would allow the state to sell $15 billion in new bonds to help build, repair and update schools
  - $9 billion for K-12
  - $6 billion community colleges, state colleges and universities
- Allows local districts to increase what they raise in local bond elections
- Instead of first come, first served, this bond sets priorities by need, which gives poorer and small districts a better chance for support.

What would it cost?

California would spend about $740 million per year for the next 35 years to repay the bonds. There would be $11 billion in interest accrued over the repayment period.

Pro: Supporters say:

- 70% of facilities at K-12 schools are more than 25 years old.
• Many college and university buildings are 50-70 years old.
• Deferred maintenance has been building up due to lack of funding. When existing infrastructure fails (e.g. water line breaks), schools must close until repaired.
• New technology requires updated infrastructure and equipment.
• Old buildings present safety issues: lighting, accessibility, campus security, asbestos and mold.
• Bonds could to build additional college and university housing. Areas with high housing costs cause economic hardship and homeless students.

Supporters include 80 organizations and 64 public officials

Yes on Prop. 13 has raised a total of $8,633,247

Top ten contributors
$900,000 California's Coalition for Adequate School Housing
$500,000 California Teachers Association
$250,000 California Democratic Party 4
$200,000 UC Santa Barbara Foundation Institution Advancement
$200,000 University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
$200,000 University of California, San Francisco
$160,000 D.R. Horton
$149,797 Lennar Corporation
$109,500 UC Berkeley Foundation
$100,000 University of California Riverside Foundation

Con: Opponents say:

• The state has a significant rainy day fund. Use that money to build and improve schools.
• Voters already approved $9 billion in 2016 to build and repair schools.
• Prop 13 would allow school districts to borrow more money, which could increase taxes for all California property owners

Opponents: Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and State Senator Brian Jones

Funding: No data currently available on Voter’s Edge 2/2/2020