

Primary Election - June 7, 2016

Ballot Measures

State Proposition 50: Suspension of Legislators

Required Vote: Constitutional Amendment requires a simple majority to pass

The Way It Is Now: The way it is now: In 2014, three California state Senators were accused of felonies and their fellow state Senators voted to suspend them. The state Constitution has rules for how to remove (expel) a state lawmaker for wrongdoing but no rules to suspend them for a limited period of time. The accused lawmakers were not allowed to vote on laws, but still received their salaries and benefits.

What Measure 50 would do if it passes:
Add rules to the state Constitution about how to suspend state lawmakers, not just how to expel them. Suspension would require a 2/3 vote of fellow lawmakers, and the suspended lawmaker's salary and benefits could be taken away during the period of the suspension.

People for Measure 50 say:
Accused lawmakers should not be expelled until proven guilty. But it does make sense to suspend them with the option of taking away their salary and benefits

People Against Measure 50 say:
When lawmakers are suspended, they are not able to do their job for the people they represent. Accused lawmakers should be expelled instead of suspended.

Effect on the budget: Suspension is not expected to happen very often, so in most years there would be no effect on the budget. If there is a suspension in the future, the state could save a small amount of money.

San Francisco Regional Ballot Measure AA: San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention & Habitat Restoration

Required Vote: This measure requires a 2/3 voter approval from all 9 counties to pass

The Way It Is Now: Sea levels in the San Francisco Bay area are expected to rise significantly by mid-century as the sea level is proposed to be 55 inches higher for 2100. The sea rise threatens airports and major highways - upwards to \$62 Billion in property in the 9 counties around San Francisco Bay. There is no one funded plan to deal with these changes and costs at this time.

What Measure AA would do if it passes:
Would implement a \$12-a-year parcel tax, raising \$25 million per year and about half a billion dollars over 20 years and create a new property tax designed to jump-start the Bay Area's preparation for the rising water. It is a first-of-its-kind measure to restore tidal marshes and help secure flood protection. It is has an independent citizen oversight and all funds remain local.

People for Measure AA say: No one coastal area or city in the United States has implemented a funding plan to provide a regional and sustainable revenue to protect wildlife habitat, bring back our wetlands, reduce pollution and trash on our coastline, and meet the problems of a rising sea. The plus side is that this will also increase public access and recreational areas.

People Against Measure AA say:
Opponents argue that the tax would be unfair and regressive since it was designed to charge all property owners in each of the nine counties surrounding the bay at an equal parcel tax rate, even though many residents lived far from the bay and did not benefit from its health as much as other residents.

Effect on the budget: This would provide a funding program for the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (a separate regional government entity established by the California State Legislature in 2009. The parcel tax would provide local funds to match State and federal funds for the restoration projects increasing the total funding available to projects.

Albany Measure B: Albany Unified School District \$70 MM Bond

Required Vote: This measure requires a 2/3 voter approval

The Way It Is Now: The Albany Ocean View and Marin Schools are not seismically safe and it is more cost effective to replace them. It also provides for alleviating overcrowding in the high school. District Offices also have to be **relocated** because they have lost their lease with the University of California.

What Measure B would do if it passes: This measure would issue \$70 MM in bonds to fund projects including rebuilding Marin and Ocean View elementary schools; adding new classrooms at Albany Middle School and Albany High School; improving district facilities; and relocating district offices. Proceeds may not be used for any other purpose, such as administrator salaries. Expenditures and management of the bond monies will be subject to an independent citizens' oversight committee, annual performance audits and annual financial audits.

Effect on the budget: The best estimate of the tax rate required to be levied to fund the bonds is 12 cents per \$100.00 of assessed valuation, or \$120.00 per \$100,000.00 of the assessed valuation. This will create constructions and associated funding. They cannot be diverted by operational or teaching purposes.

People for Measure B say: Albany provides an excellent education to local students, making it among the highest performing districts in the State. However, a recent assessment found that Marin and Ocean View Elementary Schools require significant seismic and safety improvements, and that rebuilding them will be more cost-effective than repairing them. Approval will provide funds to

- Rebuild Marin and Ocean View Elementary Schools,
- Relieve Albany High School overcrowding,
- Improve school safety and accessibility
- Improve energy efficiency and renewable energy generation.

Passage would make Albany eligible for specific State matching grants funds.

People Against Measure B say:
No ballot argument was formally filed against Measure B.

An LWVBAEA review indicates the measure places a large burden on new homeowners where new home prices average \$750K and the potential tax burden would be \$900 additional to the current level. There is no indication of what proportion of the funds will be spent on schools vis-a-vis district offices.

There is no binding provision requiring applying for State funds nor indication that if State funds are obtained, the amount of bonds issued would be proportionately reduced.

Albany Measure E: Albany Unified School District \$25 MM Bond

Required Vote: This measure requires a 55% vote to pass

The Way It Is Now: The number of students in our District has increased by 900 students since 2001 and will continue to grow. Undersized classrooms and outdated labs and instructional technology limit our ability to deliver the best quality of education to students. Good schools make our neighborhoods more desirable and protect property values.

What Measure E would do if it passes: This measure would issue \$25 MM in bonds to fund projects including constructing classrooms, science labs and flexible learning spaces at Albany Middle School; replacing portables at Albany Middle School; and acquiring technology equipment district wide. Passage of Measure E, thus providing City funding these projects, would make Albany eligible for specific State matching grants funds.

Effect on the budget: The best estimate of the tax rate required to be levied to fund the bonds is 6 cents per \$100.00 of assessed valuation, or \$60.00 per \$100,000.00 of the assessed valuation. Proceeds may not be used for any other purpose, such as administrator salaries. Expenditures and management of the bond monies will be subject to an independent citizens' oversight committee, annual performance audits and annual financial audits.

People for Measure E say: Approval of Measure E will provide funds to:

- Relieve Albany Middle School overcrowding
- Update instructional technology at all schools to support Science, Engineering, Math, and the Humanities
- Modernize classrooms, science labs, and flexible learning spaces to meet seismic, safety, and accessibility codes
- Replace aging portables with permanent structures
- Improve energy efficiency and renewable energy generation

People Against Measure E say:
No ballot argument was formally filed against Measure E.

A \$25 MM bond will place a burden on new homeowners where homes average \$750,000. The tax related to Measure E would be \$450 additional per year for the average newly purchased home.

For both Measures Albany School District B and E: There is no binding provision requiring applying for State funds nor indication that if State funds are obtained, the amount of bonds issued would be proportionately reduced. This burden becomes even more onerous if both Measures B and E passes (taxes increases by \$1350/yr for an average \$750,000 home).