



Successful 2009 K–12 General Obligation (G.O.) Bond and Parcel Tax Measures

Under current state law, school districts can augment the local funding of their schools in just a few ways. Two commonly used methods requiring voter approval are general obligation bonds, for school facilities, and parcel taxes, usually used for academic programs.

Despite continuing economic challenges, voters approved 68% (21) of the 31 parcel taxes put before them in 2009 (based on the best available information). Of those that failed, seven would have met a 55% threshold. From 1983 through November 2009 voters approved 273 parcel taxes in 503 elections; 166 would have met a 55% threshold.

To Learn More

To see any district's election history, go to www.ed-data.org.

The G.O. bonds on the ballot did not fare as well. Based on the best available information, the two from districts seeking 55% approval both passed, while the two attempts from a district seeking two-thirds approval failed. This contrasts with 2008, a year in which districts sought approval for 140 G.O. bonds and well over 100 passed. Local bond elections generated a total of about \$73 billion from 1986 through 2009, and about \$62 billion (85%) of that was generated from 1998 through 2009.

Successful General Obligation Bonds in 2009

FIFTY-FIVE PERCENT VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE					
District	County	ADA	Bond Amount	Date	Yes Vote
Mill Valley Elementary	Marin	2,320	\$59,800,000	11/09	66.9%
Shoreline Unified	Marin	563	\$9,290,000	11/09	63.6%

Successful Parcel Taxes in 2009

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE					
District	County	ADA	Parcel Tax Rate and Term	Date	Yes Vote
Acalanes Union High	Contra Costa	5,673	\$189/parcel	11/09	74.5%
Albany City Unified	Alameda	3,668	\$555/residential unit, greater of \$0.11/sq. ft. or \$555 for nonresidential parcels. (Combines three existing parcel taxes from 1987, 1999 and 2005.)	11/09	77.3%
Albany City Unified	Alameda	3,668	\$149/residential unit, greater of \$0.03 sq. ft. or \$149/each nonresidential parcel - inflation adjusted - 5 years	11/09	76.3%
Bolinas-Stinson Union	Marin	99	\$250/parcel for 5 yrs	3/09	75.2%
Culver City Unified	Los Angeles	6,336	\$96/parcel - 5 years.	11/09	74.9%
Cupertino Union	Santa Clara	16,648	\$125/parcel for 6 yrs	5/09	70%
La Cañada Unified	Los Angeles	4,109	\$150/parcel for 5 yrs	6/09	74.7%

Lagunitas Elementary	Marin	197	\$325/parcel - 8 years, 6.5% annual COLA	11/09	67.4%
Larkspur Elementary	Marin	1,125	\$368.88/parcel for single family residential, 5% COLA, 8 years. Parcels with more than one single-family residence, \$50 for each additional unit. Nonresidential parcels: \$368.88 for up to 4,999 sq. ft.; \$700 for 5,000 to 9,999 sq. ft.; \$2,000 for 10,000 to 24,999 sq. ft.; \$4,000 for 25,000 to 99,999 sq. ft.; \$8,000 for 100,000 to 249,999 sq. ft.; \$16,000 for 250,000 to 499,999 sq. ft.; \$20,000 for 500,000 sq. ft. and higher.	11/09	70.8%
Moreland Elementary	Santa Clara	3,745	\$95/parcel for 8 yrs	5/09	69.1%
Novato Unified	Marin	7,276	\$251/parcel for 6 yrs	6/09	68.7%
Orinda Union Elementary	Contra Costa	2,399	\$124/parcel	3/09	70.8%
Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified	Los Angeles	12,000	\$165/parcel for 4 yrs	6/09	68.9%
Piedmont City Unified	Alameda	2,519	Average \$249/parcel for 3 yrs	6/09	73.2%
Piedmont City Unified	Alameda	2,519	Single family: \$1,805/parcel for up to 4,999 sq.ft. lot; \$2,051/parcel for 5,000-9,999 sq.ft. lot; \$2,339/parcel for 10,000-14,999 sq.ft. lot; \$2,685/parcel for 15,000-19,999 sq.ft.lot; \$3,065/parcel for \$20,000 sq.ft. lot. Multifamily: \$1,200/unit. Multiple parcel: \$1,971/dwelling. Commercial: \$3,065/parcel for up to 10,000 sq.ft. lot; \$4,583/parcel for 10,000 sq.ft. and greater. Undeveloped: \$916/parcel Extension for 4 yrs of two separate measures on June 7, 2005 that expire on July 1, 2010	6/09	78.4%
San Carlos	San Mateo	570	\$78/parcel for 6 yrs	5/09	71.7%
San Marino Unified	Los Angeles	3,192	\$795/parcel for 6 yrs	5/09	71.2%
San Ramon Valley Unified	Contra Costa	23,918	\$144/parcel for 7 yrs	5/09	72.2%
South Pasadena	Los Angeles	4,201	\$95/multiunit parcel, \$288/parcel for 4 yrs	6/09	67.3%
Walnut Creek Elementary	Contra Costa	3,053	\$82/parcel	11/09	75.7%
Woodside Elementary	San Mateo	400	\$242/parcel for 8 yrs	5/09	75.8%

DATA: EDSource

SCHOOL SERVICES OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA-SMART VOTER

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