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California Land Use & Development Law Report

\$9 Billion School Bond Measure Headed for November 2016 Ballot

Almost a decade has passed since California last authorized a statewide school bond to build new schools and modernize existing schools. There is currently a backlog of over \$2 billion in K-12 projects awaiting state funding and an equivalent backlog in funding for high-priority community college projects. Yesterday, the California Secretary of State announced that a school bond initiative measure sponsored by [Californians for Quality Schools](#) – a coalition of building industry and school district organizations -- had received sufficient signatures to qualify for the November 2016 ballot. If passed, the measure would authorize \$9 billion in bond funding to build new schools, upgrade existing facilities and invest in community colleges and job training programs. Under the measure, \$3 billion would be allocated for new K-12 construction; \$3 billion for K-12 modernization; \$2 billion for community colleges (to be administered by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office); \$500 million for charter schools; and \$500 million for career technical education; The full text of the initiative can be found [here](#). Past statewide school bond measures have a strong track record of success, with 14 out of 15 ballot initiatives passing since 1982. Recent polling sponsored by Californians for Quality Schools has indicated that 63% of likely voters would support the measure.

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