

Proposition 47: Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2002

What would it do?

Proposition 47 would allow California to issue \$13.05 billion of general obligation bonds for construction and renovation of K–12 school facilities (\$11.4 billion) and higher education facilities (\$1.65 billion).

The \$1.65 billion directed to higher education would be used to construct new buildings and related infrastructure, alter existing buildings, and purchase equipment for use in these buildings for California's public higher education systems. The Governor and the Legislature would select the specific projects to be funded by the bond monies. The K–12 portion of the revenue would generally be allocated as follows (subject to revision by the Governor and Legislature):

- \$6.35 billion would be available to buy land and construct new school buildings. Of this amount, \$2.9 billion would be set aside for “backlog” projects—that is, projects for which districts had submitted applications on or before February 1, 2002, but that have not yet been funded. The remaining funds—\$3.45 billion—would be available for new construction projects submitted after February 1, 2002. Districts would be required to pay for 50 percent of costs with local resources. The measure also provides that up to \$100 million of the \$3.45 billion in new construction funds is available for charter school facilities. (Charter schools are public schools that operate independently of many of the requirements of regular public schools.)

- \$3.3 billion would be available for the reconstruction or modernization of existing school facilities. Of this amount, \$1.9 billion would be available for backlog projects and \$1.4 billion for new proposals. Districts would be required to pay 40 percent of project costs from local resources.

- \$1.7 billion would be directed to districts with schools which are considered critically overcrowded. These funds would go to schools that have a large number of pupils relative to the size of the school site.

- \$50 million would be available to fund joint-use projects. (An example of a joint-use project is a facility constructed for use by both a K–12 school district and a local library district.)

Is it good for kids?

Yes. California's K–12 system includes local school districts that provide elementary and secondary education to about 6.1 million pupils. The higher education system, which includes local community colleges, the California State University (CSU), and the University of California (UC), provides education programs beyond the 12th grade to about 2.3 million students. The measure's supporters estimate that California needs over 13,000 new classrooms to relieve overcrowding and accommodate growing student enrollment. The measure provides this funding without raising taxes. Also, funds will be targeted to areas of the greatest need and must be spent according to strict accountability measures.