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Facilities Bond Initiative for the November 2016 Ballot

On January 12, 2015, an initiative, “Kindergarten through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2016,” was submitted to the California State Attorney General’s Office. The initiative was submitted by Californians for Quality Schools, an organization sponsored and funded by the Coalition for Adequate School Housing (C.A.S.H.) and the California Building Industry Association.

The initiative proposes to place a \$9 billion school facilities bond on the ballot for K-14 (unlike past state bonds which included California’s universities) as follows:

- \$3 billion for new construction of K-12 facilities*
- \$3 billion for modernization of K-12 facilities*
- \$2 billion for capital outlay financing needs of the California Community Colleges
- \$500 million for school facilities for charter schools*
- \$500 million for facilities for career technical education programs*

*The funds for K-12 facilities would be utilized under the existing Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998, also known as the School Facility Program.

The Attorney General’s Office will now prepare a circulating title and summary, provide a copy of both to the Secretary of State, and provide the official summary date to the proponents. The proponents will then have 150 days from the official summary date to circulate the petitions and collect the necessary signatures.

The full text of the initiative can be found on the Attorney General’s website by clicking on this [link](#) and scrolling down to Initiative No. 15-0005. In addition, the public may submit comments on the proposed initiative by clicking on the “Submit Comment” button next to the initiative. The public comment period expires 30 days following receipt of the initiative.

It is worth noting that while this initiative has been submitted, and the Legislature has introduced two facilities bond bills—Senate Bill 114 (D-Liu) and Assembly Bill 148 (D-Holden) (see *Fiscal Report* article “[Two Bills to Place an Education Facilities Bond Measure on the November 2016 Ballot Have Been Introduced](#)” in this edition for further detail on these two bills)—Governor Jerry Brown continues to resist a statewide facilities bond, focusing instead on the need for programmatic reform as outlined in the principles put forth in the 2015-16 Governor’s Budget proposal (see *Fiscal Report* article “[Governor’s Proposals for the 2015-16 State Budget and Education](#)”).

—*Brianna García, Maureen Evans, and Patti Herrera*