California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission

LOCAL BOND AND TAX BALLOT MEASURES RESULTS OF THE FEBRUARY 2008 PRIMARY ELECTION



CDIAC 08-05

CALIFORNIA DEBT AND INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

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	February 5, 2008

LOCAL BOND AND TAX BALLOT MEASURES Results of the February 5, 2008 Primary Election

INTRODUCTION

The California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission (CDIAC) has reported on statewide elections since 1986 and publishes complete statistics on bond and tax measures after each election.

This review, CDIAC's 20th election report, details the results of local bond and tax measures that appeared on the February 5, 2008 Primary Election ballot in California ("2008 Primary Election"). The data used to develop the report was received from the 58 county clerks' elections departments. The Appendix summarizes the local bond and tax measures listed on the 2008 Primary Election ballot.

Voters in 27 counties considered 62 local bond and tax measures on the Primary Election ballot. The ballot contained no state bond or tax measures. The counties reporting measures on their ballots were: Alameda, Butte, Contra Costa, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Placer, Sacramento, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Tulare.

The ballots contained 39 bond measures; all of which would have authorized general obligation (GO) bonds. Of these measures, 35 would have authorized bonds for K-12 school facilities, three would have approved bonds for community college facilities, and one would have provided bond authority for parks and recreation facilities. Voters approved 31 of the 39 measures, for a 79 percent passage rate.

Voters also considered 23 tax measures. Sixteen of these measures would have authorized special taxes, and seven would have levied general taxes. Voters approved 18 measures (a 78 percent passage rate).

This report has four sections, and discusses which measures passed and failed, by purpose and type.

- Section I compares 2008 results with the last four primaries.
- Section II reviews the ballot measures by purpose; that is, by the type of project to be financed whether education, public health and safety, general government or capital improvement.
- Section III summarizes the measures by type: whether the measure authorized a GO bond, a general tax or special tax.
- Section IV identifies those counties who reported no bond or tax measures on their ballot.

I. COMPARING 2008 PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS WITH PRIOR ELECTIONS

The 2008 Primary Election ballot had a total of 62 local bond and tax measures, a decrease of 43.1 percent from the June 6, 2006 Primary Election ballot, which had 109 state and local bond and tax measures. This comparison should not be overstated. In 2008, the state will hold two primary elections -- one each in February and June -- while it had only one primary election in 2006. As such, it is possible that the number of measures on the February 2008 ballot is suppressed, as some local entities reserved their fiscal measures for the later primary. Readers may wish to consider the combined results of the two 2008 Primary Elections when comparing results to the 2006 Primary Election. However, 79.0 percent of the 2008 Primary Election measures were approved compared to a 50.5 percent approval rate for the 2006 Primary Election. Bond measures received 79.5 percent voter approval, compared to the 58.9 percent approval rate in the 2006 Primary Election. Figure 1 provides a comparison of the two primary election results.

A review of past primary elections shows that less than half of the tax measures on the ballot were approved (2002 Primary -47.5 percent; 2004 Primary -42.5 percent; 2006 Primary -34.3 percent); however, in the 2008 Primary Election, 78.3 percent of tax measures were approved by voters.

	2008		2006	
	Local	State	Local	Total
Passed				
Bond Measures	31	0	43	43
Tax Measures	18	0	12	12
Subtotal	49	0	55	55
Failed				
Bond Measures	8	1	30	31
Tax Measures	5	1	22	23
Subtotal	13	2	52	54
Total	62	2	107	109
Percentage Passage	79.0%	0%	51.4%	50.5%

FIGURE 1 COMPARISON OF 2008 AND 2006 PRIMARY ELECTIONS BOND AND TAX MEASURE RESULTS

II. SUMMARY OF LOCAL BOND AND TAX MEASURES BY PURPOSE

For assigning purpose to the measures, staff classified measures by the types of projects financed: capital improvements, education, general government, public health and safety, and miscellaneous projects (e.g., parks and recreation facilities).

Forty-four (71.0 percent) of the measures were for educational purposes, while eight (12.9 percent) were for public health and safety projects. Figure 2 provides a percentage breakdown of the proposed bond and tax measures by purpose.

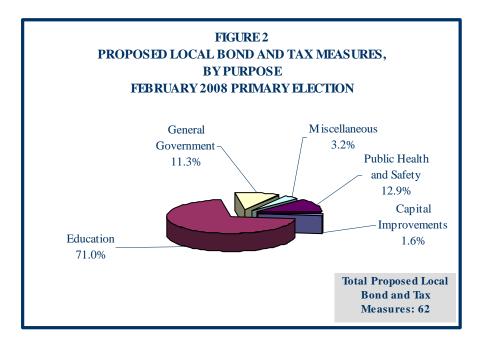


Figure 3 summarizes the results of the 2008 Primary Election ballot bond and tax measures by purpose. All measures funding capital improvements and general government were approved, for a 100 percent passage rate. Measures with an education purpose passed 36 out of 44 attempts for an 81.8 percent passage rate. Measures providing for public health and safety or miscellaneous purposes were successful on half of the ballots.

FIGURE 3 RESULTS OF LOCAL BOND AND TAX MEASURES, BY PURPOSE FEBRUARY 2008 PRIMARY ELECTION

	Capital Improvements	Education	General Government	Public Health and Safety	Miscellaneous	Total
Passed	1	36	7	4	1	49
Failed	0	8	0	4	1	13
Total	1	44	7	8	2	62
Percentage Passage	100.0%	81.8%	100.0%	50.0%	50.0%	79.0%

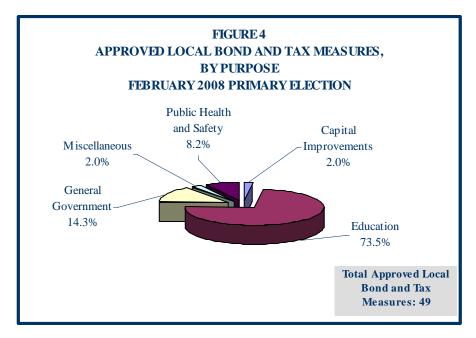


Figure 4 shows the 49 approved measures classified by purpose. In all, voters approved 49 measures. Of these, 36 measures were for education purposes and accounted for nearly three-fourths of all approved measures. Seven general government measures were approved and accounted for 14.3 percent of all approved measures. Specifically:

A. Education

Voters were presented with 44 local government education bond and tax measures in the 2008 Primary Election, which accounted for 71 percent of all proposed measures. The number of education measures on the 2008 Primary Election ballot decreased 42.9 percent from the 77 education measures that were on the 2006 Primary Election.

Of the 44 education measures proposed, 38 were for GO bond issuance and six were special tax (parcel tax) measures. Thirty out of 38 GO bond issuance measures received approval (78.9 percent). All of the special tax measures were approved.

GO bond measures accounted for 86.4 percent of the education measures on the 2008 Primary Election ballot; all required 55 percent voter approval. Four of the GO bond measures were for community college facilities; three received voter approval. The largest GO bond measure approved for community college facilities was \$500.0 million for the San Bernardino Community College District in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Voters approved 79.4 percent (27 of the 34 measures) of K-12 school facilities/programs GO bond measures. The largest K-12 school facilities GO bond was \$516.0 million for the Palm Springs Unified School District in Riverside County.

B. General Government

The 2008 Primary Election ballot had seven general government measures, an increase of 16.7 percent from the six general government measures on the 2006 Primary Election ballot. These measures included utility user and sales taxes. Voters approved all seven measures. They include:

- Reduce the City of Richmond's utility users' tax rate on telecommunications from 10 percent to 9.5 percent (Contra Costa County).
- Continue to impose a 3 percent utility user's tax (Humboldt County).
- Reduce communications user's tax rate from 7 percent to 6.5 percent (Los Angeles County).
- Continue existing 8.25 percent utility user's tax (Los Angeles County).
- Reduce utility user's tax rate on communications users from 10 percent to 9 percent (Los Angeles County).
- Increase sales tax by one cent for general city services (Monterey County).
- Reduce utility user's tax rate from 7.83 percent to 7.75 percent (San Bernardino County).

C. Public Health and Safety

The 2008 Primary Election ballot had eight measures for public health and safety. All were special tax measures requiring two-thirds voter approval for passage. Four out of the eight measures (50 percent) were approved compared to five of the 12 measures (41.7 percent) on the 2006 Primary Election ballot. The measures approved included:

Fire Protection/Police Services:

- Impose a yearly special tax for four years beginning fiscal year 2008-2009 and terminating in fiscal year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$200 per parcel (Marin County).
- Continue levy of special tax for four years at a maximum rate of \$65 per parcel per year (San Mateo County).

Paramedic/Emergency Medical Services in Fresno County:

- Impose a 3/4 cent sales tax (City of Sanger).
- Impose a 1/2 cent sales tax (City of Reedly).

D. Miscellaneous Projects

The 2008 Primary Election ballot included two measures for parks and recreation facilities. Both measures required two-thirds voter approval; one measure passed with 71.3 percent of the vote. The approved measure was a \$185.0 million GO bond to be used to construct and renovate park and recreation facilities in the City and County of San Francisco.

E. Capital Improvements

There was one capital improvement measure on the 2008 Primary Election ballot. The Contra Costa County measure, which passed by a 71.1 to 28.9 percent margin, was a special tax that required two-thirds voter approval. This measure will increase the sales tax by 1/2 cent, and the funds will be used solely for street improvements.

III. SUMMARY OF MEASURES BY TYPE

The 62 measures on the ballot can be divided into three types, each with a different passage rate: 39 (62.9 percent) measures would have authorized the issuance of GO bonds, 16 (25.8 percent) measures would have authorized the levy of a special tax, and seven (11.2 percent) measures would have authorized a general tax levy. Of the GO proposals, voters approved 31 (79.5 percent). Eleven (68.8 percent) of the special tax measures passed, and all the general tax measures passed. Figure 5 summarizes the results of local bond and tax measures.

Below is a detailed discussion of the measures before the voters, by type.

8

39

79.5%

RESULTS OF LOCAL BOND AND TAX MEASURES, BY DEBT TYPE FEBRUARY 2008 PRIMARY ELECTION								
	General Obligation Bonds	General Tax	Special Tax	Total				
Passed	31	7	11	49				

0

7

100.0%

5

16

68.8%

13

62

79.0%

FIGURE 5

Failed

Total

Percent Passed

A. Local General Obligation Bonds

Figure 6 shows the total volume of general obligation (GO) bond measures by purpose. Proposed GO bond measures on the 2008 Primary Election ballot totaled \$4.5 billion. Of this, \$4.1 billion is for education and \$185.0 million is for park and recreation facilities.

Thirty-one of the 39 (79.5 percent) GO bond measures were approved, totaling approximately \$4.2 billion. Thirty-four of the 39 local GO bond

FIGURE 6 TOTAL VOLUME OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND MEASURES, BY PURPOSE FEBRUARY 2008 PRIMARY ELECTION (Dollars in Thousands)

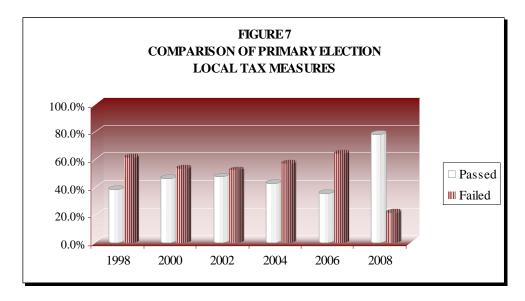
	Education	Miscellaneous	Total
Passed	\$4,056,210	\$185,000	\$4,241,210
Failed	272,275	0	272,275
Total	\$4,328,485	185,000	\$4,513,485

measures (87.2 percent) were for K-12 educational facilities and programs, four measures were for community college facilities (10.3 percent), and the remaining measure was for park and recreation facilities (2.6 percent).

There were no GO bond measures for capital improvements, general government, or public health and safety.

B. Local Tax Measures

The 2008 Primary Election ballot had 23 local measures compared to 34 local tax measures on the 2006 Primary Election ballot, a decrease of 32.4 percent. Eighteen of the 23 local tax measures (78.3 percent) passed, which is the highest approval rate of local tax measures over the past six primaries, as shown in Figure 7.



Thirty-one of the 58 counties did not report any local bond or tax measures. These counties include:

IV. COUNTIES REPORTING NO LOCAL BOND OR TAX MEASURES

- Alpine
 - Amador
- Calaveras
- Colusa
- Del Norte
- El Dorado
- Inyo
- Kings

Lake

measures (68.8 percent). These measures included:

(Marin County).

County).

- Lassen •
- Madera
- Mariposa •
- Mendocino •
- Modoc •
- Mono
- Nevada .
- Solano •
- Stanislaus •

- Plumas
- San Benito
- San Luis Obispo •
- Shasta
- Sierra •
 - Siskiyou
- Yolo Yuba

- Annual parcel tax of \$98 for five years beginning July 1, 2009, for K-12 school programs in the Ravenswood City School District (San Mateo County).
- Continue parcel tax of \$65 per year for an additional four years for fire protection/police services in the San Mateo County Service Area #1 (San Mateo County).

Seven of the 23 local tax measures (30.4 percent) were general tax measures; all seven measures received voter approval. These measures were for general government purposes and required a simple majority approval.

Oakland Unified School District (Alameda County).

Continue parcel tax of \$195 per year for K-12 school programs/facilities in the

Sixteen of the 23 local tax measures (69.6 percent) were for special taxes; 15 required twothirds voter approval and one required a simple majority. Voters approved 11 of the 16

A parcel tax of \$200 per year beginning fiscal year 2008-09 through fiscal year 2012-13, for fire protection in the Muir Beach Community Services District

Continue parcel tax of \$105 per year for an additional nine years for K-12 school programs/facilities in the Santa Cruz City Elementary School District (Santa Cruz

8

- Sutter
- Tehama •
- Trinity
- Tuolumne
- Ventura
- .

APPENDIX

Table ASummary of Local Bond and Tax Measures*Primary ElectionFebruary 5, 2008

County	Agency	Type of Tax/Debt	Amount of Bond/Tax	Purpose	Measure	% Yes	% No	Result
Alameda	Alameda County	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: \$24/year on each residential parcel, \$100/year on small non-residential real property, or \$250/year on large non-residential parcels to begin 7/1/2008 for 35 years.	Children's Hospital	А	41.2	58.8	Fail
Alameda	Alameda County	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: \$24/year on each residential parcel, \$100/year on small non- residential real property, or \$250/year on large non-residential parcels to begin 7/1/2008 for 35 years.	Children's Hospital	В	31.1	68.9	Fail
Alameda	Albany Unified School District	GO Bond	\$10,000,000	K-12 School Facilities	Е	72.2	27.8	Pass
Alameda	Oakland Unified School District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: Continue levy of \$195 per parcel beginning July 1, 2009.	K-12 School Programs/Facilities	G	79.4	20.6	Pass
Butte	Biggs Unified School District	GO Bond	\$4,275,000	K-12 School Facilities	А	48.9	51.2	Fail
Contra Costa	City of El Cerrito	Special Tax	Sales Tax: Impose a 1/2 cent sales tax used exclusively for street improvements.	Street Improvements	А	71.1	28.9	Pass
Contra Costa	City of Richmond	General Tax	Utility User's Tax: Reduce the rate of the City of Richmond's Telecommunications User's Tax from 10% to 9.5%.	General Government	В	74.0	26.0	Pass
Fresno	Caruthers Unified School District	GO Bond	\$11,300,000	K-12 School Facilities	А	46.3	53.7	Fail
Fresno	Caruthers Unified School Facilities Improvement District 1	GO Bond	\$2,800,000	K-12 School Facilities	В	45.4	54.7	Fail
Fresno	City of Reedley	Special Tax	Sales Tax: Impose a 1/2 cent sales tax.	Paramedic/Emergency Medical Services	G	74.2	25.8	Pass
Fresno	City of Sanger	Special Tax	Sales Tax: Impose a 3/4 cent sales tax.	Paramedic/Emergency Medical Services	S	71.4	28.6	Pass
Glenn	Orland Joint Unified School District	GO Bond	\$21,900,000	K-12 School Facilities	К	56.4	43.6	Pass
Humboldt	City of Arcata	General Tax	Utility User's Tax: Continue to impose a 3% utility user's tax.	General Government	А	60.0	40.0	Pass
Imperial	McCabe Union Elementary School District	GO Bond	\$7,000,000	K-12 School Facilities	А	60.2	39.8	Pass
Kern	Mojave Unified School District	GO Bond	\$24,000,000	K-12 School Facilities	А	62.5	37.5	Pass

Table ASummary of Local Bond and Tax Measures*Primary ElectionFebruary 5, 2008

County	Agency	Type of Tax/Debt	Amount of Bond/Tax	Purpose	Measure	% Yes	% No	Result
Kern	Rio Bravo-Greeley Union	GO Bond	\$10,900,000	K-12 School Facilities	В	69.7	30.3	Pass
Los Angeles	San Gabriel Unified School District	GO Bond	\$65,000,000	K-12 School Facilities	А	70.1	29.9	Pass
Los Angeles	City of Huntington Park	General Tax	Utility User's Tax: Reduce the rate of communications user's tax from 7% to 6.5% .	General Government	В	78.3	21.7	Pass
Los Angeles	Redondo Beach Unified School District	GO Bond	\$145,000,000	K-12 School Facilities	С	65.9	34.1	Pass
Los Angeles	City of Pasadena	General Tax	Utility User's Tax: Continue existing 8.25% utility user's tax.	General Government	D	58.4	41.6	Pass
Los Angeles	Long Beach Community College District	GO Bond	\$440,000,000	Community College Facilities	Е	73.8	26.2	Pass
Los Angeles	Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: Tax for each parcel of real property shall not exceed the minimum of \$346 per year adjusted annually for inflation by the Consumer Price Index.	K-12 School Programs/Facilities	R	73.0	27.0	Pass
Los Angeles	City of Los Angeles	General Tax	Utility User's Tax: Reduce tax on communications users from 10% to 9%.	General Government	S	65.9	34.1	Pass
Los Angeles	Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District	GO Bond	\$46,200,000	K-12 School Facilities	V	51.1	48.9	Fail
Marin	Kentfield School District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: Continue existing assessments, at \$773.94 per year for parcels containing one single-family residence, and at rates specified in the sample ballot for all other parcels, and increase rates by 5% per year.	K-12 School Programs/Facilities	А	71.7	28.3	Pass
Marin	Muir Beach Community Services District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: Impose a yearly special tax for four years beginning fiscal year 2008-2009 and terminating in FY 2012-2013 in the amount of \$200.00 per parcel.	Fire Protection	В	82.1	17.9	Pass
Merced	Los Banos Unified School District	GO Bond	\$44,000,000	K-12 School Programs/Facilities	K	65.3	34.7	Pass
Monterey	City of Seaside	General Tax	Sales Tax: Increase by one cent for general city services.	General Government	R	58.2	41.8	Pass
Napa	Napa Valley Community College District	GO Bond	\$178,400,000	Community College Facilities	L	52.0	48.1	Fail
Orange	Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District	GO Bond	\$200,000,000	K-12 School Facilities	А	56.9	43.1	Pass
Placer	Loomis Unified School District	GO Bond	\$17,700,000	K-12 School Facilities	G	52.6	47.4	Fail
Placer	City of Rocklin	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: \$10-\$45 per parcel for 15 years.	Park and Recreation Facilities	J	59.2	40.8	Fail
Placer/ Sacramento	Dry Creek Joint School District	GO Bond	\$67,300,000	K-12 School Facilities	Е	55.2	44.8	Pass

Table ASummary of Local Bond and Tax Measures*Primary ElectionFebruary 5, 2008

County	Agency	Type of Tax/Debt	Amount of Bond/Tax	Purpose	Measure	% Yes	% No	Result
Riverside	Menifee Union School District	GO Bond	\$31,460,000	K-12 School Facilities	В	56.7	43.3	Pass
Riverside	Palm Springs Unified School District	GO Bond	\$516,000,000		Е	62.2	37.8	Pass
Riverside/ San Bernardino	San Bernardino Community College District	GO Bond	\$500,000,000	Community College Facilities	М	66.1	33.9	Pass
San Bernardino	Redlands Unified School District	GO Bond	\$65,500,000	K-12 School Facilities	J	66.4	33.6	Pass
San Bernardino	Upland Unified	GO Bond	\$103,000,000	K-12 School Facilities	Κ	60.3	39.7	Pass
San Bernardino	City of San Bernardino	General Tax	Utility User's Tax: Reduce tax from 7.83% to 7.75%.	General Government	L	80.1	19.9	Pass
San Diego	Poway Unified School Facilities Improvement District 2007-1	GO Bond	\$179,000,000	K-12 School Facilities	С	63.9	36.1	Pass
San Diego	Cajon Valley Union School District	GO Bond	\$156,500,000	K-12 School Facilities	D	64.1	35.9	Pass
San Diego	Rancho Santa Fe Elementary School District	GO Bond	\$34,000,000	K-12 School Facilities	E	70.9	29.1	Pass
San Francisco	City and County of San Francisco	GO Bond	\$185,000,000	Park and Recreation Facilities	А	71.3	28.7	Pass
San Joaquin	Stockton Unified School District	GO Bond	\$464,500,000	K-12 School Facilities	Q	68.9	31.1	Pass
San Mateo	San Mateo County Service Area #1	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: Continuing levy of special tax for four years at a maximum rate of \$65 per parcel per year.	Fire Protection/Police Services	Ι	76.4	23.7	Pass
San Mateo	Sequoia Union High School District	GO Bond	\$165,000,000	K-12 School Facilities	J	65.9	34.1	Pass
San Mateo	San Mateo-Foster City School District	GO Bond	\$175,000,000	K-12 School Facilities	L	75.7	24.4	Pass
San Mateo	Ravenswood City School District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: Annual parcel tax of \$98 for five years, beginning July 1, 2009.	K-12 School Programs	М	78.2	21.8	Pass
Santa Barbara	Cold Spring School District	GO Bond	\$8,500,000	K-12 School Facilities	R2008	50.2	49.9	Fail
Santa Barbara	County of Santa Barbara	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: Impose tax of \$35.15 per parcel on all real property parcels.	Emergency Medical Services	S2008	46.4	53.6	Fail

Table A Summary of Local Bond and Tax Measures* Primary Election February 5, 2008

County	Agency	Type of Tax/Debt	Amount of Bond/Tax	Purpose	Measure	% Yes	% No	Result
Santa Barbara	City of Lompoc	Special Tax	Sales Tax: Increase current sales tax by 1/2%.	Fire Protection/Police Services	T2008	55.5	44.6	Fail
Santa Clara	East Side Union High School District	GO Bond	\$349,000,000	K-12 School Facilities	Е	71.4	28.6	Pass
Santa Clara/ Santa Cruz	Loma Prieta Joint Union School District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: Continue existing parcel tax of \$150 per parcel for four years (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2012).	K-12 School Facilities	G	74.1	26.0	Pass
Santa Cruz	San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District	GO Bond	\$18,900,000	K-12 School Facilities	0	60.3	39.7	Pass
Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz City Elementary School District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: Continue expiring parcel tax for nine years at an annual rate of \$105 per parcel.	K-12 School Programs/Facilities	Р	80.1	19.9	Pass
Sonoma	Geyserville Unified School District	GO Bond	\$3,250,000	K-12 School Facilities	А	69.0	31.0	Pass
Sonoma	Windsor Unified School District	GO Bond	\$50,000,000	K-12 School Facilities	В	62.8	37.2	Pass
Sonoma	Napa Valley Community College District	GO Bond	\$178,400,000	Community College Facilities	L	60.6	39.4	Pass
Tulare	Lindsay Unified School District	GO Bond	\$20,700,000	K-12 School Facilities	В	70.4	29.6	Pass
Tulare	Woodlake Union High School District	GO Bond	\$4,500,000	K-12 School Facilities	С	61.8	38.2	Pass
Tulare	Exeter Union Elementary School District	GO Bond	\$6,400,000	K-12 School Facilities	D	68.2	31.8	Pass
Tulare	Tipton Elementary School District	GO Bond	\$3,100,000	K-12 School Facilities	Е	50.9	49.1	Fail

*Percentages in the "% Yes" and "% No" columns may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: County election official internet sites supplemented by telephone inquiries. Information is accurate as of March 4, 2008.

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