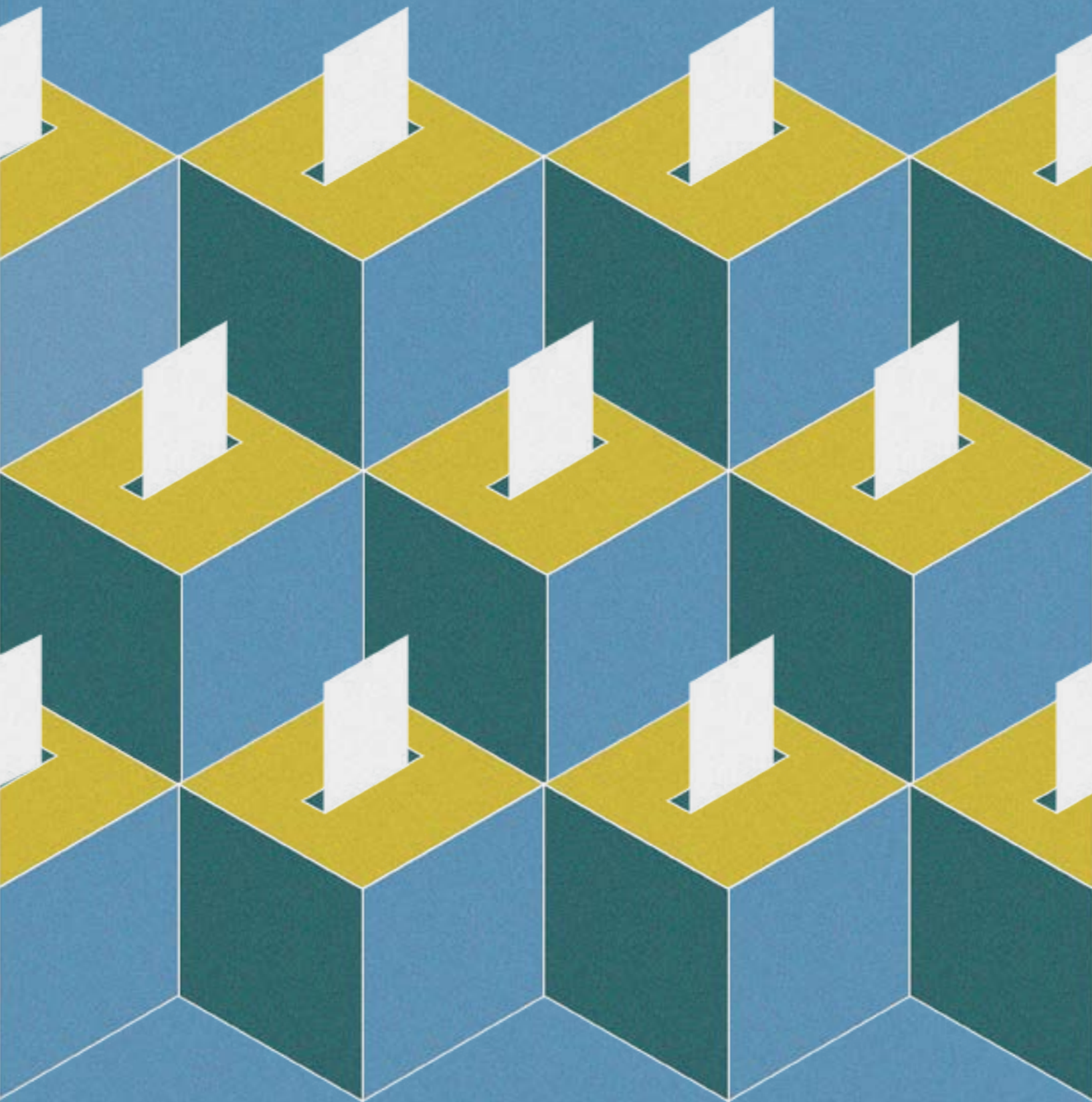


Results of the 2023 Local Elections

BOND AND TAX MEASURES APPEARING ON THE 2023 LOCAL BALLOTS



CALIFORNIA DEBT AND INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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INTRODUCTION

Constitutional and statutory provisions require voters to authorize general obligation (GO) bonds issued by state and local governments. For bonds issued by the state, the authorization must be made through a statewide election. Local bonds must be approved by voters within the jurisdiction authorizing the bond. The state and local governments must also seek voter approval for levies of certain revenue exactions and taxes. For both state and local measures, the voter approval threshold depends on the type and purpose of the bond or tax (see Figure 1).

The California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission (CDIAC) publishes a statistical summary and review of bond and tax measures appearing on state and local ballots. This report, the 41st in the series, summarizes the results of local bond and tax measures considered by voters during local elections held in 2023. This report also contains an appendix summarizing the measures by county.

Figure 1

MEASURE TYPE AND THRESHOLD

BALLOT MEASURE	REQUIREMENT FOR PASSAGE
Local GO - Education (Prop. 39)	55 percent
Local GO - Education (Prop. 46)	Two-thirds
Local GO - Non-Education	Two-thirds
Local Special Tax / Bond	Two-thirds
Local General Tax	Majority
State Bond and Tax	Majority

2023 LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

Figure 2

SUMMARY OF RESULTS FOR FISCAL MEASURES BY TYPE RESULTS OF THE 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

FISCAL MEASURE TYPE	TOTAL NUMBER	PASSED	PASSAGE RATE
General Tax	2	2	100%
Special Tax	25	19	76%
GO Bond	2	1	50%
Special Tax Bond	1	0	0%
TOTAL	30	22	73.3%

SUMMARY

- **TOTAL MEASURES.** Voters considered 30 local fiscal measures; 27 were tax measures, two were general obligation bond measures, and one was a combined special tax and bond measure. (Figure 2)
- **APPROVED MEASURES.** Voters approved 22 (73.3%) of the measures.
- **PASSAGE RATES.** Both general and special tax measures had passage rates above 70%; local general tax measures had the higher approval rate at 100% while local special tax measures had a passage rate of 76%. GO bonds and the special tax bond had the lowest passage rates at 50% and 0%, respectively.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND MEASURES

- **MIXED SUPPORT FOR GO BOND MEASURES.** Voters approved only one of two (50%) general obligation bond measures. (Figure 3)

Figure 3

GO BOND MEASURES BY NUMBER AND AUTHORIZED VOLUME (IN MILLIONS) RESULTS OF THE 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

RESULT	NUMBER	VOLUME
Pass	1	\$3.6
Fail	1	\$22.2
TOTAL	2	\$25.8

- **VOLUME OF APPROVED MEASURES.** Voters approved approximately \$3.6 million in GO bond measures.
- **K-12 EDUCATIONAL AND FIRE PROTECTION FOCUS.** K-12 school facilities and fire protection each represented a purpose for the two proposed GO bond measures. (Figure 4)
- **STRONG SUPPORT FOR K-12 EDUCATIONAL GO BONDS.** Voters approved the K-12 education GO bond measure with 85% voting “yes” on the measure which had a two-thirds voting requirement (Prop 46).¹
- **MAJORITY VS. TWO-THIRDS VOTING REQUIREMENT.** All the general tax measures needed only a majority of the vote to pass. If these measures had a two-thirds voting requirement, 100% (2 of the 2 measures) would still have passed. In contrast, special tax measures, require two-thirds voter approval to pass. If these measures required a majority vote, 84.6% of the measures (22 of the 26 special tax measures) would have passed.
- **PURPOSE OF TAXES.** The two general tax measures were for general government purposes. The special taxes were for purposes such as capital improvements, public health and safety, and education, however, there was one special tax measure for county fairgrounds that was categorized as miscellaneous. (Figure 6)

TAX MEASURES

- **GOOD SUPPORT FOR TAX MEASURES.** Voters approved 75% of local general and special tax measures. (Figure 5)
- **STRONG SUPPORT FOR LOCAL GENERAL TAX MEASURES.** Local general tax measures received strong support from voters (100% passage rate).

RESULTS BY REGION

The election results are divided into five regions: Bay Area, Central Valley, Los Angeles, San Diego/Inland Empire, and Other. (Figure 7)

Figure 4

GO BOND MEASURES BY PURPOSE, RESULTS OF THE 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

PURPOSE	TOTAL NUMBER	PERCENT OF MEASURES	PASSED	PASSAGE RATE
K-12 School Facilities/Programs	1	50%	1	100%
Fire Protection	1	50%	0	0%
TOTAL	2	100%	1	50%

Figure 5

TAX MEASURES, RESULTS OF THE 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

TYPE OF TAX	TOTAL NUMBER	PERCENT OF MEASURES	PASSED	PASSAGE RATE
General Tax	2	7.1%	2	100%
Special Tax	25	89.3%	19	76%
Special Tax Bond	1	3.6%	0	0%
TOTAL	28	100%	21	75%

¹ See Appendix A, San Lucas Union Elementary School District, Measure S, in Monterey County.

Figure 6

TAX MEASURES BY PURPOSE, RESULTS OF THE 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

PURPOSE	TOTAL NUMBER	PERCENT OF MEASURES	PASSED	PASSAGE RATE
Capital Improvements and Public Works	6	21.4%	4	66.7%
Education	6	21.4%	6	100%
General Government	2	7.1%	2	100%
Miscellaneous ¹	1	3.6%	0	0%
Public Health and Safety	13	46.4%	9	69.2%
TOTAL	28	100%	21	75%

¹ This category includes county fairgrounds. See Appendix A, Calistoga, Measure E, in Napa County.

Figure 7

COUNTIES INCLUDED IN REGION

BAY AREA	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties.
CENTRAL VALLEY	Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sutter, Stanislaus, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba Counties.
LOS ANGELES	Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura Counties.
SAN DIEGO/ INLAND EMPIRE	San Diego, Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties.
OTHER	Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Del Norte, Humboldt, Inyo, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Nevada, Plumas, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Sierra, Siskiyou, Trinity, and Tuolumne Counties. Also includes measures that overlap multiple county boundaries.

- **APPROVED MEASURES.** Other region voters were presented with the most measures (14). The counties in the Other region with 2023 measures include Humboldt, Monterey, Plumas, Alpine/Amador, Santa Cruz, Mendocino, and Siskiyou. Voters in the San Diego/Inland Empire region were presented with only one measure. (Figure 8)
- **PASSAGE RATES.** The Los Angeles region had the highest passage for local GO bond and tax measures (100%). The San Diego/Inland Empire region had the lowest passage rate (0%).

Figure 8 shows the number and percentage of measures that were approved by region.

Figure 8

ELECTION RESULTS BY REGION
RESULTS OF THE 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

REGION	TOTAL PROPOSED	PASSED	PASSAGE RATE
Bay Area	6	5	83.3%
Central Valley	6	3	50%
Los Angeles	3	3	100%
Other	14	11	78.6%
San Diego/ Inland Empire	1	0	0%
TOTAL	30	22	73.3%

COMPARISON OF THE 2021 AND 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

- **COMPARATIVE PASSAGE RATES.** The passage rate of bond and tax measures during the 2023 local elections was slightly higher (73.3%) than the 2021 local elections (71.1%). (Figure 9)
- **COMPARATIVE NUMBER OF APPROVED MEASURES.** In addition to having a smaller number of measures approved in 2023 (22) when compared to 2021 (27), the 2023 Local Elections had less measures on the ballot (30) than 2021 (38). (Figure 9)
- **TYPE OF LOCAL MEASURES COMPARISON.** Local special tax measures represented the greatest number of proposed measures on local ballots in both 2023 (25) and 2021 (30). There were no local GO bond measures and one special tax bond presented in 2021, while in 2023 there were two local GO bond measures and one special tax bond presented. (Figure 10)
- **SPECIAL TAX MEASURE PASSAGE RATES.** The passage rate for special tax measures was similar in both years, however, slightly higher in 2023 (76%) than 2021 (73.3%). (Figure 10)
- **REGIONAL PASSAGE RATES.** In 2023, the Los Angeles region had the highest passage rate

Figure 9 provides a summary of the passage requirements for the bond and tax measures appearing on the 2021 and 2023 local elections' ballots.

Figure 9

ELECTION RESULTS BY VOTE REQUIREMENT, 2021 AND 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

VOTE REQUIREMENT	2021			2023		
	TOTAL PROPOSED	PASSED	PASSAGE RATE	TOTAL PROPOSED	PASSED	PASSAGE RATE
Majority	7	5	71.4%	2	2	100%
55%	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A
Two-thirds	31	22	71%	28	20	71.4%
TOTAL	38	27	71.1%	30	22	73.3%

Figure 10 provides a summary of the types of bond and tax measures on the local elections' ballots.

Figure 10

ELECTION RESULTS BY TYPE OF MEASURE, 2021 AND 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

MEASURE TYPE	2021			2023		
	TOTAL PROPOSED	PASSED	PASSAGE RATE	TOTAL PROPOSED	PASSED	PASSAGE RATE
Special Tax	30	22	73.3%	25	19	76%
General Tax	7	5	71.4%	2	2	100%
GO Bond	0	0	N/A	2	1	50%
Special Tax Bond	1	0	0%	1	0	0%
TOTAL	38	27	71.1%	30	22	73.3%

A summary of votes by regions is provided in Figure 11.

Figure 11

ELECTION RESULTS BY REGION, 2021 AND 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

REGION	2021			2023		
	TOTAL PROPOSED	PASSED	PASSAGE RATE	TOTAL PROPOSED	PASSED	PASSAGE RATE
Bay Area	15	11	73.3%	6	5	83.3%
Other	8	6	75%	14	11	78.6%
Central Valley	5	3	60%	6	3	50%
Los Angeles	5	2	40%	3	3	100%
San Diego/Inland Empire	4	4	100%	1	0	0%
Multiple*	1	1	100%	0	0	N/A
TOTAL	38	27	71.1%	30	22	73.3%

*Multiple includes measures that overlap more than one region.

(100%), but in 2021, the San Diego/Inland Empire region and Multiple region had the highest passage rate (100%). (Figure 11)

- **PASSAGE RATES BY PURPOSE.** In 2023, the passage rate for education and general government were the highest (100%). Public health and safety (72.2%) had the highest passage rate by purpose in 2021. (Figure 12)

- **GENERAL GOVERNMENT MEASURES.** Measures with a general government purpose had a much higher passage rate in 2023 (100%) than 2021 (71.4%), however, the number of measures in 2023 (2) was greatly lower compared to 2021 (7). (Figure 12)

Figure 12 summarizes the types of projects appearing on the local elections' ballots.

Figure 12

ELECTION RESULTS BY PURPOSE, 2021 AND 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

PURPOSE	2021			2023		
	TOTAL PROPOSED	PASSED	PASSAGE RATE	TOTAL PROPOSED	PASSED	PASSAGE RATE
General Government	7	5	71.4%	2	2	100%
Public Health and Safety	18	13	72.2%	14	9	64.3%
Education	10	7	70%	7	7	100%
Capital Improvements and Public Works	3	2	66.7%	6	4	66.7%
Miscellaneous*	0	0	N/A	1	0	0%
TOTAL	38	27	71.1%	30	22	73.3%

* In 2023, this category includes county fairgrounds.

SUMMARY

Overall voters were slightly more supportive of the local bond and tax measures in the 2023 local elections (73.3%) than the 2021 local elections (71.1%). In both elections, public health and safety and education measures comprised the majority of ballot measures: 70% in 2023 and 73.7% in 2021. In the 2023 local elections, voters greatly

supported general tax measures (100%), whereas in 2021, voters showed lower levels of support for general tax measures (71.4%). In both elections, the passage rate for special tax measures remained similar; however, 2023 was slightly higher: 76% in 2023 and 73.3% in 2021. Both elections also had one cannabis tax measure each, which was for general government purposes.

APPENDIX A

SUMMARY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BOND AND TAX MEASURES BY COUNTY

SUMMARY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOND AND TAX MEASURES BY COUNTY, 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

COUNTY	REGION	ELECTION DATE	AGENCY NAME	TYPE OF TAX/DEBT	AMOUNT OF BOND/TAX	PURPOSE	MEASURE	% YES	% NO	RESULT	THRESHOLD
Alpine / Amador	Other	7/11/2023	Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District	Special Tax	Parking Space Tax: \$513 per parking space in fiscal year 2023- 24, increasing annually thereafter and continuing in perpetuity, generating a maximum of approximately \$1,900,000 initially, and authorizing an initial "Gann Limit" appropriation of \$6,000,000	Fire Protection	E	26.99	73.01	Fail	Two-thirds
Contra Costa	Bay Area	3/7/2023	Orinda Union School District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: renew at \$295 per parcel for seven years, providing \$2,200,000 annually	K-12 School Programs	Z	76.46	23.54	Pass	Two-thirds
El Dorado	Central Valley	7/11/2023	Rolling Ranch Road Zone of Benefit 98140, County Service Area 9	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: \$850 on each parcel of land within the Rolling Ranch Zone of Benefit, generating approximately \$18,700 annually	Road Improvements and Maintenance	A	73.68	26.32	Pass	Two-thirds
El Dorado	Central Valley	11/7/2023	Pilot View Zone of Benefit	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: increase from \$200 to \$400 on each parcel of land within the Pilot View Zone of Benefit	Road Improvements	B	46.34	53.66	Fail	Two-thirds
El Dorado	Central Valley	11/7/2023	Pineoakio Zone of Benefit	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: increase from \$450 to \$750 on each parcel of land within the Pineoakio Zone of Benefit	Road Improvements	C	81.25	18.75	Pass	Two-thirds
Fresno	Central Valley	11/7/2023	Orange Cove	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: annual tax per parcel, \$95 for single-family homes, \$65 for multifamily, \$95 for agricultural, \$495 for commercial, and \$750 for industrial parcels, generating approximately \$263,965	Fire Protection/ Police Services	O	64.25	35.75	Fail	Two-thirds
Humboldt	Other	3/7/2023	Garberville Fire Protection District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax and Annexation: special tax levied on all parcels within existing district and annexation area, raising approximately \$150,000 per year	Fire Protection	U	78.51	21.49	Pass	Two-thirds
Humboldt	Other	3/7/2023	Salmon Creek Fire Protection District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: \$75 per parcel per year, providing approximately \$25,000 annually	Fire Protection	T	95.69	4.31	Pass	Two-thirds

SUMMARY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOND AND TAX MEASURES BY COUNTY, 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

COUNTY	REGION	ELECTION DATE	AGENCY NAME	TYPE OF TAX/DEBT	AMOUNT OF BOND/TAX	PURPOSE	MEASURE	% YES	% NO	RESULT	THRESHOLD
Los Angeles	Los Angeles	3/7/2023	Redondo Beach	General Tax	Cannabis Tax: for cannabis and hemp businesses, annual rates ranging from 3% to 9% of gross receipts on retail establishments, rates from 1% to 3% of gross receipts on cultivation, distribution, manufacturing and testing labs, which is expected to generate an estimated \$300,000 to \$900,000 annually	General Government	CT	76.21	23.79	Pass	Majority
Los Angeles	Los Angeles	4/11/2023	Vernon	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: annual special parcel tax on non-residential parcels at the rate of \$0.03683 per square foot (adjusted annually for inflation), and generating approximately \$2,180,000 annually for 5 years	Public Safety	W	73.53	26.47	Pass	Two-thirds
Los Angeles	Los Angeles	5/2/2023	South Pasadena Unified School District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: renew the school parcel tax for seven years at the rate of \$474 per parcel, providing \$3,000,000 annually	K-12 School Programs	S	82.61	17.39	Pass	Two-thirds
Marin	Bay Area	3/7/2023	Novato Unified School District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: renew annual tax of \$251 per parcel for eight years, providing \$4,000,000 annually	K-12 School Programs	A	83.3	16.7	Pass	Two-thirds
Marin	Bay Area	11/7/2023	Madrone Park Circle Permanent Road Division	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: \$1,569 per improved parcel and \$785 per unimproved parcel per year, generating approximately \$39,229 annually, for 10 years beginning Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and thereafter assess on improved parcels \$250 and unimproved parcels \$125 per year, generating approximately \$6,250 annually	Road Improvements	B	93.55	6.45	Pass	Two-thirds
Mendocino	Other	11/7/2023	Fort Bragg	Special Tax	Sales Tax: 0.5% transaction and use tax	Road Improvements	Q	81.03	18.97	Pass	Two-thirds
Monterey	Other	5/2/2023	San Lucas Union Elementary School District	GO Bond	\$3,600,000	K-12 School Facilities	S	85.00	15.00	Pass	Two-thirds

SUMMARY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOND AND TAX MEASURES BY COUNTY, 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

COUNTY	REGION	ELECTION DATE	AGENCY NAME	TYPE OF TAX/DEBT	AMOUNT OF BOND/TAX	PURPOSE	MEASURE	% YES	% NO	RESULT	THRESHOLD
Monterey	Other	8/29/2023	Santa Lucia Community Services District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: \$954.67 per year for developed and undeveloped estate residential parcels with rates for other parcels shown in Resolution No. 23-05, initially generating \$389,840.00 (\$294,791.40 from residential and \$95,048.60 from non-residential) with maximum rates subject to a 4% annual inflation adjustment and establishing an appropriations limit of \$900,000 for Community Facilities District No. 1 (Fire/EMS) of the Santa Lucia Community Services District	Fire Protection/ Emergency Medical Services	T	84.42	15.58	Pass	Two-thirds
Napa	Bay Area	3/7/2023	Calistoga	Special Tax Bond	Parcel Tax: \$0.32 per square foot of single-family homes/condos, \$1.42 per square foot for lodging property, and other rates for commercial/industrial, rural, undeveloped, multi-family, mobile home, and ADU properties, increasing 2% annually, generating approximately \$4,000,000 per year initially, and authorizing bonds/appropriations limit up to \$27,500,000 with the bond authorization expiring in 37 years	Fairgrounds	E	33.87	66.13	Fail	Two-thirds
Plumas	Other	5/2/2023	West Almanor Community Services District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: \$225 per year for four years starting July 1, 2023, with optional annual adjustments not exceeding 3%, on each parcel of real property or condo unit within the District, with some exemptions	Fire Services/ Emergency Medical Services/ Emergency Hazardous Material Responses	A	88.98	11.02	Pass	Two-thirds
Plumas	Other	11/7/2023	Beckworth Fire Protection District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: \$110 for improved single family residential parcels under 1,800 square feet, and parcels with other uses will be charged at various rates based on usage, raising an estimated \$405,000 annually	Fire Protection	F	70.83	29.17	Pass	Two-thirds
Plumas	Other	11/7/2023	Chester Public Utilities District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: \$350 per parcel for 2023-2024, and, thereafter, increased by \$10 per year up to \$400 with the anticipated revenues of \$557,600	Fire Services/ Emergency Medical Services	D	34.42	65.58	Fail	Two-thirds

SUMMARY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOND AND TAX MEASURES BY COUNTY, 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

COUNTY	REGION	ELECTION DATE	AGENCY NAME	TYPE OF TAX/DEBT	AMOUNT OF BOND/TAX	PURPOSE	MEASURE	% YES	% NO	RESULT	THRESHOLD
Plumas	Other	11/7/2023	Eureka Community Services District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: an annual special property tax of \$289.80 per developed parcel and \$143.28 per undeveloped parcel per year	Fire Services/ Emergency Medical Services	C	79.75	20.25	Pass	Two-thirds
Plumas	Other	11/7/2023	Pratville-Almanor Fire Protection District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: \$125.00 per year, with optional annual adjustments not exceeding 3%, on each parcel of real property within the District, excluding those parcels exempt from property tax, starting July 1, 2024	Fire Services/ Emergency Medical Services/ Emergency Hazardous Material Responses	B	80.95	19.05	Pass	Two-thirds
Riverside	San Diego/ Inland Empire	11/7/2023	Perris	Special Tax	Business License Tax: up to \$0.107 per square foot (subject to annual CPI adjustments) on distribution facilities, large truck storage businesses, and manufacturing businesses with large truck activity, annually collecting approximately \$4,019,315	Road Improvements	A	52.16	47.84	Fail	Two-thirds
San Mateo	Bay Area	5/2/2023	Millbrae School District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: increase the current \$97 levy to \$125 per parcel, raising \$925,000 annually for nine years	K-12 School Programs	A	70.83	29.17	Pass	Two-thirds
Santa Clara	Bay Area	11/7/2023	Los Altos School District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: renew the existing \$223 parcel tax plus adding an additional \$72 per parcel, providing \$3.7 million annually for 8 years	K-12 School Programs/Teacher Recruitment	A	74.82	25.18	Pass	Two-thirds
Santa Cruz	Other	10/24/2023	Scotts Valley Unified School District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: renew the school parcel tax for seven years at the rate of \$168 per parcel, providing \$1,000,000 annually	K-12 School Programs	V	72.57	27.43	Pass	Two-thirds
Santa Cruz	Other	11/7/2023	Scotts Valley Fire Protection District	GO Bond	\$22,240,000	Fire Protection	W	66.42	33.58	Fail	Two-thirds
Shasta	Central Valley	11/7/2023	Shasta Fire Protection District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: \$20, subject to 2% annual cost of living adjustments, generating \$26,000 annually	Fire Services/ Emergency Medical Services	B	90.1	9.9	Pass	Two-thirds

SUMMARY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOND AND TAX MEASURES BY COUNTY, 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

COUNTY	REGION	ELECTION DATE	AGENCY NAME	TYPE OF TAX/DEBT	AMOUNT OF BOND/TAX	PURPOSE	MEASURE	% YES	% NO	RESULT	THRESHOLD
Siskiyou	Other	11/7/2023	Mount Shasta	General Tax	Transient Occupancy Tax: increase from 10% to 12%, starting July 1, 2024, with an estimated increase of \$245,000 generated annually	General Government	S	84.97	15.03	Pass	Majority
Stanislaus	Central Valley	8/29/2023	West Stanislaus County Fire Protection District	Special Tax	Parcel Tax: annual rate of \$125 for single-family residential and mobile homes, \$63 for multi-family residential, \$94 for duplex/triplex residential, \$0.06 per building square foot for commercial and light industrial structures, \$0.13 per building square foot for heavy industrial structures, \$0.13 per utilized square foot for high hazard outdoor storage, generating an estimated \$540,000	Fire Protection/ Emergency Medical Services	M	65.94	34.06	Fail	Two-thirds



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