Berkeley PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Berkeley Unified School District

2025 Citizens Bond Oversight Committee Annual Report

Background: The Citizens Bond Oversight Committee oversees spending for Berkeley's Measure I (November 2, 2010: $210 million) and Measure G (March 3, 2020: $380 million). Our website is https://www.berkeleyschools.net/departments/facilities/measure-i-bond-citizens-oversight-committee/, where you can find upcoming meetings, agendas and minutes of past meetings, and other useful information. Proposition 39, which lowered the voter threshold for local school bonds to 55% from 66.6%, established this Bond Oversight Committee and enacted sections 15264-15288 of the California Education Code. Among other things, it stipulates: *The citizens' oversight committee shall issue* ***regular reports*** *on the results of its activities.* This report satisfies that requirement.

Membership: Our CBOC currently has 5 active members. The Ed. Code states that "the committee shall consist of at least seven members." We have not had 7 members since at least 2020. If any member of the public would like to serve on the CBOC, please contact facilities@berkeley.net

Current members are listed in the following table:

Name	**Category**	**Current Term**	The CBOC "shall serve for... no more than three consecutive terms" **Terms Remaining**
Wade Skeels (Secretary)	Active Member in a Bona Fide Taxpayer's Organization	December 2022-2024	0
Jane Logan	Parent of child and an Active Member in a Parent- Teacher Organization	December 2024-2026	2
Damian Park (Chair)	At-Large	December 2024-2026	0
David Goldin	At-Large	May 2024-May 2026	1
Eric Weaver	Senior Citizens Organization	April 2025 - 2027	1
Vacant	Parent of Child enrolled in the District		
Vacant	Business organization representing the business community within the District		

Recommendation: the district needs to more vigorously recruit as the district is not compliant with the law.

CBOC Purpose: According to the Education Code,
It is the intent of the Legislature that all of the following are realized:
(a) Vigorous efforts are undertaken to ensure that the expenditure of bond measures...are in strict conformity with the law.
(b) Taxpayers directly participate in the oversight of bond expenditures.
(c) The members of the oversight committees appointed pursuant to this chapter promptly alert the public to any waste or improper expenditure of school construction bond money.
(d) That unauthorized expenditures of school construction bond revenues are vigorously investigated, prosecuted,

and that the courts act swiftly to restrain any improper expenditures.

More specifically, the Education Code asks us to

1) Ensure expenditures are only for projects listed in the Measure
2) Ensure "no funds are used for any teacher or administrative salaries or other school operating expenses."

The committee understands that although we deal with *expenditures*, that doesn't preclude discussion and review of current projects because the Ed Code further states that we may:

3) Review efforts by the district to maximize bond revenues
4) Review audits
5) Review deferred maintenance plans; and
6) Inspect grounds

Our primary method of determining compliance with requirements 1 and 2 above is through the financial and performance audits. The CBOC *received and reviewed* (note: we do not accept or approve them) the performance audits and financial statements for Measures G and I and was pleased to learn there were no special findings for either audit of either measure. The CBOC believes the Berkeley Unified School District is in compliance with requirements of Proposition 39. We recommend that the Board of Directors accept the audit reports for Measure I and Measure G. Furthermore, according to the Education Code 15286, *the required annual, independent financial and performance audits for the preceding fiscal year shall be submitted to the citizens' oversight committee ...at the same time they are submitted to the school district..., no later than March 31 of each year.* In 2025, BUSD was in compliance with this portion of the ed code.

In addition to the audits, for items 3 through 6 above, we on the CBOC investigate expenditures that we deem worthy. This may lead to a fruitful outcome , or it may serve to better educate us on how the district spends your money.

Recent News and Highlights:

- **Longfellow:** The biggest news last year was the presence of extensive rot in Longfellow Middle School, necessitating a complete shut down and transfer of the entire school. Staff in 2024 worked tirelessly to facilitate the transition from Longfellow to the Adult School on San Pablo. The full impact on project spending can best be summarized as:
    - cancelled projects:
        -
    - delayed projects:
        -
- **Parker St:** The Facilities department moved into their new building at 2515 9th st.
- **Sylvia Mendez:** The modernization is on schedule, although some vocal community input led to a 2-week delay and additional expenditures to ensure environmental health. The CBOC believes these additional expenditures had very little tangible benefit.
- **Old buildings update**
    - **Oregon St:** The old facilities/maintenance building is
    - **1130 Oxford St Elementary School:** The old elementary school remains
- **West Campus Playground community integration**
    - Although opened in 2021 to BUSD students during the day, the new playground has not yet been opened to the public despite assurances that it will happen. The outstanding issue is that ...

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Conclusion: By the Measure I and Measure G Berkeley Unified School District Independent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee that, based upon all of the information provided to the Committee and discussions held, no information came to the Committee's attention that would indicate that Bond revenues were spent for reasons other than those authorized by the 2010 Measure I and 2020 Measure G Bonds and by Proposition 39, as follows:

1. The Bond revenues have been expended only for the purposes described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 1 of Article XIIIA of the California Constitution; and
2. That the Bond revenues have not been expended for any teacher or administrative salaries or other school operating expenses as prohibited by subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 1 of Article XIIIA of the California Constitution.

The Committee commends the Bond Program management team and staff members for their continued and significant efforts in implementing the Measure I and Measure G Facility Bond programs and thanks the citizens of Berkeley for recognizing the critical importance of maintaining our public school facilities.

Wade Skeels
Jane Logan
Damian Park
David Goldin
Eric Weaver

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Appendix

Money: The following table summarizes bond sales to date. Measure I authorized $210,000,000, with portions sold in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2018. $70 million of the $380 million authorized for Measure G has been sold so far. The District spreads out bond sales because A) projects cannot be completed all at once (and it wouldn't make sense to sell $380 million in bonds after the Measure passes, pay interest and do nothing with the money) and B) the district has committed not to levy more than $172.80 per $100,000 of assessed valuation across all bonds.

Fund Balances as of June 30		
Year	**Measure G**	**Measure I**
2024	$4,489,976	$467,431
2023	$32,721,968	$1,471,441
2022	$59,890,174	$22,309,598

Bond Sale History			
Year	**Measure I sales**	**Year**	**Measure G sales**
2011	$35,000,000	2020	$70,000,000
2013	$40,000,000	2023	
2015	$50,000,000		
2018	$85,000,000		
Total	**$210,000,000**	**Total**	**$70,000,000**

Taxes: Principal and interest on the bonds, spread out over Berkeley's entire secured assessed valuation ($26,075,552,131 in 2023-2024), leads to the annual tax rate paid by property owners. The total amount paid in 2023-2024 was $19,370,033. For more details, see the Sept 19, 2023 meeting. The following table summarizes tax rates that homeowners face:

Year	**Tax Rate**
2022-2023	.0839 %
2023-2024	.0743 %, or $74.30/$100k
2024-2025	.078 %, or $78/$100k

Audit and Financial Statement Links:

- http://www.berkeleyschools.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/BerkeleyUSD-Measure-I-Perf-Audit-2024-Final-SECURED.pdf
- http://www.berkeleyschools.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/BerkeleyUSD-Measure-I-2024-FS-Final-SECURED.pdf
- http://www.berkeleyschools.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/BerkeleyUSD-Measure-G-Perf-Audit-2024-Final-SECURED.pdf
- http://www.berkeleyschools.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/BerkeleyUSD-Measure-G-2024-FS-Final-SECURED.pdf