

# CITIZENS' BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TRAINING

Amador County Unified  
School District

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Presented by:  
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 **Lozano Smith**  
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## Materials provided by:



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# Proposition 39

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- **The Smaller Classes, Safer Schools, and Financial Accountability Act**
  - Passed in 2000
  - 55% Voter Approval
  - Citizens' Oversight Committee (Ed. Code, § 15278.)

# The Purpose of the Committee

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- To INFORM the public
- To ADVISE the public
- To REVIEW and REPORT on expenditures  
(Ed. Code, § 15278(b).)

# The Composition of the Committee

## At least seven members, including:

- A member of a business organization located within the District's boundaries.
  - [NAME]
- A senior citizens' organization member.
  - [NAME]
- A parent/guardian of a child in District.
  - [NAME]
- A parent/guardian of a child in District and member in a parent-teacher organization.
  - [NAME]
- A member of a taxpayers' organization
  - [NAME]
- At large
  - [NAME]

# Composition of the Committee

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## Committee CANNOT include:

- An employee or official of the District
- Any vendor of the District
- Any contractor of the District
- Any consultant of the District

(Ed. Code § 15282 (b).)

# Committee Activities

## The Committee Shall:

- Actively review and report on the proper expenditure of taxpayers' money
- Make sure expenditures are consistent with the California Constitution.
  - Art. XIII A, § 1 (b)
- Review copies of the annual, independent performance audit.
- Review copies of the annual, independent financial audit.
- Inspect facilities and grounds to make sure bond revenues are expended in compliance with the California Constitution.



# Committee Activities

## The Committee Shall:

- Review efforts by the District to maximize bond revenues by implementing cost saving measures, including:
  - Mechanisms designed to reduce the costs of professional fees.
  - Mechanisms designed to reduce the costs of site preparation.
  - Recommendations regarding the joint use of core facilities.
  - Mechanisms designed to reduce costs by incorporating efficiencies in school site design.
  - Recommendations regarding the use of cost-effective and efficient reusable facility plans.
- Issue regular reports of the results of these activities- at least one report per year. (Ed. Code, § 15280(b).)

# Committee Activities

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## The Committee Shall Provide Oversight For:

- Ensuring bond revenues are used only for construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities.
- May include furnishing and equipping schools or the acquisition or lease of real property.
- Ensuring that no funds are used for teacher/administrative salaries unrelated to construction under the bond.

# NOT Within the Committee's Scope

- No authority to participate in the District's actual bond sale and issuance process or to make final decisions regarding time, terms, or structure of bond issuance.
- No authority to determine how bond funds shall be spent.
- No authority to select or participate in the negotiation or bid process for contractors or consultants for bond projects.
- Committee should not “inspect” job sites or construction projects without the prior permission of the Superintendent.
- Committee should not contact District contractors or consultants without prior permission of the Superintendent or other authorized representative.

# Limits on Committee Members

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- Members of the Committee must abide by Government Code provisions which prohibit public officials from having a financial interest in any contracts made in their official capacity.
  - (Ed. Code, § 35233; Gov. Code, §§ 1090, *et seq.*)
- Committee members may also be subject to the Political Reform Act of 1974 and its conflict of interest provisions.
  - (Gov. Code, §§ 81000, *et seq.*)

# District's Support of the Committee

- **The governing board of the District shall provide the Committee with:**
  - Any necessary technical assistance and administrative assistance in furtherance of the Committee's purpose.
  - Sufficient resources to publicize the conclusions of the Committee.
  - Responses to any and all findings, recommendations, and concerns addressed in the annual, independent financials and performance audits.
- No bond funds may be used to pay any of these expenses

# Committee Meeting Procedures

- All committee proceedings must be open to the public and are subject to the provisions of the Brown Act.
  - (Gov. Code, §§ 54950, *et seq.*)



# Committee Website

- **The Committee must maintain a website for posting the following matters of public record:**
  - Minutes of the Committee proceedings
  - Documents received by the Committee
  - Reports issued by the Committee

(Ed. Code, § 15280 (b).)
- The cost to operate, maintain and update the website is the responsibility of the District.

# Brown Act Overview

**THE LESS YOU KNOW, THE BETTER YOU FEEL**



- The Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code, §§ 54950, et seq.) is California's open meeting law.
- Types of meetings subject to the Brown Act:
  - Any congregation of a majority of the members of a legislative body to hear, discuss, or deliberate upon any item within its jurisdiction.

# Questions





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