



CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES
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June 12, 2012 CaLBOC Press Release

For Immediate Release

NEW CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOND OVERSIGHT GROUP FORMING
First meeting topic: Grand Jury Report on School Bond Oversight Committees

The California League of Bond Oversight Committees (CaLBOC) is announcing the formation of the Contra Costa County Chapter of CaLBOC. Everyone is invited to the first meeting on Saturday June 23, 2012, from 10 am to noon at La Tapatia Restaurant, 536 Main Street in Martinez. This will be an organizational meeting that will include the recent Grand Jury report on school bond oversight as a main topic of discussion.

The 2011-2012 Contra Costa County Grand Jury released Report #1208 on May 11, 2012 titled "School Bond Oversight – Raising the Bar". This is a 13 page report with 16 findings and 12 recommendations that requires responses by the governing boards of nine school districts. These districts are: Acalanes Union School, Antioch Unified School District, Byron Union School District, Contra Costa Community College District, John Swett Unified School District, Martinez Unified School District, Mt. Diablo Unified School District, Pittsburg Unified School District, and West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Prop. 39 required districts to have CBOCs (Citizens' Bond Oversight Committees) to oversee school bond expenditures. CBOCs are required to actively review the expenditure of bond funds and to verify that the funds are being spent only for authorized purposes. The county Grand Jury findings address issues covering bond language, conflict of interest issues in the selection of bond oversight committee members, inadequate training and resource materials for oversight committees, and performance audits that are so limited that they don't provide effective oversight.

Voters have approved over \$3 billion dollars of school facility bonds in Contra Costa County alone. This makes lack of effective bond oversight a great concern with potential financial impacts on much of the community – also potentially impacting education. Recently, when a school parcel tax failed, some believe this was in part because of the already large property tax burden from school facility bonds.

CaLBOC provides support and training for CBOC members. It is an all-volunteer, non-partisan association of CBOC members, current and past, who are interested in helping other CBOC members. Since CBOC volunteers may be overseeing multi-million dollar school bond projects with inadequate support and training, a local chapter of CaLBOC could become a great asset for Contra Costa County.

To register and for more info please visit: www.ccccalboc.eventbrite.com

The first meeting of the Contra Costa County CaLBOC chapter will be:
Saturday June 23, 2012, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

La Tapatia Mexican Restaurant, 536 Main Street, Martinez, CA 94553

Topics include: 1.) Organization, 2.) Discussion of the CCC Grand Jury Report #1208

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If you would like more information on this meeting please contact:

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CCC Grand Jury Report (1.5MB - reduced file size): www.calboc.com/reports/CCCGJ1208.pdf
or PDF Grand Jury Report (9.5 MB): www.cc-courts.org/_data/n_0038/resources/live/rpt12081.pdf

California Government Penal Code Section 933.05:
www.calboc.com/reports/code933.05.pdf

Flyer for June 23rd Contra Costa CaLBOC Meeting <http://calboc.com/reports/june23flyer.pdf>

About CaLBOC

CaLBOC is an all-volunteer, non-partisan association of Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) members, current and past, who are interested in helping other CBOC members. CaLBOC was formed in 2006 by CBOC members trying to find better training to help them perform their duties. The first training session was held in San Jose in 2007, and incorporated in the State of California in 2008. In 2009 they were recognized as a 501(c)3 charitable organization by the IRS.

Mission Statement

To promote school district accountability by improving the training and resources available to California's Proposition 39 School Bond Oversight Committees and educating the state legislature, local school boards and the public about the oversight and reporting powers these Citizens' Bond Oversight Committees (CBOCs) have, and to advocate on a state level, where appropriate, on issues of common concern to all CBOCs.

Proposition 39

Prop. 39 requires school districts that pass Proposition 39 bonds to create a Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) to assure the community that bond funds are expended in the fashion outlined in the district's bond resolution. The CBOCs are supposed to actively review and report on the proper expenditure of taxpayers' money for school construction.