

## **Proposition 47: General Information**

### **Education Bond Measure on November Ballot would Fund Capital Projects at UC Berkeley and Throughout the State**

On November 5, California's voters will consider a school bond that could affect every public school system in the state. If passed, Proposition 47 would provide \$13 billion to improve the infrastructure of California's public schools. The three segments of higher education -- the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges -- would receive a total of \$1.65 billion from the bond. According to UC President Richard C. Atkinson, the bond "represents a crucial investment in California's future."

The University of California Regents unanimously support the measure, and have cited the University's seismic needs as an important reason. At UC Berkeley, where the Hayward Fault runs directly underneath the eastern edge of the campus, preparing for an earthquake is of crucial importance. One-third of campus space at UC Berkeley received a seismic safety rating of poor or very poor in 1997; about \$1 billion would be needed to bring those buildings up to seismic safety standards.

Proposition 47 would continue the seismic retrofitting that began with Proposition 1A in 1998. That bond improved campus safety by funding seismic improvements to Barker, Wurster, LeConte, Latimer, Hildebrand, Silver, and Barrows Halls. If passed, Proposition 47 would finance the retrofitting and modernization of several campus buildings, including the Doe Library Annex and Hertz Hall.

Proposition 47 money would also fund construction and modernization projects in elementary and secondary schools. With California's public school population expected to grow by one million students over the next decade, a primary goal of the bond is to ease overcrowding in schools by building more classrooms. Other K-12 improvements will include new computer labs and renovated gymnasiums, libraries, and athletic facilities. To be eligible for bond funding, local school districts would be required to find matching funds. The bond specifically allocates \$1.7 billion for projects at critically overcrowded schools and \$1.4 for older K-12 schools.

Supporters of Proposition 47 point out that the bond will not raise property taxes, and argue that building new classrooms and repairing old ones will help California's students succeed while investing in the future of the state's workforce. It is anticipated that opponents of Proposition 47 will express concerns regarding the size of the bond measure and the extent to which it commits future state funds to debt service.