

# Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report 1208 School Bond Oversight Committees Raising the Bar

Report by the 2011-2012 CCC Grand Jury, May 10, 2012

## FINDINGS (partial list - 7 of 16 Findings)

1. The Grand Jury commends the many citizens who serve on bond oversight committees and devote considerable time and effort to the task, without any compensation.
2. Ballot language that is overly general in identifying specific projects, and fails to indicate priorities and at least a realistic estimate of project costs, impedes meaningful and effective oversight and accountability.
3. Bond proceeds are sometimes used to provide General Fund relief in various ways, which even if lawful, may not have always been fully disclosed to voters in the ballot language.
4. District boards have an inherent conflict of interest in selecting, and in some cases, having the power to remove with or without cause, the members of the oversight committee who are required to oversee the district's spending of bond funds.
5. Districts do not consistently reach out to the legally-mandated organizations, to local professional associations, community groups, or to district residents generally, to seek independent, qualified and motivated nominees for their bond oversight committees.
6. There does not always appear to be a consistent and transparent process for interested persons to be nominated, apply for, and be appointed to membership on oversight committees, or disclosure of any previous employment by, or other prior involvement or business relationship with, the district.
7. Districts do not consistently provide timely, adequate and independent training or resource materials for members of their bond oversight committees that explain their role, duties and functions, or provide training in the skills needed to analyze the kinds of financial data that bond oversight committee members are asked to review.

## Topics included in the CCC Grand Jury Report 1208:

Summary  
Background  
Overview of Proposition 39  
Required Ballot Language  
Recruitment and Selection of Committee Members  
Training and Orientation of New Committee Members  
Committee Websites and Public Meetings  
Active Review of Expenditures  
Independent Performance Audits  
Reports to the Public  
FINDINGS  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
REQUIRED RESPONSES

Next Meeting

June 23, 2012

10 AM - 12 PM

Location TBA

[REGISTER HERE](#)

TOPICS:

Organization of CCC  
CaLBOC Chapter

## The Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report

*The report is addressed to*  
The Governing Boards of:  
Acalanes Union High 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,  
West Contra Costa Unified  
School District.

## The Next CaLBOC Board Meeting is November 9, 2012

10 am - 3 pm

Sacramento

Conference call service will  
be available.

## Mission Statement What is Our Mission

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.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Archived CaLBOC