

## California Association of Bond Oversight Committees

Chairperson Jack Weir Annual Report 2020

Presented January 9, 2020 Annual Membership Meeting

# Jack Weir, Chairman and Co-Founder's End-Of-Year Report - 2020

## Short Version

The California Association of Bond Oversight Committees (CABOC) is alive and well, and despite the challenges of the COVID pandemic, has exceeded expectations of progress our first year in operation!

## Long Version

### Background

Following WW II, many returning military personnel chose to take up civilian life in sunny California, and the demand for new public schools ballooned. The state encouraged school construction, offering generous state funding to match local property taxes dedicated to public education. Our schools quickly became among the finest in the nation, and residents readily approved school construction bonds. (The quality of local public schools is still a key factor in family choice of home location.)

### Prop 39 and Citizen Bond Oversight Committees

In early twenty-first century, state funding for school construction lessened proportionally, and more financial burden fell on local taxpayers. School bonds did not pass with the same high level of certainty as before. Various interests in education and the construction industry lobbied for lowering the voter approval threshold for school bonds from 2/3 to 55%. Prop 39 (School Bonds) was passed, with the proviso that school districts using the Prop 39 approach must establish an **independent** citizens' bond oversight committee (CBOC) composed of a cross-section of community representation - taxpayers, parents, seniors, business, educators, etc.

The purpose of CBOC's then and now is to monitor school district use of Prop 39 bond funds, and to report to the public at least annually on whether the district is using bond funds as promised, and in accordance with applicable laws. CBOC's are not policymakers, nor are they part of district bond project management functions and decision-making; they are to remain independent, so that their reports to the public are unbiased and objective.

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### CaLBOC

In 2008, the California League of Bond Oversight Committees (CaLBOC) was founded to provide training and support for CBOC's across the state and developed a curriculum of training segments and hosted annual CBOC conferences in Sacramento, which were well attended.

However, it was noted that many districts were not forming and utilizing CBOC's in the independent manner envisioned in Prop 39, as reported by the Little Hoover Commission in 2017. *The Commission's report recommended that the state provide more assistance in carrying out the intent of Prop 39 by providing funding for CaLBOC's mission.*

In 2017, it became apparent to some members of the CaLBOC board that the organization was not fulfilling all the training and support needs of CBOC's, and three of CaLBOC's board members (including one of its founders) and a former board member drafted a business case to improve CaLBOC's performance of its mission. The business case proposal was presented to and approved by the board, but subsequently the board cancelled the project.

In October 2020, the CaLBOC President informed a Co-Founder that CaLBOC "has elected to dissolve."

### CABOC

In 2019, CABOC was incorporated to carry out the recommendations of the Little Hoover Commission. CABOC is a state-wide, non-profit, non-partisan public benefit organization, with a board of directors and a structure that deploys working committees in CBOC training, legislative liaison, public information, audit compliance and other areas of interest.

At this first annual membership meeting, members will have an opportunity to hear of CABOC's accomplishments to-date, and elect directors,