



UPCOMING EVENTS

**CASH Legislative &
Policy Forum**
Long Beach Marriott
May 18, 2023

UPDATE

Bond Bill Advances

On April 25, CASH-supported AB 247 (Muratsuchi), the *Kindergarten Through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2024*, was approved by the Assembly Committee on Higher Education, which is chaired by Assembly Member Mike Fong, one of the bill's joint authors.

In his opening statement, Mr. Fong, a former trustee of the Los Angeles Community College District, cited the need for over \$20 billion to modernize and repair community college facilities over the next ten years. He also noted that this bill is not the same bond that failed in 2020. [Unlike SB 28 (Glazer) which does contain those same provisions.]

The bill was approved and moved onto the Assembly Appropriations Committee, where it must be acted upon by the May 19 fiscal deadline. There were no amendments made to the bill in the Higher Education Committee.

Legislative Highlights

Here are a few updates on key bills in which CASH in engaged:

AB 249 (Holden D) - Water: school sites: lead testing: conservation.

This bill follows the AB 746 policy pathway (community water agencies testing school potable water systems), but expands the scope significantly by triggering water testing at 5 ppb (vs. 15 ppb under AB 746) and requires testing of all potable water systems (vs. a sample under AB 746). If a test is triggered schools must shut down the water system and provide an alternative (filters, bottled water, etc.). CASH and other education associations met with the sponsors to discuss our continuing concerns about the cost impact for school districts, and work to narrow the bill as it heads from policy committees to the fiscal committees.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Committees on Education, and Environmental Safety & Toxic Substances; headed to Assembly Appropriations.

AB 384 (Calderon D) - School facilities: recommended interior temperatures: inventory of heating and cooling systems.

As introduced this bill would have established expansive new requirements to establish an appropriate school interior temperature range, but the author and staff listened to concerns from CASH and other school associations and amended the bill to require the California Department of Education (CDE) to conduct a study of recommended indoor school temperature standards, compile a statewide inventory of school HVAC systems, and develop recommendations through a stakeholder process.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Committee on Education and headed to Appropriations.

Visit the CASH website (www.cashnet.org) for more information and to register for these events!



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SB 499 (Menjivar) - School facilities: School Extreme Heat Action Plan Act of 2023. – CASH Opposed

This bill would require all school sites, by January 1, 2025 at the earliest possible time, to replace specific heat surfaces such as cement, asphalt, brick, pebbles, sand, aggregates, rubber, and synthetic turf with cool pavement, grass, shrubs, trees, wood chips, etc. CASH and other education associations oppose this bill because it is too prescriptive, duplicative of other state requirements, and an unfunded mandate.

Status: Approved by the Senate Committee on Education, and Human Services; headed to Appropriations.

SB 532 (Weiner) - Local Bond Ballot Labels. – CASH Sponsored

This bill is aimed at addressing the negative effects created by AB 195 (Obernolte), chaptered in 2017. AB 195 requires local bonds and other tax measures to state on the ballot label the rate, duration, and amount anticipated to be raised annually. This information is challenging to provide for bonds and creates voter confusion, making it more difficult for community colleges and other local agencies to pass local bonds or place them on the ballot. CASH is co-sponsoring this bill along with the Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California.

SB 532 was passed by both the Senate Governance and Finance Committee as well as the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee. It was significantly amended in the latter committee due to Chair Senator Glazer's concerns regarding transparency. SB 532 now exempts the above fiscal disclosures from the 75-word cap on the ballot label. This will allow additional space on the ballot label to explain both the fiscal disclosures and how the revenues would be spent in the community. While this is not a comprehensive solution to the issues created by AB 195, it is an incremental improvement that takes a step in the right direction. The bill previously exempted bonds and tiered taxes from the ballot label requirement, with inclusion of a statement directing voters to the Voter Guide for more information.

Status: Approved by Senate Committee on Elections & Constitutional Amendments. The bill will next be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

For the latest updates on important matters affecting school facilities, visit www.cashnet.org.
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