



Thirty Years of California Library Ballot Measures (1980 – 2009)

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Executive Summary

- In the last 30 years, 307 library-related ballot measures were held in 95 out of 181 library jurisdictions
- Half of all library-related ballot measures were held in only 17 library jurisdictions
- Almost 54% (165) of the ballot measures passed, and the average “Yes” vote for all ballot measures was 62%
- On average, the approval rate and “Yes” vote have been increasing slightly over each of the last 3 decades
- General tax measures requiring a simple majority passed 77% of the time, while special tax measures requiring a supermajority passed 45% of the time
- Ballot measures for “facilities only” were the most successful
- Ballot measures which sought funds for both “facilities and operations” were the least successful
- Utility users taxes were the most successful commonly used general tax measure and were approved 68% of the time
- General obligation bonds were the most successful commonly used special tax measure and were approved 66% of the time
- Parcel tax measures were the most frequently used type of special tax measure, but were approved only 46% of the time