



Senate Bill 26-145

CHARTER SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL BALLOT QUESTIONS

SB26-145 strengthens transparency and creates a more inclusive process in local school district bond measures in two ways. First, it ensures meaningful inclusion by requiring districts to actively solicit and consider the facility needs of charter schools when developing bond proposals. Second, it provides voters with clear, accessible information by requiring districts to share which schools would be impacted if the bond passes. Together, these reforms promote more transparency for taxpayers and supports greater equity and fairness through a more transparent and inclusive process.

SB 26-145 contains the following key provisions:

Strengthens inclusion and transparency for charter schools:

- **Requires at least one charter school representative on district long-range or capital-planning committees.**
- **Districts considering a capital ballot question must solicit charter school proposals in writing as early as practicable and no later than 120 days before board approval, with at least 45 days for schools to respond.**
- **Charter schools that submit a proposal have an opportunity to present their facility needs publicly to the school board or an appropriate capital-planning committee no later than 45 days before board approval.**
- **At least 30 days before board approval, the superintendent must notify each charter school in writing whether its proposal will be included. If excluded, the district must provide specific, proposal-related reasons and an opportunity to respond.**
- **Within 30 days after selecting projects, the district must publicly post the process it used and detailed reasons why each project considered was included or excluded.**
- **SB 26-145 applies beyond bonds to special mill levies and additional mill levies when they are used to fund charter school capital construction needs.**

ACTION CHECKLIST FOR DISTRICT-AUTHORIZED CHARTER SCHOOLS

Timing note: All deadlines below are measured from the date the board approves the ballot question—not Election Day.

- ☐ **Confirm committee access.** Coordinate with other district charters to fill at least one charter seat on each applicable long-range or capital-planning committee, and obtain the full meeting schedule.
- ☐ **Do not wait for the district.** Ask in writing whether it is considering a capital ballot question. Request the expected board-approval date, proposal criteria, and district contact. Beginning of the Calendar year after the holidays is a good time to begin.
- ☐ **Verify the solicitation.** Confirm it is in writing, arrives no later than 120 days before board approval, and gives your school at least 45 days to respond.
- ☐ **Submit a complete proposal.** Include the need; project description; applicable standards; total cost and other funding; timeline; management responsibility; why other funding is inadequate; and preferred funding method.
- ☐ **Present publicly.** Present to the board or appropriate capital committee no later than 45 days before board approval. Save the agenda, presentation, and meeting record.
- ☐ **Require a clear written decision.** By 30 days before approval, confirm the superintendent states whether your proposal is included. If excluded, the notice must give specific, merits-based reasons and an opportunity to respond.
- ☐ **Respond—and verify the public record.** Address concerns promptly in writing. Within 30 days after project selection, confirm the district posts its process and detailed reasons for every project included or excluded.
- ☐ **Keep records and contact the League.** Save every notice, submission, presentation, response, and posting. Contact the League if the district misses a deadline or required participation step.