

Independent Citizen's Oversight Committee

Peralta Community College District

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Origins of the Oversight Committee



- Proposition 39 (2000) lowered the percentage of votes required for schools to pass bonds from 2/3 to 55%.
- Along with the lower vote threshold came increased accountability.
- 55% bonds require voters to approve a project list, and require annual financial and performance audits.
- 55% bonds also require independent oversight from citizens living in the District who are unaffiliated with the District.

What is the Oversight Committee's charge?



- To inform the public concerning the expenditure of bond revenues.
 - Review and report on the proper expenditure of taxpayer money for school construction.
 - Advise the public as to whether the District is in compliance with the bond project list.
 - Ensure bond revenues are expended only for projects on the project list.
 - Ensure no funds are used for teacher or administrator salaries. (But see Cal Ops Atty Gen 04-110)

What may the Oversight Committee do to discharge its responsibilities?



- Receive and review copies of the annual financial and performance audits.
- Inspect school facilities and ground.
- Receive and review any deferred maintenance plans or proposals.
- Review efforts by the District to maximize bond revenues by implementing cost saving measures.
- Conduct meetings that are open to the public and noticed in accordance with the Brown Act.
- Maintain minutes of the committee and all documents received and reports issued by the committee on a website provided by the District.
- Issue at least one report per year on its activities.
- Members must abide by the conflict of interest provisions in Article 4 and 4.7 of Chapter 1, Division 4, Title 1 of the Government Code.

What are the District's obligations to the Committee?



- Without expending bond funds, provide the committee with any necessary technical assistance, administrative assistance, and sufficient resources to publicize the conclusions of the oversight committee.
- Provide the committee with responses to any and all findings, recommendations, and concerns addressed in the financial and performance audits within three months of receiving the audits.

Composition of the Oversight Committee



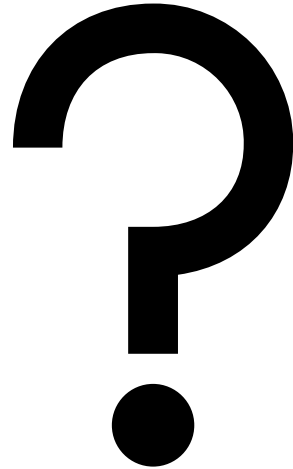
- At least 7 members, comprised of:
 - A member active in a business organization representing the business community within the District,
 - A member active in a senior citizen's organization,
 - A member active in a bonafide taxpayer's organization,
 - One member currently enrolled in the District and active in a community college group,
 - One member active in the support and organization of one or more of the colleges of the District, such as an advisory council or foundation.
- No employee or official of the District may be appointed to the committee.

Oversight Committee Tips, Tricks, and Truths



- Working together:
 - Everyone on the committee is a volunteer.
 - Civility and respect are paramount.
 - The committee has bylaws and a code of conduct with which everyone should familiarize themselves.
 - Robert's rules of order are there to help you, but you shouldn't let their intricacies overwhelm you.
- When working together becomes difficult:
 - Remember that everyone is a volunteer.
 - If you feel at loggerheads with some or all of your fellow members, ask yourself whether the committee is still right for you.
 - The District's Board may remove members for failing to attend meetings or for violating the code of conduct.

Questions?





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The logo features a stylized green circular emblem composed of two overlapping, curved lines, positioned above the letter 'o' in the word "orrick". The text "orrick" is rendered in a clean, white, lowercase sans-serif font.